



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, May 25 - May 31, 2007 Volume 2, No.21

“WHAT IF JIMI HENDRIX PLAYED THE VIOLIN?”

16 Year Old Virtuoso plays Sierra Madre Upper Campus
By Susan Henderson and Helen Pontarelli

Performance - Today Friday, May 25th at 1:00 P.M.



Children and guests will have the opportunity to hear an amazing performance by Antonio Pontarelli, an award winning singer/songwriter/rock violinist with an impressive resume of performances and collaborations. The event will take place today at 1:00 at the Sierra Madre Upper Campus. Antonio's grandmother, Helen Pontarelli teaches sixth grade at the school and bubbles with pride and enthusiasm when she speaks of her grandson, "He's been playing since he was 4 years old." Graduating this month from the Julian Classical Academy in Escondido, Antonio will enter USC's Thornton School of Music in the fall. By visiting Sierra Madre Middle School, Pontarelli hopes that he can inform the students of the many

opportunities that come from music education. "It is important to me to keep developing as an artist and that is why I have been so supportive of keeping music in the schools. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to visit schools across the nation to work with instructors and their students to help cultivate an interest in music." Pontarelli is a classically trained musician who has been involved in numerous music education programs. He started playing violin when he was four and won his first violin competition when he was seven. He has served as the Concert Master of the San Diego Youth Symphonic Orchestra. He has performed Jazz, classical and rock violin in concerts with many Grammy and Emmy winners including Mark O'Connor, David Benoit, Richie Cole (Manhattan Transfer), Marshall Hawkins (Miles Davis), Mark Wood (Trans - Siberian Orchestra) and Jethro Tull. As a recording artists he has contributed to several albums including albums by Grammy winner Peter White and Serj Tankian former lead singer of "System of Down". When Pontarelli was 13 years old, he won the NBC "Tournament of Champions" on "America's Most Talented Kids". Pontarelli has been recognized by ASTA (American String Teachers Association) as the top Alternative Styles violinist in the nation winning 2 year awards for 2004-2005 and 2006-2007.

To find out more about this amazing young man, visit his website at www.antoniomusic.com.

Senior Master Plan Committee Honored



Pictured above: Mayor Joffe and committee members Karl Tiegler, Nancy Walsh, Eph Konigsberg, Elisa Weaver, Rosemary Garcia, Michelle Keith, Lisa Spigai-Perez, Dr. Nieby, and Bruce Inman. Not pictured are Colleen McKernan, Jan Reed, Bonnie Garner, Rose Farfach, Ruth Tiegler, Loyal Comacho, George Maurer, and Karin Delman

Council Rejects E. Montecito Project

Photos and Story by Susan Henderson

In the first lengthy council meeting since taking office, Mayor Enid Joffe managed to get through what turned out to be a very long agenda.

The meeting began with Chief Marilyn Diaz presenting Officer Henry Amos the Mothers Against Drunk Driving DUI Award for the diligence in which he pursues drunk drivers.

The council then went on to recognize the 21 members of the Senior Master

Plan Committee. Following reports on activities from the council, the floor was opened for public comment. Many of the speakers for the evening spoke about their concern that Measure V would not be enforced. There were also numerous speakers who took Councilman Joe Mosca to task for the role he plays on the Southern California Association of Government's boards. Resident John Crawford questioned whether (cont. pg 3)

OFFICER AMOS GETS MADD (AWARD)



Chief Marilyn Diaz presented Officer Henry Amos the Mothers Against Drunk Driving DUI Award. Officer Amos made 14 arrests in a six month period.

Water Restriction Enforcement To Start - Page 4

PUBLIC NOTICE
Volunteers Wanted
Gather Signatures for
Equitable Police Salary Initiative
This is not a tax, it would be a budget item
May 26 & 27
Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. Sundays at 9 a.m.
Meet at Sierra Juice Company, across from Kersting Court.
Questions: Call Officer Hasmick
Hartunian (626) 824-1353

Memorial Day Activities from John Grijalva



Photo by Patricia Carpenter

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th, 2007 there are two different activities planned to honor our local veterans. 1st Pioneer Cemetery hosted by the VFW. Ceremonies begin at 11:00 am. Following the ceremonies, sandwiches and drinks will be served at the Hart Park House in Memorial Park at 12:30 pm. 2nd activities are planned at the Veteran Photo wall in Memorial Park. Sandwiches and drinks will be served at 2:00 pm. In the Hart Park House and Ceremonies will begin at 3:00 pm.

Persson's Nursery Facing Extinction in a Land of Green

By Dean Lee

In a city that prides itself "green," last thing anyone would think Pasadena would want to do is get rid of a business that's sole propose is producing over 100,000 varieties of trees, plants and other shrubs. Especially to make way for paved parking lots and storage facilities. However, this is exactly the fight Persson's Nursery said they faced taking on power giant Southern California Edison.

"I don't think the city understands the full impact of what will happen

after we're gone June 30," General Manager Gary Butter's said as he interrupted himself a number of times helping customers. "It's not that we are giving up. That's the last thing we are doing and we will continue fighting Edison. This is clearly what the residents around here want." What started out as a small clash, with Edison after circulating a petition last year to save (Cont. Page 5)



Persson's staff (l. to r.) Jazz Marie, Mary and Alicia

INSIDE THIS WEEK

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5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Friday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s - 60s
Saturday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s - 60s
Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s - 60s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s - 60s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s - 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



City of Sierra Madre May Events

- 25 - City Hall - Closed
- 25 - MWTR Pasta Feed - 6:00 pm - Kersting Court
- 26 - Mount Wilson Trail Race - 7:30 pm - Kersting Court
- 26 - Healthy Family Fun MWTR Kids Fun Run - 8:00 am - Kersting Court
- 28 - Memorial Day Holiday - City Hall Closed
- 30 - All-America City Presentation Rehearsal - 6:00 pm - Sierra Madre Room

For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7135 or visit www.cityofsierramadre.com

SUMMER READING FUN AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

"Get a Clue," the Summer Reading Club at the Sierra Madre Public Library, will start Monday, June 18 and run eight weeks, through Saturday, August 11. Children of all ages from all communities are invited to join this free activity. Sign-ups will be in the Library's Children's Room starting June 18. There is a division for non-readers and a division for school-aged readers entering grades 1 through 6. Learners entering grades 2 through 6 are encouraged to join the more rigorous "Challenger's Division." Readers will receive prizes along the way based on the number of hours they commit to reading each week. Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion at the conclusion of the program. Books do not have to be library books but should be age appropriate. Students in grades 7 and up can join "You Never Know @ Your Library!" These readers will be challenged to read eight books in eight weeks, and will

receive prizes for every two books they complete. All participants will receive a Certificate of Completion at the conclusion of the program. Volunteers going into grades 7 and up are needed to help with the Summer Reading Club. This is an opportunity to earn community service points, work on a scouting badge, make new friends, and learn about the Library. Applications are available now at the Library. The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library sponsor the Summer Reading Club, and the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club is sponsoring this year's Challenger Sleuth Division. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For further information on this program and other library programs and services please visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call (626) 355-7186.

Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission Presents Artists Open Studio

The Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission will present an Artists Open Studio tour on Sunday, June 3, 2007, from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Shuttles and walking maps will be available so that attendees can discover 14 open studios, visit with over 40 artists, to see where and how they work. Tickets for the event are \$10/person, and are available pre-sale at Sierra Madre Community Recreation

Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Creative Arts Group, 108 N. Baldwin Ave., and Leonora Moss, 9 Kersting Court. To charge your tickets, call the Community Services and Personnel Department at (626) 355-5278. The day of the event, tickets will only be available at Creative Arts Group. For more information, email city@ci.sierramadre.ca.us

Roy Roams' 91024

You Just Think There Is A Drought
In a few days the wells may really dry up for 135 Sierra Madre households that forgot to pay their water bills. Seems that the department staff has been swamped but they are all caught up. Shut Off notices will be showing up any day now. Actually, Bruce Inman said not to worry about the Memorial Day weekend. But the day after.....

Shortest Reign
We talked about how long it had been since we had a female mayor. We didn't talk about how long they lasted. Just as well, because it appears Mayor Enid Joffe will hold the world record for shortest term. Let's see, sworn in last month, taken out this month by the Pasadena Star News. Yep, in last Monday's edition they crowned Joe Mosca the Mayor of Sierra Madre. Can we crown a replacement for that reporter? Apologies are due.

Next Generation Mosca
Congratulations are in order to Joe Mosca and his partner Matt. They are the proud parents of a newborn, Garrett. So don't be surprised if the sound effects are slightly different at the next council meeting.

All Better Now
At council meeting it was announced that John Grijalva was a little under the weather. I spoke with Mrs. Grijalva on Wednesday and she said he's doing just fine. Somehow I knew John wouldn't

miss Memorial Day and all the fun!
A Travesty That Can Be Remedied
When their pleas fell on the deaf ears of our previous city manager, residents Richard Meglia and Vern Hensel thought the door was shut forever. With a new and more attentive Interim City Manager, both gentlemen brought back to the table the issue of the utility overcharges imposed on them by the City of Sierra Madre over the years. Meglia was overbilled in excess of \$3,400 over the years and Hensel over \$6,400. Both received an unsatisfactory partial refund. Meglia will meet the city in court and according to Hensel, he may be right behind him. Cost for the city to litigate just one of these cases: \$5-8,700. Cost to right a wrong: priceless.

