



# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, June 8 - June 14, 2007 Volume 2, No.23

## The Road To Chantry Flats

**Fire Marshall Snyder Leads Brush Clearing Effort**  
By Susan Henderson

There are three miles of winding road through Big Santa Anita Canyon that lead to Chantry Flats and the Pack Station, a favorite destination for hikers, picnickers, and naturalists. The beauty of the area is breathtaking and yet, the area has the potential of becoming a hazard for not only those who live and play in the canyon, but also for the residents of the flatslands below. Due to the extremely dry weather of late, the area has been determined to be at high risk for brush fires.

Therefore, Rich Snyder, Sierra Madre's Fire Marshall made it a priority to have the brush bordering the road cleared in the same manner prescribed for homeowners.

"This clearing was long overdue and badly needed to help prevent careless accidents," said Snyder. "There are approximately 1,500 - 2,000 visitors up here per weekend making it absolutely necessary for us to help prevent careless, accidental fires." Snyder took 10 crews, approximately 150 workers to the canyon for what was scheduled to be a three-day project. The task was completed in two an accomplishment that Snyder is quite pleased with. Workers cleared brush back 10-20 feet from the roadside for 1.5 miles. The remaining 1.5 miles are the responsibility of the Department of Forestry pending a completed environmental impact report.



"There is nothing we can do about topography, the canyon is the canyon. We can't change the weather either," says Snyder, "but we can clear the brush." -Photo by Hood



### Important Announcement:

The Mt. Wilson Observer is in the process of making several significant changes in order to serve you better. One of these changes may be in the way the paper is delivered to you. Last week's edition was not delivered to your mailbox in a timely manner and we want to prevent that from happening again. We apologize for any inconvenience that may have caused. By the time you read this announcement you should have received last week's paper.

In addition, you will see changes in the layout and management of the paper. Please bear with us during this transition.

Susan Henderson, Managing Editor

### Fireplaces not BBQs: A Burning Issue as New Air Quality Management District Standards Set

By Dean Lee

Although the essence of the new, aggressive and far-reaching 2007 Air Quality Management Plan adopted last week by AQMD's Governing Board deals with industry, one part of the plan is certain to interest homeowners —the possible outright ban on new construction of wood burning fireplaces and/or prohibiting the use of existing fireplaces on the most polluted days of the year.

"We have to look at all sources," AQMD spokesperson Tina Cherry said. "Fine particulate matter [PM2.5] is a direct health

concern because it is so fine that it lodges deep within your lungs. This is something fireplaces are directly emitting." Cherry also said the AQMD never focused solely on wood burning, but after being asked by other local agencies to drop PM 2.5 levels they are now looking into reducing wood burning fireplaces as well as charbroiling in restaurants. Many local fireplace retailers, were more concerned with BBQ grills, something they also sell. Cherry said this management plan does not cover grills.

(cont. on page 4)

## Hot Rod Heaven



The Sierra Madre Police Officers Association's Centennial Car Show gave children and adults alike the opportunity to admire their favorite antique vehicle. Classic cars spanning eight decades were on display in the center of town. All pristinely maintained over the years, the event gave attendees insight into one of America's favorite hobbies. More on Page 3. -Photos by Jacqueline Truong



## Brown Baggin' It



People from all over the San Gabriel Valley came out to support Sierra Madre Woman's Club's annual fundraiser. -Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Saturday marked another milestone for the Sierra Madre Women's Club. This year was the 50th year of its annual Brown Bag event. For \$3, shoppers could buy as many bargains as they could find and fit in their 'bag'. Proceeds will support the club's many charitable activities.

## Friends Remember Iain



Gert Parker with Iain Colquhoun's dog Sunny, at the Memorial Service in his honor. Story Page 3

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### St Rita's Strikes up the Band for Beloved Pastor's 60th Birthday



Fr. Richard Krekelberg only measures his time at St. Rita's Catholic Parish in a few years, yet he has already made his mark in the community. Parishioners put on a gala celebration for him June 2nd, to honor his 60th birthday. A delightful mariachi band even serenaded the group, leading the pastor and guests from the church down to the party. Hundreds of well wishers enjoyed food, music, joyful camaraderie and even a little dancing at the afternoon party. Long time member, Anna Tsasinski spearheaded the event. As Mary Nolan commented afterward, "He's been a special angel given to our parish. He's done so much already to bring us together!" Best wishes to Father Krekelberg!