Memorial Day Reminder
In case you missed it on Page 1, Officer Amos is the King of DUI Arrests. So, on top of the 52 other reasons that you shouldn't drink and drive, don't do it in Sierra Madre or you will surely get stopped.

Battery Needed
Mayor Joffe had everyone breathing a sigh of relief when she took office. Immediately council meetings became noticeably shorter. Tuesday, however, it seemed that things were back to business as usual. Did the battery run out on the Mayor's watch?

Friday, May 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Pasta Dinners \$6.75 - Carbo Load for Mt. Wilson Trail Race By Café 322 Percentage to benefit Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team

Saturday, May 26 at 7:30 a.m.
Mt. Wilson Trail Race Finish Line 10:30 a.m. Run - or view the runners from Beantown, Starbucks or Casa del Rey

Kiwanis Club Grants The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club offers cash grants to students and schools.

Paul Magaris Community Service Grants can be applied for by any local student or school. Up to \$300 per student or \$500 per school may be awarded to applicants who can show that a grant would benefit their education or provide a benefit to the community. Grants are awarded twice each year: in November and in May. Any individual, school, or organization who wishes to apply for a grant should contact Kiwanis Club Present Hank Landsberg via e-mail: henryeng@aol.com. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2007

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Farmer's Market
Every Saturday to 12:30 p.m. B-B-Berries. Lili's herbs, honey, menudo & tamale stand. Bring the kiddies. PHS parking lot 2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Café 322
Sunday Nights Let's Sing Opera & Broadway Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends 322 Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

Beantown
45 N. Baldwin Time for Ice Cream (626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's
21 Kersting Court (626) 355-1140

Mary's Market
561 Woodland Drive (626) 355-4534

The Harvey Hyde Show
Every Sunday 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL 535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

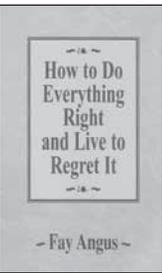
Big Brown Bag Sale!
All you can fit in a brown grocery bag \$3 per bag • Fill as many bags as you like Sierra Madre Woman's Club 550 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre One block East of Michillinda **Wistaria Thrift Shop** Sat., June 2 • 9 am to 3 pm Quality clothing for all the family, jewelry, linens, kitchenware, glassware, books, toys, baby-brac, remnants, craft supplies, decorations, workshop and garden items, and much more! Rock bottom prices on items too big for a bag. For information call 626-355-7739 Proceeds support club philanthropies

BiblioFile

with Jeff Brown

How To Do Everything Right And Live To Regret It

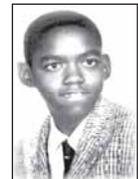
By Fay Angus
Like Rembrandt and his paintings, Fay Angus' writing is rich with a sense of her deep humanity. There are eight chapters, each being an essay about a particular area of life. With wit, wisdom, and a wide range of personal, historical, social, literary and religious references she tells us a great deal about her life and at the same time fills her pages with wisdom, beautiful writing and wonderful stories. The first chapter is about trying to do right yet sometimes things go awry. However the important thing is to try. In a quote from a friend, "Dare to discuss, dare to dispute. Dare to develop a different point of view. Dare to try-dare to fail. Dare to put courage to your convictions that will raise you above the dead level of average." In the second chapter, Adam and EveN, she ruminates some hysterical possibilities in the Garden of Eden and discusses woman's differences and complimentary role in a man's life. The third is about Marriage for Good, Better and Best. We get to know one woman who loses her husband and then regains him again and the powerful shift in faith and behavior she goes through. The fourth is about motherhood. With humor she says, "It is significant that our first biological urge to being with child is the urge to throw up," and "When we raise our children on a lap full of laughter, we program into them the merry heart that Solomon says is a 'continual feast.' It will nourish them all their lives." The fifth chapter is dealing with getting up on those down days. For herself she says, "I feast on the word of God- it has no calories and is full of energy. The scriptures are my stress tabs for the day." The next essay is about Passing Through the Middle Ages. She writes, "I knew exactly when it happened. The very moment I stepped out of the fountain of youth and plunged, bottoms-up, into the murky waters of middle age." She tells us in a very personal way how it happened at the Pasadena Huntington-Sheraton Hotel. Grief is the next subject. "If we lived only on the mountain tops of life, our soul would be barren. It is the deep and low places, often in the places hidden from everyone but God; it is in the valleys of our sorrow and our griefs that we cultivate understanding, sympathy, kindness, and all those tender mercies that form like drops of nectar squeezed from the flowering of our lives." The last chapter, Is Your God a Day Late and a \$ Short, she ruminates on the timing of God's interventions - sometimes they seem late but are they? Regarding prayer, "The intercourse of our spirit made one with his, prayer is the intimate communication of a love that should breathe through our every breath, pulse through our every heartbeat, and knit us to divinity." This book is rich with content and a joy to read whatever your religious beliefs. Fay Angus has lived in Sierra Madre for many years and when important issues arise here you will see her at City Council meetings daring to put forth her convictions thus living the words she so eloquently writes. She has written numerous books which can be found in The Sierra Madre Library and at Amazon.com



REMEMBRANCES

Henry Carpenter, 63

Henry Carpenter, 63, brother of Mt. Wilson Observer Co-Publisher and Managing Editor, Susan Henderson passed away in Toledo, Ohio after a brief illness. Henry was an accomplished artist and craftsman and had a great eye for beauty. He was also a culinary genius, and was the owner of The River Road Cafe. Henry is survived by his sisters, Susan Henderson and Grace Sanders, Brother, William Henderson, 6 children and 13 grandchildren. Services will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2007 at the NEWCOMERS FUNERAL HOME 4150 West Laskey Road, Toledo, OH 43623.



Henry painted this portrait from a photo at age 12

The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

No Mercury In Your LEDs

What's the big deal about mercury, anyway? Thanks to broken thermometers, I have wiled away at least several hours of my life rolling little balls of multiplying and dividing quicksilver around in my hands, chasing them around the bed covers, losing them on the floor, breathing their fumes deep into my lungs. And I've suffered no ill effects. I mean, zablanz ramacrans. Umm, help? Doctor, how many brain cells have I sacrificed to liquid mercury? Whatever. It was worth it because slippery shiny mercury is fun! Drkhldk!

So apparently, even though the epically heroic (handsome, winsome, fetching and kind) compact fluorescent light bulb contains an amount of mercury that is only equal to the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen, there are certain sayers of nay out there who claim that this small amount is still too large. Mercury will poison our homes (they say) and our planet and will bring us all to ruin. But is anybody listening to them? Not really. This is what is fun about environmentalists - they make histrionic predictions of doom - based on scientific fact - that everyone ignores until Al Gore makes a documentary.

Maybe you can see the point of these marginalized anti-CFC militants when you consider that the entire continent of Australia is banning incandescents by the year 2010. Canada will be incandescent-less by 2012. The European Union is considering a ban on the incandescent light bulb, and a US Senate Committee is working on a bill that would ban them in all of the states by 2017. That adds up to a whole lot of people who will soon be legally required to put little ballpoint pen sized pieces of mercury in various outlets in their houses (or to stop reading after sundown).

After 8,000 or so hours, most of these light bulbs will go straight into the trash. How many people do you think will actually go out of their ways to recycle the bulbs correctly? How many will make that extra trip to IKEA with the single bulb riding in the back of their Suburbans? And what will the environmental impacts of all of those extra trips to IKEA be? And why are all of the people who work there so aloof and intimidating with their purple hair and tattoos?

But wait! I have a solution to the environmental disaster caused by the first solution to the original environmental disaster. It will cost you even more money. Are you surprised? It's the Light Emitting Diode bulb. (yay applause hooray)

An LED light bulb will last 50,000 hours (which is basically the life expectancy of a cat) and will save you \$100 in electricity costs over the life of the bulb.

Now, if you do a little bit of math, you will realize that an LED that takes 14 years to realize a \$100 savings is probably not going to be what anyone could really call "cheap." In fact, the 1-watt LED (meant to replace a 40-watt normal bulb) will run you \$40. The "premium" 10-watt bulb (to take the place of your 100-watt normal one) is only \$99. You can buy these at ecoleds.com.

There is only one small drawback (other than the fact that it costs 50 times more than the bulbs you are currently using). The LED bulb is a "directional light" - a spotlight, which according to Mike Adams, founder of ecoleds.com, makes it "very useful for dynamic lighting, accent lighting or projecting light on a certain part of the room." You can't really stick it in a lamp. Unless you happen to be very fond of that one part of your ceiling and you want to show it off.

You might, though, consider shining your environmentally friendly eco LED onto the signed "Certificate of CO2 Emission Reductions" (suitable for framing) issued by Mike Adams and company when you make a purchase. The certificate "allows you to publicly display the number of tons of CO2 you are preventing from being introduced into the environment."

Sadly, it doesn't say a thing about mg of mercury not used. But you know that it's not in there. And, at least when your LED burns out (around the time your three-year-old graduates high school) you can smash it on the floor or burn it in the back yard along with your bald tires or just toss it in the trash. Just like in the good old days.



Kiwanis Club of Sierra Madre
PO BOX 364 - Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0364

Sierra Madre Kiwanis Accepting New Members

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club is now accepting applications for new membership. The Sierra Madre Kiwanis is a service club, part of Kiwanis International, that serves the community of Sierra Madre. Our emphasis is on the children and the seniors of our city.