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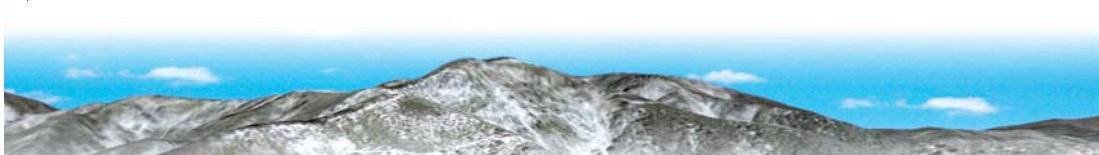
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# The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

## Pasadena City Council: Open Space, Desiderio & Rose Bowl Renovations

By Dean Lee

The Pasadena City Council got right down to business Monday night giving hope to two long time family owned Nurseries being forced to close by month's end. There was a lively exchange over "open space" and an implied possibility of the city stepping in to help save those businesses. There was only one problem; the item was not on that night's council agenda.

**That Pesky Brown Act:** City Attorney Michele Bagneris stopped Councilmember Chris Holden in mid sentence after repeatedly telling the council they could not discuss specifics surrounding Southern California Edison's property under state law although not before City Manager Cynthia Kurtz said Edison had withdrawn their application with the city.

"They have not submitted anything new surrounding the placement of storage facilities," she said to a very pleased packed room. "Right now there is nothing the city is looking at from Edison."

California's Brown Act prohibits any discussion of matters not on the agenda. Bagneris noted with the exception of a quick response to public comment or dialogue over placement of any item on a future agenda. "I think we have gone beyond that," Bagneris said.

Before suggesting they agendize the item Bagneris said that the council cannot stop a private land owner from developing with anything less than an outright moratorium or another ordinance prohibiting land use. This was in response to a suggestion suggested by concerned members of the city's new group Open Space Now.

"I know that private property issues come into play but it doesn't stand to reason that an open space user would be evicted for using open space," Holden said.

Kurtz also confirmed that any application from Edison would have to change the current zoning from open space to something else; many accused the council of doing just that "behind closed doors." According to Edison spokesperson, Tom Boyd, over the next five years Edison has decided to make a change and develop areas beneath power corridors home to many nurseries and parking lots. Planned for Pasadena are two self-storage projects by RHC Communities Inc. which also has self-storage projects throughout Southern California along other Edison corridors he said.

Although the Edison/open space item was never agendized everything else on Monday's regular scheduled agenda passed including a push to stall demolishing all the Desiderio and any Base buildings in the Arroyo Seco. The council also gave The Rose Bowl Operating Company \$250 million that includes money to make the seats more comfortable and widening exits to meet codes.

**Back To The Feds:** Kurtz said the Desiderio buildings staying or going was not as important as what uses were being proposed for the project. "What we need to convey is that we did the process, met the goals, and we have uses that we want there," she said. "These are, open space, arts uses, and affordable housing. That's the final approval we want to get from the

federal government."

A number of council members expressed concern that the federal government would reject the plan if they did not inform them that the building could stay.

Others, including councilmember Victor Gordo, said that city should not be making decisions based on any one organizations "bottom line" - something many city staff said The California Art club was trying to do.

Kurtz said that the process still had to go to Housing and Urban Development and then the Department of Defense but could come back to them after a 60 day review.

"The Army reserve is scheduled to be there until 2010 so nothing is going happen as far as housing or changing the building in anyway for at least three years," said Mayor Bill Bogaard.

The final plan recommended that 25 percent of the area be transferred through a public benefit to Habitat for Humanity to build nine affordable single-family residences. The remaining 75 percent would be transferred to the City for use as city parkland. The plan also included a community building within the park originally intended to house the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment. Kurtz also made clear that building was only an option.

Bogaard said before a unanimous vote, "We intend to reserve a degree of flexibility in the implementation of this plan depending on the opportunities that express themselves." Elaine Adams Executive Director for the art club said she did not know exactly what to make of that.

"If we can't save the building then that's it for us, we're out," she said. "We can't afford to build a new building. We'll just wait and see what the federal government says. We do want to thank Councilman Madison for all his help."

### Rose Bowl Renovations

As part of a \$250 million strategic plan for the long-term use of the Rose Bowl the council appropriated another \$125,000 to support continuation of the plan's effort initiating an environmental analysis of the strategic plan. Holden abstained saying that he thought the project was moving too fast in the direction of a taxpayer subsidy.