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club celebrates its 80th birthday this year! Our club currently has about 24 members, both men and women, who enjoy meeting for lunch each week and "giving back" to our community. Some members include Rev. Dick Anderson, Clem Bartolai, Pat Birdsall, George Enyedi, Gordon Caldwell, Eph Konigsberg, Ann Luke, George Maurer, and Joe Pergola. We enjoy each other's friendship, have fun, and help make Sierra Madre a great place to live and work.

Virtually all monies raised through our fundraising activities are returned to the kids and seniors in Sierra Madre. Some of our projects include: supporting the local library's Summer Reading Program, providing educational grants to local students and schools, helping to fund the Youth Activity Center (YAK), providing tables and chairs for the Senior Center, and similar local causes.

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club wishes to extend an invitation to anyone who wants to "give back" to our community by joining a well-respected service organization. Anyone over 18 years of age may join.

Kiwanis is NOT a business networking club; it is NOT necessary that members be business owners. The only requirement is that members be able to attend weekly lunch meetings, and have a desire to actively contribute to the well being of Sierra Madre.

For more information about joining Kiwanis, or to visit us at any meeting, please contact club President Hank Landsberg at (626) 355-3656.

The Kiwanis Club meets for lunch every Tuesday at the Masonic Temple at 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre (just east of the "76" gas station).

Contact:
Hank Landsberg
(626) 355-3656

COUNCIL (cont. from page 1)

Mosca played a role in the "social engineering" that SCAG had taken upon itself to impose on Sierra Madre via the housing mandates.

Mayor Joffe noted that she too represented the city on SCAG. "I serve with the belief that it is better to work from within." Councilman Mosca noted that he was not on the committee when the housing allocations were developed for 2006-2014.

Utility Overcharges
Also during the public comment period, residents Richard Meglia and Vern Hensel independently spoke of their utility overbilling by the city of Sierra Madre. In both instances, the city had incorrectly billed and collected erroneous fees in excess of \$3,400 and \$6,400 respectively. Neither resident has been fully reimbursed and both asked the council to look into the city's policy for refunding erroneously collected fees. Current policies limit the amount residents can recover. The city will not repay beyond a one year period. Hensel also asked the council to revise the procedures for billing to include listing the rates and usage on bills.

Good Neighbor Zoning Policies
Resident Ed Miller, a 27 year resident of the city came before the council regarding the "theft of our Mountain Views" by a resident who was allowed to build a second story on their home. Miller's residence has a 100 year old Japanese Garden that has been obscured by the second story addition. Miller asked that the council implement "good neighbor policies in our zoning codes, just as San Marino, South Pasadena and La Canada" have. Mayor Joffe agreed to put the matter on a future agenda for review.

Other Community Communications
Resident Kevin Dunn chastised Councilman Mosca for his public comments regarding Measure V. "It is destructive to misinform. This [Measure V] is the law now." Mosca has been accused of lamenting the cost of the Measure.
Sierra Madream Tim Hayden spent a few moments thanking and complimenting all of the city staff, especially the public safety staff. He suggested that the city revisit a utility tax as a way to deal with the city's fiscal shortcomings.

Agenda Changes
Mayor Joffe, noting that the agenda contained two items that would probably consume a great deal of time, moved discussion of the recruitment of commissioners and discussion of the inventory and amnesty for Granny Houses to another meeting. She also changed the order of discussion on 110 E. Montecito, noting the Councilman Watts will have to recuse himself. The matter was placed last on the agenda for efficiency's sake.

Well Rehabilitation
The council approved awarding a contract of \$342,000 for rehabilitation of two wells. Funds for the project have been set aside specifically for emergency repairs. Public Works Director Bruce Inman also noted that due to the current drought, the city will step up enforcement of the existing water conservation laws. He also indicated that the request before the council tonight included a Public Education Program on Water Conservation. The council unanimously approved the request. The contract was awarded to General Pump Company.

Historic Preservation
The Mills Act of 1972, which provides for tax breaks on Historic Homes was also reviewed. Matt Marquez, Director of Development Services advised the council that the program had been neglected for years and required further review.

ICarter
Approval of the Final Map for I Carter was passed unanimously. The council and public discussed at length the impact of the project on the city's water rights and the new HMZ regulations. The vote on Tuesday was simply approval of the final map as the developers have met the conditions necessary. Requests for variances and conditional use permits for each building will still have to come before the planning commission and the City Council.

110 E. Montecito
The most complicated matter before the council was the recommendation from the planning commission to approve a project that did not conform with Measure V's density requirements. In addition, the definition of height in both the General Plan and subsequently Measure V was reviewed. According to City Attorney Sandra Levin, the application for the project was deemed complete prior to the passage of Measure V. However, due to concerns by every council member on various aspects of the project, the request was denied. A new application will have to be filed and will come under the guidelines of Measure V.

Council Meetings On Web
The complete council meeting may now be viewed on the city's website. Go to: www.sierramadre.tv

SIERRA MADRE CENTENNIAL CAR SHOW

presented by
Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association

**Saturday
June 2, 2007
7am - 3pm**

Directions:
Take the 210 freeway to Baldwin Rd.
Enter at Baldwin & Sierra Madre Blvd.

OPEN TO 1974 & OLDER VEHICLES
(no motorcycle please)
LOJACK SYSTEM GIVEN AWAY - DASH PLAQUES
EVENT T-SHIRTS - GENERAL RAFFLE - \$0.90 RAFFLE
Explore the town and enjoy lunch at one of Sierra Madre's great restaurants.
NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED

Pre registration by May 19, 2007 Entry Fee \$20.00
Day of Show Entry Fee \$25.00

Event T-shirt: Large _____ X-Large _____ XXL Large _____ \$15.00

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE MAILED THEIR CONFIRMATION NO LATER THAN MAY 19, 2007

Please make checks payable to the Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association
Mail Entries and Check to: c/o Ted Saraf - 670 Skyland Dr., Sierra Madre, CA 91024
For further information please call Ted Saraf at: 310 565-9817 Fax: 626 355-8582 Email: ts10851@aol.com

Name _____ Vehicle Year _____
Address _____ Make _____
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____ Model _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Club _____

As a participant in the Sierra Madre Centennial Car Show, the participant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association, City of Sierra Madre, all officers, employees, committees, and volunteers from and against all liability of loss, claims, obligations, judgments, or damages that the participant and/or guests (family, relatives) may sustain as a result of claims, demands, and costs arising from the participants involvement in the Sierra Madre Centennial Car Show.

Participants Signature _____ Date _____

Member: San Marino Police Officers' Association

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ARMED RESPONSE



SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, May 13th, to Saturday May 19th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 169 calls for service.

Monday, May 14th:

6:25 PM - Grand theft, 300 block East Sierra Madre blvd. A resident reported his Trek bicycle stolen from his grandparents' open garage. The bicycle is a 24 speed mountain bike with "Hydro Clothing" in red print and valued at \$600.00.
10:50 PM - Residential burglary, 500 block East Grandview Ave. The resident reported the following items missing: Apple laptop power book G4, silver charm bracelet, Hermes silver bracelet, and a garage opener. The loss was estimated at \$4,520.00.

Tuesday, May 15th:

8:37 AM - Vandalism/Graffiti, Canon Ave and Grandview Ave. Two city traffic signs were damaged with black making pens and a third sign was sprayed "SMS" with black paint. No damage estimate was available.
10:31 AM - Theft of US Mail, 500 Gatewood Ave. A resident reported several pieces of mail from his house were recovered by the Azusa Police Department. The mail was left for pick-up by the postal carrier on May 5th at the postal box located at the street.

Wednesday, May 16th:

7:05 AM - Vandalism/Graffiti, Memorial Park. A city worker reported graffiti to the men's restroom, Veterans' Wall and the patio area, black and white marking pen. The damage occurred between 3:00 PM Tuesday and 7:05 AM Wednesday. No loss estimate was available from the city. Officers followed leads and arrested a 15 year old resident of Sierra Madre. The minor was booked for felony vandalism and released to his parent.

Thursday, May 17th:

4:50 PM - Vandalism, 200 block South Michillinda Ave. A resident reported her car had numerous deep scratches on the passenger side. The vandalism occurred between 5:30PM Saturday, 5/5 and 8:30 AM Sunday 5/6. No estimate of loss was available.

7:30 PM - Vandalism, 128 North Baldwin Ave. A resident reported seeing three juveniles with skateboards vandalizing the Verizon telephone building with graffiti. Officers responded, conducted an area check, but did not find the suspects. No estimate of the damages was available.

8:16 PM - Petty theft, 200 block Sturtevant Drive. A resident reported her maroon briefcase containing her wallet and driver's license were stolen from the front yard of her house after she left the briefcase unattended while visiting her next-door neighbor. The loss was estimated at \$135.00.

Friday, May 18th:

9:28 AM - Grand theft, 611 East Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported his Toshiba laptop computer, soft case, and Canon digital camera stolen from his unlocked truck. The items were left on the passenger seat between 6:00 PM and 7:30 PM Thursday. The loss was estimated at \$3350.00.

Saturday, May 19th:

10:52 AM - Vandalism, 700 West Alegria, A resident reported his window smashed on his parked van. The damage occurred between 5:00 PM Thursday, and 8:00 AM Friday. The repair cost is unknown.

Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK
From Caroline Brown



You may have seen the T.V. coverage on Catalina Island last week showing an outlying building surrounded by an area cleared of brush. The fire burned up to this clearing and you could see the blacken landscape of burned brush and grasses that came up to the cleared edge. It was dramatic proof of the value of brush clearance around your property. You can see many such photographs on line when you search web sites for brush clearing information. Creating defensible space around your home cannot be stressed strongly enough.

Last week there were over 200 fires in Florida. Georgia was also in the middle of brush fire emergencies. Ham Lake, Minnesota had a brush fire raging. We have begun a long, hard fire season here in California and in many other parts of the U.S. News of these fires is not going to stop anytime soon.

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be June 11, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. We need your participation and input.

For information on brush clearance remember to check out www.firesafecouncil.org or www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/BrushManagement for additional information.

For information call: 355-9350 or e-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

SIERRA MADRE RENEWS ENFORCEMENT OF WATER CONSERVATION POLICIES

SIERRA MADRE MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

Resolution No. 04-085

Passed October 25, 2005

Section I - All residents and businesses within Sierra Madre are hereby directed to conserve water through implementation of Phase I water conservation measures as described in SMMC 13.24.060:

- There shall be no washing of sidewalks, walkways, patios, driveways, or parking areas by a water hose.
- No water shall be used to clean, fill or maintain levels in decorative fountains unless such water is part of a recycling system.
- No restaurant, café, deli, or other public place where food is sold, served or offered for sale, shall serve drinking water to any customer unless expressly requested by the customer.
- No customer of the water department shall permit water to leak from any facility on the premises.
- No lawn, landscaping, or other turf shall be watered or irrigated between the hours of ten a.m. and four p.m.
- No lawn, landscape, or turf area shall be watered in a wasteful manner. Nor shall any water be wasted if the existing if the existing conditions may be corrected or reasonably modified.

Section II - The Public Works Department, shall wherever possible within existing working hours, incorporate Items A, D, E, & F into its maintenance schedule.

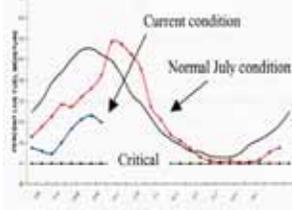
Section III - This resolution shall remain in effect until superseded by further City Council Resolution or until the water emergency has ended.

Section IV - Staff is directed to exercise all reasonable means to disseminate to the community information about water conservation and the urgent need to conserve.

2007 BRUSH FIRE SEASON IS HERE!

Due to the driest winter on record, the condition of the brush in and around the foothills of Sierra Madre is expected to hit critical levels 2 months earlier than normal. Now is the time to start clearing the brush from around your home.

Brush Inspections start May 1st



Defensible Space

In order to protect your home during a wildfire, we need 100 feet of clearance between your home and the hazardous brush. Aggressively trim and thin the vegetation from around your home but do not completely remove the vegetation to mineral soil.

Trim you win, strip you slip!

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

Questions? Please call the Sierra Madre Fire Dept. at 355-7135 extension 651



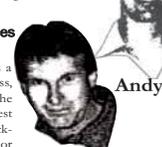
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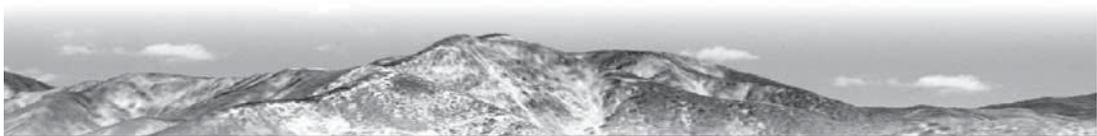


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The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

City Enters a "Pre" 60 Day Exclusive Negotiating Agreement for the Long Awaited Heritage Square Project By Dean Lee



Artists Rendering of Proposed Project
Courtesy of City of Pasadena

Monday night's regular Pasadena City Council meeting sounded more like a Federal Grand Jury investigation than a simple discussion over city matters as Mayor Bill Bogaard and others interrogated city staff over the process of selecting The Bakewell Company as the clear winner of a bid to develop the long awaited Heritage Square project.

Some called the area at Orange Grove Boulevard and Fair Oaks Avenue the gateway to the city's northwest saying it has been over 10 years waiting to see the area transformed into a viable part of the city. Only councilmember Chris Holden agreed with City Manager, Cynthia Kurtz, recommendations to enter into a full 120 day exclusive negotiating agreement with Bakewell. The council later cautiously approved a 60 day pre-agreement with the developer. Kurtz's recommendations were no different than those given to the council April 30 she said. Most council members, including Bogaard, Victor Gordo and Steve Madison viciously attacked Bakewell's proposal saying they were unclear as to what was being proposed.

According to city staff the 2.82 acre blighted site is comprised of 10 parcels owned by the city's redevelopment agency and was designated to become 100 percent senior housing, with very low-income, low-income, and moderate income units. The council was concerned with how many units and at what cost. Gordo repeatedly questioned a nine percent tax break given if the site contained a certain number of very low housing units. He asked, "how would it be funded if that tax was not given?"

Developer Danny Bakewell, simply said the money

would have to be found elsewhere, something not uncommon for this situation and something the other four bidders also included as part of their proposed plans.

The council continued to remain steadfast even after the second choice, alternate developer; Southern California Housing/Union Station requested that they wanted to stand out of the way and see the city move forward acknowledging approval of Bakewell.

"We're not here to divide the community," said Union Station's Executive Director Marvin Gross. "At this point, any proposal we submit is not going to be well received by the community and it is in our best business interest to step back and let you enter into an agreement with Mr. Bakewell." However, they also said that if the 120 day negotiations were not successful, Union Station would be very willing to work with the city on the proposal. This further confused an already bewildered council.

Holden shook his head slightly as he mumbled, "Now what do you do with that?" To which the council then asked if Union Station was bailing out? "No," they said.

At one point Bogaard reminded the council that they were acting as both the Community Development

volunteers working on the developer negotiations.

Community Development Commission Chair, John Kennedy fired back at Bogaard and the council a number of times throughout the night saying he was insulted by their challenging his or any other sub committee member's integrity. He then read the names of everyone on the Developers Selection Committee. Holden added that many of the committee members have been longtime developers and/or community leaders.

The two sides both apologized before it was all over although the council continued denying any wrongdoing. Gordo said a number of times that the council was let down by a flawed process with no oversight.

Midway through the five hour fiasco, the meeting came to a complete standstill as each member of the council was asked by the public, shouting from their seats, to disclose any conflicts they may have with the current selected developer Bakewell, i.e., any spouse that may work for, and then gain from, another developer being given the contract. This suggested Bogaard was pushing for Heritage Housing Partners to which his wife has a direct interest.

Bogaard denied any impropriety although he has recused himself in the past on similar matters. Holden, slowly, leaned into the microphone and answered no. Councilmember Margaret McAustin did the same but not before Madison interjected stopping the roundtable answering and redirecting the question to City Attorney Michele Bagnaris.

Bogaard then said he had been advised that normal procedure was to answer questions at the end of public comment. Councilmember Sid Tyler, Madison, Gordo, Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein, and Bogaard never directly answered the question. Haderlein at the time lashed out saying he did not have to answer.

New comers, Jacque Robinson and McAustin, stayed out of most of the night's debates. McAustin asked a number of times, for clarification on the whole subject matter and Robinson sided, at times, with Holden.



Map of Area near proposed site

Commission and the city council saying, as the head of that commission, that no one had reported back to them pointing fingers at some of the sub committee's

Persson's Nursery

(continued from page 1)

his wife's Linda Persson-Butters' 35-year-old business, now became the foundation of the city's newest citizen awareness group Open Space Now.

Over 100 residents from Pasadena as well as Sierra Madre, Monrovia and other cities showed up for the group's first meeting, Saturday, at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center saying their sole purpose was looking at what defines open space, making that different from parkland or schools something they said the city of Pasadena was not doing.

The group centered on publicly calling for an emergency moratorium on all development in designated open space areas and said the city needed an exclusive open space element added to the city's general plan something they said was required by law. The city currently has drafted a green space element and posted it on the city's website, but the group said the element deals mostly with parks.

"What we hope is that Edison does not see development as a viable option with a moratorium in place," said Christle Balvin who led Saturday's meeting. "They might then back out of these city deals."

Edison spokesperson, Tom Boyd said Tuesday there are a very limited number of allowed uses for Edison's corridors such as storage, nurseries and parking and that it was up to the city to determine the permitted use. Boyd added that Edison's current business decisions are done case by case. In Persson's case, he said, they were given an 18 month extension rent free as a gesture toward helping them move.

According to Butters, the move was not ever an option sighting a change in zoning laws that would not allow him to operate at the same cost. He would also have to put in paved driveways and adequate drainage. Butters also said they were offered a much smaller location across the street. His wife not only offered to pay rent in order to stay but three times the current rate, something Edison turned down.

Planned are two self-storage projects by RHC Communities Inc. which also has self-storage projects planned throughout Southern California along other Edison corridors.

"We have over 5,000 miles of transmission lines and our primary use is to serve our customers, they come first," Boyd said "We have to be able to get in and out of these areas to service those lines. Over the next five years Edison has decided to make a change and develop them. This is all part of massive upgrades to the power grid."

Butters' stated in an open letter that, "This is their [the

people] city, not Edison's or the developers'. These entities and others might think that anybody who rises up in this city to do what is right is nothing more than an activist. We are otherwise known as the people of Pasadena and businessmen of Pasadena."

Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein is the only person in direct contact with Edison on behalf of the city Butters said. He and others have been shut out because of his vocal opposition.

When calling Edison, a number of people said, they were told that answers had to come directly from Haderlein something his field rep, Rhonda Stone said she was unclear about. Stone also said Haderlein could not be at the meeting and personally answer questions because of family business.