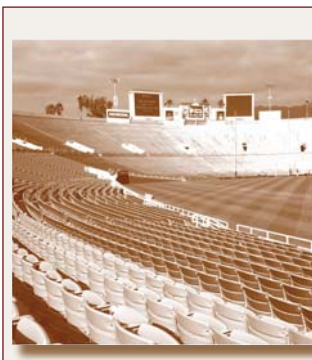
The 58 page Rose Bowl Master plan was boiled down to five main objectives improve public safety, maintain the stadium's historic landmark status, create a revenue stream for long-term reinvestment in the stadium, enhance facility operations and enhance the fan experience.

Rose Bowl Operating Company President, Bill Thomson, said that the \$125,000 would go directly at looking into new seating and plans for widening the exits. He also said that some of the improvements would generate revenue such as premium seating and sponsored seating "This is an outdated facility trying to make bids in a modern world," he said. Over the next year various different seat types will be installed in small sections as the public tries the Rose Bowl.



**Desireable Outcome:** Aerial view of the Desiderio buildings. Whether they are demolished or not is secondary to the purpose for which they will be used. "What we need to convey is that we did the process, met the goals, and we have uses that we want there," City Manager Cynthia Kurtz said. "These are, open space, arts uses, and affordable housing. On Monday the council decided to send the project back to the feds for approval."

- Photo Courtesy City of Pasadena



### The Renovation Granddaddy of them all:

A \$250 million strategic plan for the long-term use of the Rose Bowl Stadium, passed this week, will improve public safety, maintain the stadium's historic landmark status, create a revenue stream for long-term reinvestment in the stadium, enhance facility operations and enhance the fan experience city staff said. Photo by Dean Lee










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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.  
Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Friday:  
Saturday:  
Sunday:  
Monday:  
Tuesday:

Sunny  
Sunny  
Sunny  
Sunny  
Sunny

Hi 80s  
Hi 80s  
Hi 80s  
Hi 80s  
Hi 80s

Lows 50s - 60s  
Lows 50s - 60s  
Lows 50s - 60s  
Lows 50s - 60s  
Lows 50s - 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## City of Sierra Madre June Events

- 8 - City Hall Closed
- 11 - Fire Safe Council - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 12 - Online Swim Registration Begins
- 12 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 13 - Community Arts Commission Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 14 - Chamber Breakfast Meeting - 7:30 AM - Hart Park House
- 15 - Friday Family Movie Night - 7:30 PM - Kersting Court
- 16 - Doggie Day - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Sierra Vista Park
- 18 - Pool Open for the Summer
- 18 - Community Services Commission - 6:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 20 - Tree Advisory Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 21 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 22 - City Hall Closed
- 23 - Centennial Lawn Party - Memorial Park
- 23 - LAUNCHZILLA Sierra Madre Film Festival - 7:30 PM - Memorial Park
- 23 - Sierra Madre Film Festival - 1:00-6:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 24 - Sierra Madre Film Festival - 1:00-6:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 26 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 27 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 PM - Conference Room
- 30 - Healthy Family Fun Splash & Splash - 9:00 AM - Sierra Madre Aquatic Center

For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7135 or visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).

## SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

### ADULT SUMMER READING CLUB AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

"Summer Sleuthing at the Library," Sierra Madre's first Summer Reading Club for adults, will start Monday, June 25, and run seven weeks, through Saturday, August 11. Adults from all communities are invited to stop by the Library Circulation Desk any time on or after June 25 to register for this free activity. Participants will receive program guidelines and a Mystery-themed Suggested Reading List (although reading choices are not limited to mystery/detective novels). The first one-hundred people to register will receive a special program incentive.



### KIDS 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](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186.



## Roy Roams' 91024

### Murphy, Murphy, Murphy

Seems like Murphy had a field day with the MWO last week. First, late delivery. Second, mistaken identity. Harold A. McAlister, who was named the 2007 Recipient of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific's Muhlmann Award was misidentified. His picture appeared as Don Nicholson, another astronomer who received an award from the Pasadena City Council.

And, to add insult to injury, John Blackstock of LaSalle High School submitted two articles for the Ed page that were credited to reported Dean Lee. Our apologies John. We strive for perfection, but unlike Murphy, we're only human.