"Steve Haderlein is very concerned about this," she said, "I don't know why they would say that, he has been doing everything he can as far as working with Edison in order to resolve this dilemma for residents." Former Pasadena planning commissioner, Michael Coppess referred to the city's dealings as a game show "for cash and prizes" saying at stake was open space in return for a Mayors promised YMCA or a councilmember's pledge to place an city ice-skating rink in his district. Coppess then called on the group to demand answers from city hall.

Sid Tyler, the only councilmember at the meeting, did not respond and only later suggested they look at PUSD land as an option to protect open space. "If vacant schools are not torn down they will all become charter schools." He said.

JPL climatologist and Sierra Madre local, Bill Patzert, brought sarcasm and wit to the meeting with a deadly serious message during a slide presentation in which he started off referring to Al Gore as a good friend.

"I think what we need is a large meteorite impact," Patzert said. "People are the problem and there are just too many of us. I keep telling this and until people listen this will continue to remain the number one problem, for open space, climate change or whatever else."

Archivist, Ann Scheid, for the Greene and Greene collection at the Huntington Library showed historical slides of Pasadena something Patzert said we will never go back to. He urged people to plant gardens on rooftops and stop building golf courses that trap lots of heat he said.



Power Struggle: Persson's nursery general manager Gary Butters is not ready to quite call it quits but admitted that he does not know what else to do after being denied a last ditch request, by Southern California Edison, asking to continue leasing the land from the power giant even after making an offer to pay three times the rent. Butters' said that he would stay open until the very last day June 30. Edison has made clear their plans of using the space for self-storage units and parking lots something local open space advocacy groups are adamantly opposed.



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

A DEUXAMIS PUBLICATION

OPINION



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Member

Mt. Wilson Observer Mission Statement

We honor the traditions of the community newspaper and place our readers above all other concerns. We deliver local, state and national news every week. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



Commemorating Memorial Day

By Hail Hamilton

Patriotism is everywhere on Memorial Day. Flags fly and flowers decorate the graves of our fallen heroes. Red, white and blue bunting adorn the balconies of buildings and homes. Volunteers and Volunteer Organizations march in patriotic parades all across the nation. Patriotic speeches are made by politicians and military leaders. The President places a wreath of flowers on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There are readings of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Memorial Day is also the start of the Summer Season. For most of us, however, Memorial Day means attending picnics and other outdoor activities, and consuming large quantities of hot dogs and beer. But what does Memorial Day really mean? Is it only about flags, flowers, hot dogs and beer? Or is it about something much larger and more powerful in the American psyche? Unfortunately, many of us have forgotten the true meaning of this important national holiday. Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was established as a day of remembrance for those who valiantly died in the American Civil War. Although there is evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves of Confederate dead before the end of the war, Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by Lyndon Johnson in May 1966 a hundred years after the original commemoration. Of course at that time we were engaged in another civil war—this one fought in the streets of our nation over the war in Viet Nam.

How Memorial Day originated is uncertain. The planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor a community's war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor all the war dead, each gathering contributing honorably to the growing movement that culminated in General John Logan's official proclamation on May 5, 1868. Three weeks later on May 30, his General Order No. 11 was first observed when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873, in remembrance of the original 1866 commemoration at Waterloo. So this Memorial Day, after consuming your allotment of hot dogs and beer, take a moment to honor the young men and women who throughout our history have answered the call to duty and sacrificed their lives on the alter of freedom. Reflect for a minute about the price these patriots paid with their blood, sweat and tears so we could enjoy this Memorial Day with our families and friends. Remember also that honor, duty and devotion to our nation in the defense of liberty is the price free men must pay to guarantee that freedom endures. As Lincoln said so eloquently at Gettysburg 144 years ago: "...It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth."



Right For The Wrong Reasons

By Susan Henderson

For those of you who missed our City Council meeting this week, you missed the opportunity to watch a train wreck in the making. But, before I get to the train wreck let me just say that this week I heard more statements of concerns about the public's need to know than ever before. That is a good thing. In fact, I even heard City Attorney Sandra Levin say that rather than hold the discussions on settlement of the Stonehouse project litigation in closed session, they will be held in an open meeting on June 12th. That's amazing. Just goes to show you that when the people speak you can get a little action, or shall I say, reaction. I would suggest that you bring popcorn and not be late for that meeting. I am certain it will be standing room only. Back to the train wreck. On Tuesday, the city council did the right thing. Kinda. They voted down recommendation of the planning commission for approval of the Vesting Tentative Parcel Map, Conditional Use Permit and Variance for 110 E. Montecito. That clearly was the right thing to do for a number of reasons. The problem for me is, however, with the exception of Councilman Zimmerman who cited the primary reason the recommendation should not be approved, everyone else voted correctly but for the wrong reasons. You see, this vote was the first real test of Measure V. It gave the citizens the opportunity to see if the elected officials were going to enforce it. We've heard that they were going to. (Good thing Faye Angus reminded a few of them that they had made a commitment to enforce it.) Well, they all did, kind of. They all voted against approval but most of them just couldn't get the "V" word out of their mouth. The justifications ranged from, "we can't do this just because we did it before" to "we can do this because we did it before" to "it is about V" - but V means variance, to "it doesn't make me feel good". None of those reasons should have been at the top of the list. All those concerns and opinions were going in every conceivable direction but the right one. That's not good at all. A train wreck is surely on its way. For you see there is only one direction to follow from now on. It's what the voters said and what is the law. Following Measure V is the way to keep the train on track.

Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry



"Why can't somebody give us a list of things that everybody thinks and nobody says, and another list of things that everybody says and nobody thinks?"

Oliver Wendell Holmes

In last week's column I discussed the none too savory reputation of the uber bureaucracy Southern California Association of Governments - AKA SCAG and their recent edict that the City of Sierra Madre must build 138 new housing units - 80 of them upper income - despite the wishes of the city and most of its residents not to do so. Of course, we are not alone in this bureaucratically dictated misery as it is all part of a grand SCAG scheme to coerce 700,000 dwelling units into the region in the next 8 years. Everybody will be expected to do their part. Arcadia, as an example, has been ordered to build 2,130 new units of housing. Pasadena 2,844. Monrovia 562. Los Angeles County as a whole is somehow supposed to cram in 288,000 new units. Where? Nobody knows. Maybe they'll have us condemn a hefty chunk of already existing single family housing and replace them with condos? I'm sure it has been considered. But if we do not somehow get it done, SCAG will rat us out to Sacramento and Washington and we'll lose a bunch of much needed funding. Don't you just adore these guys? Wouldn't you just love to have them over for dinner? ... So we still haven't quite gotten into who these people are yet, have we? Who is it that would order a region populated by 7 million compacted souls and as polluted and traffic-ridden as any in the world today to build enough new units to house the entire population of the (State of Oregon) or suffer dire economic consequences? Well, it just so happens that our very own (Joe Mosca)

numbers among those serving the SCAG cause. As reported in the Arcadia Weekly last January, our boy Joe is right there sticking it to us, as usual. "In an election held Jan.18 at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments SGVCOG Governing Board meeting Joe Mosca, council member for Sierra Madre, was elected to serve as one of SGVCOG's two representatives on the Southern California Association of Governments SCAG Community, Economic and Human Development CEHD Committee." And what exactly is this CEHD? "The CEHD committee provides policy recommendations to the SCAG Regional Council on a variety of issues including housing and community development." Our little Joey has become quite a man in this world, hasn't he? And look at that he has repaid our nurturing and support! This guy so desperately needs firing ... In an editorial entitled "Growth Dreaming SCAG Vision Rests On Some Questionable Assumptions," the Long Beach Press-Telegram drops the dime on our friends at SCAG. "The heart of the plan is targeted densification, or the 2 percent strategy, as SCAG calls it. The plan looks to densify 2 percent of the population by clustering housing, shops and jobs near major transit lines, while preserving throughout the rest of the region the single-family homes that Southern Californians prefer." Congratulations Sierra Madre, thanks to SCAG and Joe Mosca you are now in a targeted densification zone. The editorial goes on to say, "Which all sounds good - assuming, of course, that it's not your neighborhood that's densified." Well, ladies and gentlemen, apparently it is our neighborhood. The Orange County Register, in a commentary piece called "The Social Engineers Are At It Again," has also spoken out on SCAG's strange designs on our communities. "In other words, instead of approving new subdivisions in less crowded areas, and building the roads to service new growth, the regional planning agency wants to engage in social engineering,

pushing us to live in high-density condos near transit stations. This is the foundation of an authoritarian planning regimen known as the New Urbanism, in which planners try to recreate dense urban centers and discourage the suburbanization most of us prefer." Their suburbanization most of us prefer? "Missing from the SCAG report are some essential ideas. We couldn't find any mention of freedom or free markets. Instead, it's all about government telling private builders what to build and telling private citizens how and where they should live...The best way to achieve mobility and livability and sustainability and prosperity is to allow individuals to make their own choices, not adopt an Eastern European-style planning regimen." SCAG makes the downtown development schemes of the "No on V" folks look like a hula hoop contest ... One thing that I find puzzling here is in a 5/19 Sierra Madre Weekly piece on the dismal failure of our City Government to hold off SCAG and their demands, Councilman John Buchanan) sound ed, well, passive. "SCAG not too ceremoniously turned down our request for revision of our numbers." That's it, John? SCAG wagged its bony finger in your face and you're just going to meekly roll over? Fighting John then goes on to boldly state: "We knew ahead of time that those arguments were probably going to fall on deaf ears." Well, considering that your fellow pro-development councilman Joe Mosca also doubles as a SCAG member, I am quite certain that you did. BTW, Rich Johnson, in his very funny column last week, ran through a bunch of great old-time country song titles. To that list I'd like to add one of my favorites, "If You Leave Me Honey, Can I Go Too?" ... That's the skinny for this week. That big old vodka moon is rising and I'll be standing in her light tonight. As always I can be contacted at eric.maundry@yahoo.com. Cheers!

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

The weekly columns and articles that you publish regarding the global warming scare are preposterous! Man's contribution to greenhouse gases is so small, we couldn't change the climate if we tried.

A combination of misinterpreted and misguided science, media hype, and political spin has created the current hysteria.

Water vapor is responsible for 95% of the greenhouse effect.

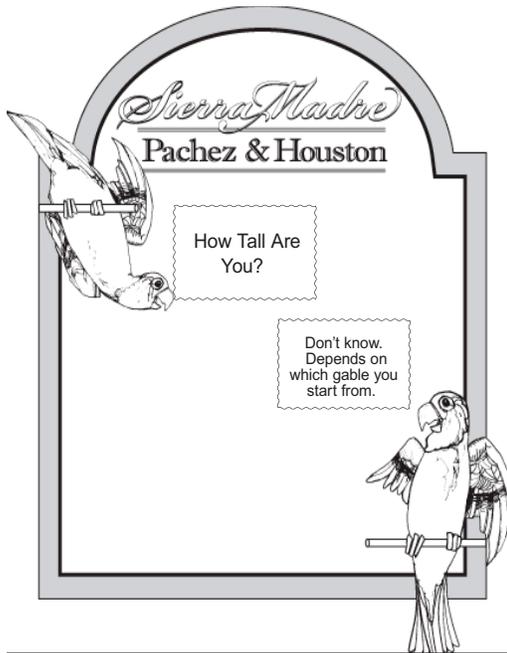
The other greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen dioxide, and various others including CFC's, contribute only five per cent of the effect, carbon dioxide being by far the greatest contributor at 3.6%.

However, carbon dioxide as a result of MAN'S ACTIVITIES IS ONLY 3.2% OF THAT, HENCE ONLY .12% OF THE GREENHOUSE GASES IN TOTAL!

This should be the end of the argument, period!

The scare tactics may be working on the naive; but you can't fool Mother Nature!

Dave Mysza, Sierra Madre



No More Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Action Figures

By Rich Johnson



by the toys they want you to buy them. When they are toddlers they are happy with a spoon, a plastic cup, or a box. When they get a little older it's still not too bad. You don't have to put a quarter into a video game. Just hold them over it and let 'em grab hold of the knob and they're happy. At this stage they are thrilled at whatever toy comes with a happy meal. And anything found in the toy aisle at the grocery store.

The day of reckoning arrives at what I call the Toys 'R' Us Rite of Passage. This is where parents become victimized by that evil monster called "Media Merchandising". Somehow instantly kids don't WANT something. They "NEED" it. For Helen and I it was teenage mutant ninja turtle action figures. And it didn't stop there. They needed to accessorize: The all terrain turtle land rovers and escape pods. This stage is merely a foreshadow of the things to come.

When they lose interest for toys in bubble paks grab your wallets. That's when they get really costly. They discover video games. Now the stages really blur. You see they don't lose their interest in video games even when they discover Ipods, and cars, and dating. Ca-ching, ca-ching, ca-ching!

So, do I ever wish I never had kids? No way! Alex is smarter than me, funnier, a better driver (by far) and he has more will power. And he does something that means more to me than anything. He still ends most phone conversations telling me he loves me. I love you too Alex. Congratulations.

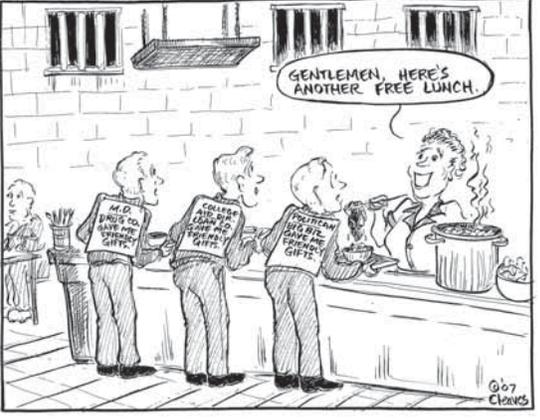
Now, wait til' I tell you about Olivia?

Well, I guess it had to happen. Yeah, I saw it coming but I was in denial (no, not the river). I kept hoping somehow this time it would be different. No such luck.

Okay, let me get it off my chest. Maybe by sharing my tragedy the pain will lessen. Be forewarned as this may be shocking and not suitable for small children: My son, Alex, graduated from high school last night (shudder). My little Bubby. (Bubby is a slang Australian expression referring to a little baby or small child. Unlike the Yiddish use of the word bubby which they use to call grandma. I'll bet Yiddish speaking Australians have a real problem with the term bubby).

I look at Bubby, err Alex now and find myself daydreaming back to when he was a little cherubim. That would have been during the first ultrasound. Soon after that photo shoot he started causing problems. I could feel him endlessly kicking inside his mother's womb. Oh my God, he was kicking in Morse code, "G-e-t m-e o-u-t o-f h-e-r-e". As it was he finally figured his way out two weeks early.

If you have small children, reading this column is imperative. Magnetize it to your refrigerator door. Knowledge is power. I know it's no surprise kids get more expensive the older they become. The stages of that growth can be tracked



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PUSD Strikes Deal to Locate Children's Center at Linda Vista; Another Charter School Adds To The Mix

By Dean Lee

A revamped seven member PUSD school board, all with straight faces, accepted another application for a charter school Tuesday night without even waiting for the ink to dry on the last one. The last deal sent that school scrambling to find their own location off district property and is inviting a possible lawsuit with the PUSD.

And as if that was not enough, before the night was over, the board unanimously approved a 'facility use of school facilities' permit agreement with All Saints Children's Center to operate on the former Linda Vista Elementary School site. That site is the exact location denied to Rhythms of the Village Charter School after a public outcry of blasphemy against the surrounding neighborhood.

International Charter School of Pasadena founder, Dale Goodman, said the new school would be set up centered around individual growth through experimental and extra-curricular programs. The curriculum would be part of the international baccalaureate program. Goodman said he was fully aware that Pasadena already had a number of IB schools. This school would be different in that it serves Northwestern Pasadena and the Linda Vista community where he said there was a strong need. The school is also different in that the target group is kindergarten through third grade.

"We are putting in a character development program that's integrated with it, not one hour a week about values," Goodman said. "A lot of parents want that in their schools."

Goodman said they hoped to build the school up to eighth grade and anticipated being able to use the Linda Vista site with a planned opening September 2008.

As to the current situation at the Linda Vista site, district staff said All Saints would be placing five portable classrooms there and a sixth for use as a portable office building. They would also be using most of the playground equipment as well.

The district will receive \$61,770 for the 14 months of use by All Saints. The District had to give \$65,000 to Rhythms of the Village for the next year because the district would not let them use the site.

Superintendent Edwin Diaz said legal council had given them the ok to move forward with a facilities permit something that concerned the board last week. Board member Ed Honowitz asked about the progress

with getting a conditional use permit needed from the city and when they planned moving in. He acted surprised when they said by the end of June. "That's to get it ready to open in September I assume."

At the start of Tuesday's meeting a large number of concerned parents spoke out concerning the large turnover rate for special education teachers throughout the district.

Glendale gives 10 percent more money to teachers who teach special ed. The parents noted that L.A. Unified offered a 17 percent signing bonus for teachers willing to commit for five years. San Marino was a whopping 25 percent over Pasadena and as a result, are attracting teachers there.

"Pasadena is known as a training ground for specialized staff," one parent said. "They gain the experience here and then move on to other districts with more attractive offers."

Parents also said they were surprised to find that special education teachers in Pasadena made no more money than regular teachers. "Until the district is willing to pay more for specialized teachers and convince the union to breakaway from equal pay for all teachers, we will be caught in a never ending cycle of recruitment and training," one concerned parent stated.

Also during the meeting, at Diaz's request, and as suggested by the recent District Management Audit, the board considered removing all subcommittees, or part of what they called "unused committees." Board President, Steve Lizarzo, said that the board needed to first decide whether they either wanted to operate in "Helicopter" mode swirling around overhead managing a lot of committees or "hands on" dealing directly with the issues by removing the committees. The board was evenly split with half the members saying that sub-committees take away time that could be used for other school business and the other half saying subcommittees give the public more of a chance to have input, being more involved.

Honowitz stated that the only useful subcommittee was the Student Safety and Conduct. The board then asked that a report be brought back next month that included a request by Honowitz to ask Gibson Consulting, the originator of the audit, for examples of outstanding districts and what they have done with sub-committees.

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Lisa Feldman Head of School

Marshall Fundamental School Makes Top Public Schools List

School recognized in NEWSWEEK Magazine

By Susan Henderson

Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, a member of the Pasadena Unified School District was recently designated as one of the Top Public Schools in the nation and was featured in this week's issue of the magazine. Marshall ranked no. 123 out of 1,253 schools in the study. In 2006, Marshall was list as no. 286.

The evaluation uses a formula that considers the number of Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Cambridge Tests taken divided by the number of students the school graduates.