This Is Harold McAlister - Photo by Carolyn Richardson

### O.K. They're Greener Than We Thought

The City of Pasadena, through Sierra Madre resident Anita Delmar, sent Roy a letter setting the record straight. (again). In a recent Roy Roams, Pasadena was chided for not having bicycle racks included in their expensive makeover. Not so, says Ms. Delmar, but in order to see them you must open your eyes. Says Ms. Delmar, "Is that Pale Green? Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! Bicycle racks are planned for Pasadena City

Hall! Some are already in place - safely tucked in the stairwells; more are being relocated from PCH's temporary locations. Pasadena City Hall re-opened GREEN two months ahead of schedule and under budget. Pedal over for the Grand Opening July 15th and see the bicycle racks for yourself, Roy. Thanks Anita. Now we know where to find the racks. We will be there on the 15th.

### Soon As We Were Ready...

According to Fire Marshall Rich Snyder, in the days preceding the June 1st start of Sierra Madre's Paramedic Program, there were emergency calls one right after another. Then beginning at the stroke of midnight on June 1st - or sometime thereafter for those of you who insist of precise information - for the next 36 hours there wasn't a single call. That's a good thing but disappointing in a way for the paramedics who were ready, willing and able to help. However, when the calls did come in, Greg Christmas and his crew were able to swing into action rapidly. With the first three calls, our new paramedic program was able to bypass the Arcadia Methodist Emergency Room and transport the patients directly to the Stemi Centers which provide critical care for heart patients with minimal damage. Thanks Greg and staff. We are happy to know you are there for us. We really need you.

### In It To Win It

Although there are many Sierra Madreans who do not know why others are so excited about being a finalist in the All American City Competition, since we are in it, we might as well win it. Here's keeping our fingers crossed that by the time you read this we will be an All American City. (We are anyway!)



### Volunteers Needed:

We will need any help you can provide to support the July 3rd & 4th Sierra Madre Parade and Community Picnic. Help will be needed in prepping 900 roses on the 3rd and selling them along the parade route on the 4th.

Also, help is needed for the hamburger booth on the afternoon/evening of July 3rd and following the parade on July 4th.

Please save the dates. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Bonnie Coulcher  
Phone: 626-355-7005 or  
[sierramadrevolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:sierramadrevolunteers@yahoo.com)

### FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

The Sierra Madre Public Library offers free computer classes year round to the public. If you're contemplating buying your first PC, classes are available in Basic Computer I & II, to help take the anxiety out of learning essential computer functions. Basic Internet I & II will teach you the ins-and-outs of email, and how to navigate smoothly through cyberspace. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced levels of Word are also offered, as well as classes in Excel and Desktop Publishing.

Registration forms are available at the Library's Circulation Desk. A \$20.00 deposit per class is required when you register, which is refunded upon attendance.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre.

For further information, please visit the web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186

## 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  
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### The Harvey Hyde Show

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## REMEMBRANCES

### IAIN COLQUHOUN

October 3, 1935 - June 1, 2007



Friends erected this memorial which included a few rare photos of Iain.

Iain Colquhoun did in death what he did so well in life, brought people together. On Sunday at Sierra Madre's Nature Conservancy, friends and extended family gathered to celebrate the life of Iain who lived in Sierra Madre for 18 years. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, he is survived by his wife of 30 years Karen; his sister Janette Ramsay; beloved greyhound, Sunny and the entire canyon community.

A regular at *The Buck* and often seen at *Happy's Liquors*, Iain was a retired engineer. Known by his friends as an affable, brilliant man who was never too old to enjoy life, he also had a great fondness for Greyhounds. Prior to adopting Sunny, he rescued four other greyhounds.

The memorial was a true celebration of the character and strength of Iain. Trevor Takahashi, in traditional Scottish attire, played the bagpipes in his honor. Included in the performance was a rendition of *Amazing Grace*. A memorial which included Iain's sword and rare pictures of him in his youth was surrounded by flowers. A *Scot's Toast* which reads in part, "May the best you've ever seen be the worst you'll ever see," appeared to leave a final personal message to friends and family.

-Susan Henderson

## TOO TOXIC TO TRASH

Household Hazardous and E-Waste Round Up

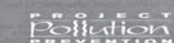
Saturday

June 16, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Irwindale

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• Household electronic waste which includes: Computer monitors, televisions, computer CPUs, keyboards, printers, cellular phones, etc.  
What you CAN'T bring to an event:  
• Hazardous waste and electronic waste from businesses  
• Explosives, ammunition and radioactive materials.  
• Trash and tires.  
• White goods such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, etc.

For a complete listing of what you can and cannot bring or information on events, contact:  
(800) CLEAN-LA • [www.800cleanla.com](http://www.800cleanla.com), or  
(800) 238-0172 • [www.isocd.org](http://www.isocd.org)

# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Who's Confused?