Marshall Fundamental has students from the 6th through 12th grades. Steve Miller is the principal and Roy Sunada is the Advanced Placement coordinator.

According to the story, of the top 150 schools nationwide, there were 11 California schools:

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| No. 9 | Preuss UCSD | La Jolla |
| No. 19 | Eastern Sierra Academy | Bridgeport |
| No. 28 | Troy | Fullerton |
| No. 46 | LA Center For Enriched Studies | Los Angeles |
| No. 50 | High School For International Studies | San Diego |
| No. 57 | Lowell High School | San Francisco |
| No. 85 | Monte Vista HS | Cupertino |
| No. 113 | Torrey Pines | San Diego |
| No. 123 | Marshall Fundamental | Pasadena |
| No. 124 | San Dieguito | Encinitas |
| No. 140 | Mission San Jose | Fremont |

La Salle High School Celebrates 2007 Reunions Saturday, June 23, 2007

La Salle High School will celebrate the reunions for the classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1979, 1982, 1987 and 1992 in the Dining Pavilion at the School.

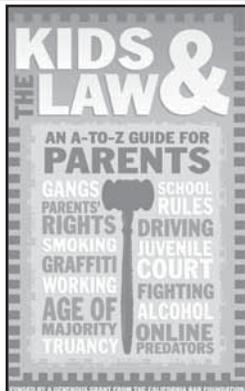
For more information contact Kristen Schultz '98, Director of Alumni Relations at 626.696.4362 or e-mail kschultz@lasallehs.org

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The annual Open House, Art Show & Science Fair held by Weizmann Day School, the independent Jewish community day school serving the San Gabriel Valley is a wonderful opportunity for the community to tour the classrooms and view the student art and science fair.

For further information please contact Lisa Feldman, Head of School 626-797-0204



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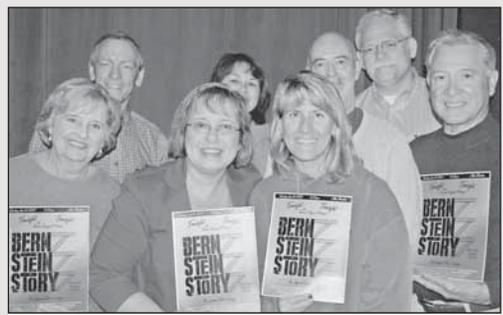
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TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



The table will be set again next week. Stay Tuned.

What's New For You At www.mtwilsonobserver.com
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Don't miss local Towne Singers (l. to r.) Susan and Norm Haynes, Chris Bertrand, Lina Kerr, Kristen Krystad, Fred Cady, Dick Bertrand, and Lew Lopez on June 10 at the Alex Theater!

Several locals will sing in the Towne Singers' newest production, Bernstein Story, on Sunday, June 10. Staged at the beautifully restored, 1925 Alex Theater in Glendale, this vintage venue is one of LA's top entertainment venues. Tickets are going fast for this quick paced, multimedia production. Based in La Canada, the 100+ member Towne Singers has entertained Southern California audiences since 1987. New conductor, Dr. Mark Aaron Humphrey, of Azusa Pacific University and Bel Air Presbyterian Church, has assembled a stunning program featuring highlights from three decades of Leonard Bernstein's music. Choral, orchestral and dance selections from *West Side Story* and *Candide*, the challenging and dramatic Chichester Psalms and more, are interspersed with dramatic video footage from Bernstein's incredible musical career. An evening not to be missed!
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NASA Rededicates Flying Observatory on Lindbergh Anniversary



Photo by Jean Boenish

Last Monday, May 21, NASA dedicated a unique astronomy aircraft to pioneering aviator Charles Lindbergh on the 80th anniversary of his historic solo transatlantic flight. Erik Lindbergh, the pilot's grandson, joined NASA for the event in Waco, Texas.

NASA's new Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is a highly modified 747 airliner that carries a 45,000-pound infrared telescope system. Pan American Airways originally christened the plane the "Clipper Lindbergh" in 1977. At the rededication ceremony, NASA officials discussed the similarities between Lindbergh's accomplishments and SOFIA's potential to capture scientifically important infrared images unavailable to earthbound telescopes. The SOFIA aircraft was modified at L-3 Systems in Waco and is wrapping up a series of functional checkout flights before heading to NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., for further tests and systems integration.

Erik Lindbergh, who recreated his grandfather's solo transatlantic crossing in 2002, unveiled a plaque at the May 21 ceremony commemorating Clipper Lindbergh. "This project is a fantastic blend of a 20th-century legacy aircraft and a 21st-century platform for exploration," he said. Intended to fly above 40,000 feet, SOFIA

will place its infrared telescope above nearly 99 percent of the Earth's atmospheric water vapor, greatly enhancing its abilities to study the cosmos. Its state-of-the-art telescope will be able to carry out scientific missions with greater flexibility and ease of upgrade than a satellite-borne observatory.

NASA's partner in SOFIA is the German Aerospace Center (DLR), which provided the telescope. NASA modified the aircraft. A 16-foot-high opening has been cut into the aft fuselage to permit observations to be made at altitude.

SOFIA's 2.5-meter telescope—with about the same diameter as the Mt. Wilson 100-inch and the Hubble Space Telescope—is the successor to the much smaller Kuiper Airborne Observatory (KAO), which was operated by NASA from 1974 to 1996. The telescope and scientific instruments have been designed to make sensitive, high-angular resolution measurements of astronomical objects over a wide wavelength range (0.3 microns–1.6 mm). SOFIA will be NASA's and DLR's premier observatory for infrared and submillimeter astronomical observations for the next decade.

Once it arrives at Dryden, SOFIA will continue flight and systems testing for about two years while its observatory system hardware and software are integrated with the aircraft. The telescope's first images are expected in 2009.

For more information about SOFIA, visit: <http://www.sofia.usra.edu>



SOFIA first test flight, at L-3 in Waco, Texas, April 26, 2007

"MySpace News"

From Paul the Cyberian

As the de facto king of social networking sites *MySpace.com* often finds itself at the forefront of many social trends and legal issues when it comes to life in cyberspace. This week *MySpace.com* made headlines once again with happenings that centered on Free Speech and Privacy issues.

In the Free Speech arena the military has decided to block access to many popular social networking sites including *YouTube.com* and has put severe restrictions on the postings that soldiers and sailors are allowed to post on *MySpace.com*. The Brass cited concerns over operational security issues but many critics believe that the real concern is to keep the postings of disgruntled military personnel out of widespread circulation. There have been several embarrassing episodes of posters publishing material deemed inappropriate by military officials concerning events happening in the Iraq War.

The latest of these incidents happened earlier this week when the son of popular AM Talk Radio personality *Dr. Laura Schlessinger*, had his *MySpace* page pulled because of inappropriate content. The *MySpace* page, publicly available until Friday when it disappeared from the Internet, included cartoon depictions of rape, murder, torture and child molestation; photographs of soldiers with guns in their mouths; a photograph of a bound and blindfolded detainee captioned "My Sweet Little Habib"; accounts of illicit drug use; and a blog entry headlined by a series of obscenities and racial epithets.

MySpace.com also made headlines in the Public Safety/Privacy sector with its decision to release the names of known convicted sex offenders who have pages on *MySpace*. The Attorney General's of 8 states made a motion to force the website to release the names of suspected sex offenders who may have been in contact with minors. This is a potentially serious situation that could put untold numbers of minors at risk due to the relatively anonymous nature of social networking on the Internet. *MySpace.com* initially resisted the move using the banner of privacy as a counter to the request listed in the motion, but quickly changed its position to comply with the request after considering the Public Safety issues at stake in this matter.

MySpace.com has long been at the forefront of protecting the privacy and safety of its users and has developed software to ensure that contact between inappropriate parties is not allowed on its site.

In Iraq news, the abduction of several servicemen in an ambush has sparked a country-wide search in that area. One soldier, with local connections, has been found dead despite a massive manhunt for the missing group. Pfc. Joseph Anzack, Jr hailed from Torrance, California. *MySpace* users have overwhelmed the site with condolence postings to his *MySpace* page.

Join Us on June 16

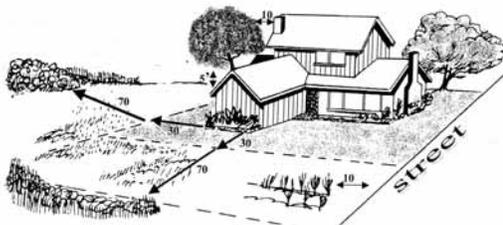
Next month, members of FRIENDS OF THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVER will also have the opportunity to share in the mountaintop experience. This in-depth guided tour of the Observatory, for FRIENDS members only, will take place on

Saturday, June 16 at 2 p.m.