When, at the end of May, President George W. Bush read a speech on Global Warming, out loud and (basically) in public at the United States Agency for International Development, one of us (he or I) was very very confused.

George W. is the same president who, in a 2001 press conference expounded on the "global dimming" benefits of sulfur particles in the atmosphere (which is silly, right?). Under him, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency claimed that carbon dioxide isn't a pollutant, and that its emission from automobiles can't even be regulated (the Supreme Court disagreed recently). And, here he was, in this new speech, doing his best Al Gore impersonation.

At first, I was convinced that George W. was the confused one. I thought that he must have misheard one of his "staffers" or misread an important memorandum somewhere. Or maybe there was, like, a series of Pink Panther-esque blunders including, possibly, switched briefcases, lost notes, earwax, typos, and functional illiteracy which resulted in George W. making an impassioned speech on what he thought was the dangers of not stirring the chicken soup (Globo-Globular Swarming) or on the product recall of an especially dangerous glow-in-the-dark high bouncy ball (Glow Ball Warning). Because, I knew for sure for sure that if there was one person on this planet I could count on to NOT call for global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (other than that guy who wrote in to the paper two weeks ago) it was president George W. Bush.

Apparently I was the one who was confused. For, that is just exactly what he did. He called for the top dozen (or so) greenhouse gas emitting countries to take part in a series of talks to set a "long-term global goal" for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

But don't get too excited about the environmentalist green superhero tights George W. has been hiding beneath his free market Texas business suit (with pointy boots and a large belt buckle) these past six years. The goals in his plan would be "aspirational" and would not be binding unless individual nations chose to "bind themselves," according to James L. Connaughton, the president's environmental advisor.

Not surprisingly, George W.'s call to action has been met with a certain degree of, shall we say, skepticism. Especially in parts of the planet where people have actually been worrying about this issue and taking action... places where government officials signed this

little thing called the Kyoto Treaty (which President Bush refused to sign in 2001, claiming that it would hurt the US economy and that it wasn't fair because it didn't include China and India), places which (thanks to mandatory reductions and carbon trading) have reduced greenhouse gas emissions over the past fifteen years as U.S. emissions have risen 16 percent.

My favorite response to George W.'s proposal came from German Chancellor, Angela Merkel. She also holds the presidency of the European Union and has proposed that greenhouse gas emissions there be reduced by 50 percent by 2050. She is pressing the group of 8 industrialized nations (the famous G-8... the U.S. is one of them), which will be meeting this week on the Baltic Sea, to adopt such a plan as well. The U.S. has rejected her proposal, which makes sense because now that we have our own separate set of aspirational meetings, we'll be too busy to worry about any truly binding G-8 climate proposals, or for that matter, the second phase of the Kyoto talks, which will begin in Bali later this year.

But anyway, Chancellor Merkel, speaking to reporters in Berlin, said, "What is positive is that we can see from the speech that the president made... that nobody can ignore the question of climate change." Although, maybe a little bit of ignoring wouldn't be so bad in this case. A redundant, irrelevant plan, the sole purpose of which seems to be to derail other legitimate efforts that have been going on for years is not exactly the kind of attention Global Warming is looking for... unless I am still just really confused.



## Those Henkels Kids.. Lifelong Love Of Cars Is Family Tradition

By Julie Puterbaugh and Susan Henderson

Once upon a time in Pasadena lived a family of 14 children. Dad, James Henkels and Mom, Alice Henkels had nine boys and five girls, but never seemed at a loss of ways to keep them busy. The nine boys had an all consuming hobby, "the unique hobby of collecting and rejuvenating large old autos." That was a quote from Mrs. Henkels in 1951. Today, the same could be said of the boys, especially 74 year old Howard.

Mr. and Mrs. Henkels used their children's love of tinkering as a tool to keep them out of trouble, but it wasn't without some outside scrutiny. At one point, their hobby actually caught the attention of the local police. With dozens of cars in the family's yard on Pasadena Avenue in Pasadena, a city inspector once accused the family of running a business at their home and demanded that they stop. "Stop what business?" Mrs. Henkels asked. "Stop the business of rearing a family of 14 children without a delinquent in the bunch?" "Stop helping nine sons train themselves in an honorable trade by giving them use of their own back yard - and their own autos..."



Visitors to the Sierra Madre Police Officer Association's Car Show this weekend may have noticed this 1933 Beauty. It has been in the Henkel family since 1951.

-Photo Courtesy of The Henkels Family

## Mother Wins Fight to Let Sons Learn About Cars in Back Yard



This reprint of the Los Angeles Examiner's November 19, 1951 article shows eleven of the 14 Henkels and their mom and dad at their Pasadena Home. Needless to say, the inspector lost his argument with Mrs. Henkels. -Courtesy of the Henkels Family

As indicated in the reprint of the Los Angeles Examiner's article pictured above, the inspector lost that battle. The Henkels children, nine boys - Gregory, Robert, Charles, Eric, Howard, David, James, Jr., Tony and Peter, five girls -Ann, Teresa, Suzanne, Joan and Alice at one time had a dozen automobiles in their back yard.

The family takes their hobby very seriously. Says Howard's daughter Robin, "The standing joke is that they bleed Lincoln crank case oil."

At the recent car show, Greg Henkels displayed a 1974 Dodge with great pride. They also displayed their classic 1933 Dual Cowel Phantom Convertible Lincoln which was purchased in 1951 for \$15.

Most of the Henkels still reside in the area including Suzanne Wheeler who has lived in Sierra Madre 35 years. Howard, who lives in Arcadia, says, "I was probably into cars more than anyone. I still do restoration jobs."



## JUNE

6-8 - All-America City Awards

TBA - Film Festival (2 days), at Sierra Madre School Auditorium / City Hall / Playhouse

23 - 100-Year Lawn Party at Memorial Park, 2-6 pm

24 - Concert: Music from 1907 at Church of the Ascension

30 - 4th of July Crazy Rhythm Hot Society Orchestra at Memorial Park, 7 pm

## JULY

1 - 4th of July Celebration Concert at Memorial Park

3 - 4th of July Celebration Concert at Memorial Park

4 - 4th of July Parade at 10am and Picnic follows

4 - Postal Stamp Cancellation at Memorial Park

28 - Healthy Family Fun Days: Hike to Bailey Canyon at Bailey Canyon Park, 9 am

CENTENNIAL PINS are now available for \$5 each at various shops in town.

CENTENNIAL CALENDARS listing commemorative events throughout 2007 in the community have been sent to every home in Sierra Madre. Additional copies of the beautiful commemorative calendars are available at the library.

## FIREPLACES (continued from pg. 1)

According to Cherry, "The plan is updated every three years so if there are measures already on the books those would usually drop out. If we were trying to get more emission reductions we could amend guidelines further."

The last AQMD measure dealing with BBQs dates back to 1990 and only deals with igniting barbecue charcoal and it was designed for manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of those products, not residents said Cherry.

"All of the high end BBQ's are gas," said Harry Hovseplan, of Royal Fireplace on Colorado Blvd., Hovseplan said most customers, if given a choice, prefer wood burning fireplaces over gas or electric the reverse of BBQ's. "What is the most popular is converting wood to gas," he said. "People like the look of a wood burning fireplace but gas is easier to maintain so they install the wood burning ones then convert them."

Cherry said new restrictions would not permit conversions because of the size of the chimneys involved. Gas fireplaces have much narrower ventilation and therefore cannot be used for wood burning she said. "Only designated gas fireplaces will be allowed," she said adding that if even the current proposed plan does not ease the worst polluted areas by 2012 they will add a point of sale clause forcing all homeowners to change any wood fireplace before selling their homes. "A wood fireplace would have to be rendered inoperable in order for it to remain," she said. AQMD's goal is to remove one ton of PM 2.5 daily by 2014 by stopping of wood burning.

Floyd S. Lee  
Fireplace and  
BBQ Shop  
Manager,  
Razmik  
Thomas said  
converting  
wood to  
gas can get  
expensive  
showing  
off some of  
the last new  
inventions,  
including  
a firewall  
that mirrors  
the back of  
the fireplace  
giving the  
appearance of  
a much larger  
flame that also  
radiates much  
more heat as  
a plus.



This popular conversion looks good and is energy efficient.

-Photo by Daniel Bellis

"If you are really concerned about less air pollution these are the way to go," he said. They not only use the clean natural gas but much less of it. Maybe only a fraction, but they are still part of a conversion kit for wood fire places."

Other manufacturers said the look and size of a wood fireplace can be maintained with gas conversions. Several cities in California have already banned wood burning, such as Sacramento.

Wood burning fireplaces fall under AQMD's proposed rule 445 "wood burning appliances," and require that only the cleanest technologies be used for any new construction. "That does not ban anything," Cherry said adding that people using a fireplace as a sole source for heat would be exempt from any rules or restrictions. "We're not saying that on a cold night you can't stay warm," she said.