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- Remove any portion of a tree which extends within 10 feet of an outlet of a chimney.
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- Maintain roof surfaces of all structures free of leaves, needles, twigs and other combustible matter.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrubs: Bearberry - <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> Silver Spreader - <i>Artemisia caucasicca</i> Escobolia - Several Varieties Texas Privet - <i>Ligustrum texanum</i> Italian Buckthorn - <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> Lemonade Berry - <i>Rhus integrifolia</i> Star Jasmine - <i>Trachelospermum</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopsced Bush - <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Topon - <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> Oleander - <i>Nerium oleander</i> Carolina Cherry - <i>Prunus caroliniana</i> Catalina Cherry - <i>Prunus lyonii</i> Carmel Creeper - <i>Ceanothus horizontalis</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees: Carob - <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> California Pepper - <i>Schinus molle</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Suman - <i>Rhus lancea</i> Brazilian Pepper - <i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>

For additional information contact the Sierra Madre Fire Prevention Bureau at 355-7135



One of a Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens... and the people who create them

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Filled with Centuries of Tradition:
Stained, Leaded and Faceted Glass Created for the Southland

Doug Gibbs wanted to be a carpenter. After his military service in World War II, a young Gibbs went looking for work in Kent, just 16 miles from his family home. Thank goodness the English contractor, to whom he applied so many years ago, only had an opening for a stained glass worker. With this opportunity in glass work, he learned from the crate up, as it were, by working to re-install, rebuild and recreate the incredible stained glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral in coastal England. What a place to hone one's craft! Each day of those 7 1/2 years at Canterbury Cathedral brought new lessons from treasured history in stained glass, going back to the 12th century. When World War II threatened the Cathedral, its most precious windows were crated up and stored in caves. After the war threat had past, the painstaking job of restoration began, replacing the boarded up or wired glass-filled openings once again with stained glass. When the many medieval windows were first created, few of the citizenry could read, so the windows told the biblical story leading up to Jesus' life in chronological order. The oldest remaining window, from about 1176, fittingly depicts Adam, digging or "delving" in the Garden of Eden. Gibbs says the biblical scholars were able to figure out which order the windows should be installed, by following the dateline of the biblical stories. They found that the ancient leading held up remarkable well, as the "lead" still contained other elements like silver and tin, adding longevity to the coming holding the glass pieces together.

churches and a few special homes. The father and son team are especially proud of the 42 foot stained glass wall at Grace Baptist Church in Santa Clarita, where the massive divider panels actually slide like patio doors, and of the 58 Italian Renaissance style windows they created for Diamond Bar's St. Denis Church. Most of the traditional methods for this art are still in use today. The process of painting faces and detail onto the glass, for instance, remains the same; a special paint is applied, then kiln-fired at 1250 degrees, fusing the paint permanently into the glass. The window glass is still cut and assembled by hand using templates, though nowadays CAD, computer aided design takes over more often than not. Once in a while, the opportunity to use



Doug Gibbs assembles a new "old glass" window for Sierra Madre resident, Jana Cervenka



1250 degree kiln firing fuses the hand-painted detail to the glass

the old with the new presents itself. Gibbs came into a quantity of "old glass" recently, known as "Norman slabs" in the trade. Created about a century ago it was used in several churches in the London area, perhaps even the famous St. Martin in the Fields Church. In it you can see the striations made from swinging the glass blower's instrument with molten glass on the end, slowly expanding the glass to deposit in a special box created to cool, harden then separate it into five pieces. He is creating a beautiful "new" window with this old glass for Sierra Madre resident Jana Cervenka's home. Creating such a window is still a slow, meticulous and painstaking process, so Cervenka occasionally stops by to view the work in progress, eagerly put patiently awaiting its completion.

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Have an interesting home or garden story that might be of interest to our readers? Contact Chris at c.bertrand@themtwillsonobserver.com

Gibbs speaks of this time with a reverence and remembered awe. Gibbs smiles even now, remembering the ethereal nature of working in this place, where the workplace "Muzak" was actually live, a product of the cathedral choirs. What a privilege it was, to be in the shadow of so many famous events and lives within those walls. For instance, Thomas Becket lost his life there, when he fell from the favor of King Henry II. Today, so many decades later, Gibbs draws on that learning experience at Canterbury Cathedral here in modern day L.A. Doug Gibbs and son Tim run their own version of this ethereal business. In the Montrose area of nearby Glendale, they create and restore stained, leaded and faceted glass for Southern California

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Enough Already . . .

I suggested to the editor of this nifty journalistic gem that a contest might be in order- something similar to guessing how many jelly beans are in a jar or how many teenagers can fit into a telephone booth. Whoa, I'm dating myself with that one. I doubt that the teenagers of today have ever seen a telephone booth. Where did the phone booths go by the way? But, I digress... There should be a prize given to the first person who can accurately guess how many times the name Pat Birdsall appeared in last week's edition. (Hint) More than any reader should be subjected to. The winner would then be treated to an all-expense paid trip to the Los Angeles Times, or the Pasadena Star-News web sites. A vacation of sorts, because Pat Birdsall's name certainly won't be appearing in either one of them any time soon. I suggest also that the runner-up

receive a copious supply of the anticid of his or her choice. All kidding aside, in my roll as the chairperson of the Senior Community Commission, I am grateful that the letter to the editor thanking all who contributed to the success of the reception honoring Russ Anderson as Older American of the year 2007 was printed. Also, Editor Dunn agrees that environmental data is extremely important, so I do thank her for running "Just Say No"... to Paper and Plastic... Using cloth bags instead is just so easy to do. Having said that, quite frankly, I'm just trying to figure out how in the hell I missed making the sports page other than the obvious fact that I haven't been in school for decades. I guess contact poker playing at the Senior Center isn't considered a vigorous enough activity to qualify. Maybe Ping-Pong, shuffleboard?

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For more information, please contact Michelle Keith at the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-7135.

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SPORTS

Lancers No Match For Oaks Christian

By Larry Bortstein

For the second consecutive year, La Salle's boys volleyball season ended with a tournament loss on the Lancers' home floor.

Michael Fey and Mark Friedlander, two of the six seniors on La Salle's team, were disappointed but are moving on with plans after Friday's graduation.

Oaks Christian of Westlake Village, the top-seeded team in CIF Division IV, dispatched the Lancers, 25-23, 25-17, 26-24, in a quarter-final match before nearly 300 fans Friday night. The Lions completed the sweep after trailing, 18-11, in the third game.

"They called a timeout at that point and when they came back out they played like they were the two-time defending CIF champions they were," Friedlander said.

"We made some passing errors and that's what cost us at the end," Fey said.

The Lancers lost to Oakwood of North Hollywood in a CIF Division V semifinal match at La Salle's gym last year. "We had everyone coming back so we thought we'd be good this year, even though we were moving up to Division IV," Friedlander said after the Lancers completed their 22-10 season. "I didn't want to lose our last game again. When our last shot went out of bounds, we realized it was the last time many of us would put on the uniform and play in that gym."

La Salle loses many of its 2007 stalwarts to graduation, but coach Franco Macchia will rebuild around returning juniors Matt Nuguid and Eric Libardoni and sophomore Trevor Lanzarotta.

Fey, 17, and fellow Lancer Michael Carlson, led the club with 10 kills each against Oaks Christian. They will continue to play on the same team this summer in club volleyball with a San Gabriel Valley contingent that will compete in several tournaments in Anaheim.

In the fall, the 6-foot Fey will enroll at the University of La Verne, but he doesn't expect to spend more than a year there.

"La Verne dropped varsity volleyball and I'm still looking to go somewhere where I can play," said Fey, who is deciding on a college major between criminology and



Photos By Jacqueline Truong



business administration.

The 6-foot-5 Friedlander, who turned 18 on May 7, is headed for UC Santa Barbara, where he is considering majoring in engineering.

Besides playing volleyball at La Salle, he was a forward for the basketball team which lost to Twentynine Palms in the CIF divisional semifinals.

Friedlander hopes to continue playing both basketball and volleyball at UC Santa Barbara, on the intramural level.

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View From The Couch
By Stanley J. Forrester

ARE YOU ONE?

I have heard it said that the term 'fan' comes from the word fanatic - a true fan can definitely be a fanatic but is also known as being One with their team. As was discussed during college football season, around our abode a Trojan co-exists with a Buckeye. Our allegiance to the two teams is based upon the fact that we are alums. But to be a fan of a certain team does not require this type of connection. I have buddies that are Pirates fans and these guys have never lived outside of southern California. Their allegiance to the city of Pittsburgh is based upon the fact that their Little League team was the Pirates. Both of these fellows are close to retirement age but like a true fan their loyalty is everlasting.

Soccer fans are among the fiercest as they live and die by their team and may cause death or at least bodily injury to fans of the opposing side. Recently Ms. Sophia Loren, the beautiful Italian actress, with only a few games left in the season, attempted to give her team an incentive to get to the play-offs. Her promise? If they made the play-offs she would pose nude. Now Ms. Loren is at least seventy years old and while that promise may have been an incentive for a guy near my age, I don't know what motivation it is for young soccer players. The point is, however, that fans will say or do some outrageous things to get their team moving.

How many of you have your lucky shirt, cap, or some other item which when worn or carried will bring your team good luck? The amazing thing about that item is that the team does not know that it even exists yet it works. The team's lack of knowledge does not in any way diminish its power to affect the fortunes of a game. Now that doesn't make sense except to the

fan - who regarding other issues in life is completely sane and reasonable but concerning their favorite team becomes fanatic.

So what is this draw to a team, why do we have such a strong connection to a franchise? Entire cities can go into depression when their team loses the big game. Before the Denver Broncos finally won the Super Bowl the city would go into a deep funk based upon the loss of a football game. During those Super Bowl losses it was rumored that violence among family members would increase by two hundred percent. (I'm serious!) Our feelings about a team can draw a city together and serve as a uniting force, sometimes a positive one - sometimes not. When the Lakers had a winning team much of Southern California felt united in their support of the team and consequently connected to one another. Though this feeling is not deep seated, it does serve as a force which can, for a moment alleviate the difference between divergent groups. So today we salute the fan. Being One with One's Team is true 'self-actualization'.

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