AQMD staff also said the California Air Resources Board recently estimated that high PM2.5 levels result in 5,400 premature deaths; 140,000 asthma/lower respiratory symptoms and 980,000 lost work days per year. "Southern California has the worst air in the country," Cherry said.

PM is measure of particles in the atmosphere with a diameter of less than one tenth or equal to a nominal micrometer. PM2.5 is a measure of smaller particles in the air.

Cherry said the wood burning measure was still being revised and not expected to go into effect until fall of this year when air quality standards for PM2.5 change. The measure could also go into effect on "Bad Air Days". Southern California averages 20 such days a year.



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**Fire Safe Council** TIP OF THE WEEK  
From Caroline Brown

Cool mornings from this past week's June Gloom make for optimal weather for the home owner living in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to continue creating defensible space around each home's 100 foot clearance area. Fuel management is the one thing the home owner has control over.

Last Monday, Sierra Madre Fire Marshal, Rich Snyder, co-ordinated the work of more than 100 Los Angeles County Fire Fighters, public work staff from Arcadia and Sierra Madre and US Forest Service personnel who did much needed brush clearance along Chantry Flat Road above the gate at Arno Dr. In Sierra Madre's brush fire history several fires have started by careless smokers tossing cigarets from car window's and an abandoned stolen car with overheated breaks started a fire December 26, 1999. Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council provided traffic control for the work day, assisting as part of their newly established Red Flag Fire Patrol efforts. The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be June 11, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. Fire Marshal Rich Snyder will be the featured speaker. Homeowners will have their questions answered about the brush clearance requirements.

For information on brush clearance remember to check out [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org) or [www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/BrushManagement](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/BrushManagement) or call: 355-9350 or e-mail us at: [smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com)

### 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

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

Fire Safe Council

SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPT.

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125 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
Ph: 626.355.4714 Fax: 626.355.4724  
E-mail: [Moeauto@verizon.net](mailto:Moeauto@verizon.net)

Andy

Moe

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, to Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 186 calls for service.

### Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>:

11:12 AM - Vandalism/Graffiti, 00 block Esperanza Ave. A resident reported graffiti written on an exterior wall at his apartment complex. The graffiti, "SMS" and "SINNS" was done using a broad tip black marking pen. The resident was unsure when the damage was done as he did not notice until 11:00AM today.

### Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>:

1:51 AM - Vandalism, 700 block Ramona Ave. About 1:40 a.m. the victim reported hearing a strange noise in her front yard. When she investigated, she found that her car had been egged. No repair estimate was available.  
12:39 AM - Residential burglary, 200 block Winwood Lane. A contractor working at the home discovered his MK Wet Cutting tool was missing. The saw was valued at \$800.00.

### Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>:

3:54 PM - Petty theft, 440 block West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre Public Library. A library patron reported his 26" beach cruiser bicycle stolen. The bike was left unattended and unlocked Thursday between 1:20 and 1:30 PM. The bike was valued at \$100.00.



## WWSBD?

By Susan Henderson

translation: What Would Smokey Bear Do?

In case you were wondering why I am on page 4 this week, it's because I really have a hot topic to talk about. No, it's not the latest happenings at City Hall or the latest gossip in town. It's about a bear that may have saved my life. He may even be able to help save yours. Everybody knows him, his name is Smokey Bear.

Smokey's been around a long time, since 1944 and he has taught millions of children and adults to take responsibility for our actions in the forest. You know the saying, "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires." If you heard it once, especially as a child, it is something that you are not likely to forget. And, given our current fire season, we need to keep him in mind at all times. He's good for the adults and he's especially good for the kids.

Earlier this week I had the pleasure of being in the company of a couple of firefighters, Rich Snyder and Gary Hood, surveying the work that was done on the road to Chantry Flats. As always, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for all firefighters, because it takes incomprehensible bravery to risk your life to save others, especially when it comes to fires. Hats off to our volunteer fire department, to Mike Kinney and Caroline Brown and the members of the Fire Safe Council and everyone else who keep reminding us that disaster is just one irresponsible act away.

It seems like it was only yesterday, but it was actually almost sixteen years ago when my home burned to the ground in the Oakland Hills fire. Of course, I don't even think about the losses, I am alive and that is sufficient. However, having experienced such a tragedy makes you really appreciate the little things in life. That fire, in case you aren't familiar, burned for two days and destroyed thousands of homes and many lives. Within a quarter mile of my home, a firefighter lost his life trying to save a mother and two small children. None of them survived. The origin of that fire has never been determined, although there is still much speculation that the source was a careless campfire. And that's where Smokey comes to mind.

Do you realize how easily a careless act can jeopardize the health and safety of hundreds, possibly thousands? The things we take for granted that create the kinds of situations that can start a fire? Can you honestly say that you have done your part? I know the 20 feet of brush in the front of your house is cleared, but how about the part that is unseen? Or, what about that roof top that collects the debris from shedding trees. How about the rain gutter that you leave filled with pine needles? And about that car. You know you heard that backfire, but you ignored it. It is my understanding that the Kinneloa fire a few years back was caused by a car fire.

Don't get me started on the smokers. I am truly blessed to have never had that habit. How many times have you seen teens and adults carelessly toss a cigarette butt out the window of a car? I love to play golf and I can't tell you the countless number of dummies that toss their half lit cigarettes aside in order to hit the ball. All careless acts that could escalate into tragic ones. And firecrackers...is the thrill worth it?

Don't forget about our little children. Do you take the time to help them understand how dangerous sparks and little fires are? You don't have to live in the canyons to be careful. Everybody needs to do their share.

Believe it or not, I have always remembered the lessons taught by Smokey Bear and passed them on to my children and grandchildren. This may sound trite, but it's important. You too should give it some thought. What good will it do any of us to save the world if carelessness causes it to burn down? The reality of this summer is here. It's hot. It's dry and there is plenty of tinder around. Before you do something reckless ask yourself, WWSBD?



Replicas of two original Smokey Bear posters used by the Ad Council.



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# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

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### 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.



### Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry

*"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts."* - Bertrand Russell

It is interesting to go to those certain blogs where the remnants of the "No On V" crowd like to complain about those that they are currently scapegoating for the failure of their agenda. This from "Nick" in a recent posting on the (Foothill Cities Blog): "What 've noticed is that many 'old timers' in Sierra Madre have hitched their wagon to the No Development groups because they've been convinced that 'development' will cause them to lose their town. And well, if you're paying Prop 13 taxes on a place you bought for \$25K, I'm sure things are just fine for you right now." Kind of seethes with resentment, doesn't it? Old people own everything, and because they do I can't get what I want. The inference here being that the town's older people are standing in the way of development because they are greedy and self-centered. Not a very pretty message ... There is something somebody sent me a while back that I thought I'd share with you here. It is called:

**50 Years - See What 50 Years Will Do:**  
**Scenario #1:** Jack pulls into his school parking lot with a rifle visible through his back window.

**1957 -** Vice Principal comes over, takes a look at Jack's rifle, goes to his car and gets out his own gun to show Jack.

**2007 -** School goes into lockdown, FBI called, Jack hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers.

**Scenario #2:** Johnny and Mark get into a fist fight after school.

**1957 -** Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up best friends. Nobody goes to jail, nobody arrested, nobody expelled.

**2007 -** Police called, SWAT team arrives, Johnny and Mark put into cuffs and taken to jail. Later they are charged with assault and forced to stand trial as adults. Both are expelled.

**Scenario #3:** Jason won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

**1957 -** Jason sent to office, and then sent home with a note from the Principal. Jason's father gives him a few good whacks and a warning to sit still or else. Jason sits still in class.

**2007 -** Jason given large doses of Ritalin. Sits staring at the classroom wall in a glassy eyed stupor. School gets extra money from the state because Jason has a disability.

**Scenario #4:** Billy breaks a window in his father's car and dad gives him a couple good whacks.

**1957 -** Billy is more careful next time, grows up productive and sane. Goes to college and becomes a successful businessman.

**2007 -** Billy's Dad is arrested for child abuse, loses both his job and house. Billy is turned over to foster care, joins a gang.

**Scenario #5:** Mark gets a headache and takes some headache medicine to school.

**1957 -** Mark shares headache medicine with teacher while both discuss their headaches.

**2007 -** Police called. Mark expelled from school for drug violations. Car searched for drugs and weapons, then confiscated by the state.

**Scenario #6:** Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from the 4th of July, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle, then blows up a red ant hill.

**1957:** Lots of ants die.

**2007:** BATF, Homeland Security, FBI called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism. FBI investigates parents, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated. Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

**Scenario #7:** Johnny falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs and kisses him in hopes of giving him comfort.

**1957:** In a short time Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

**2007:** Johnny's parents, disturbed by his account of Mary's attentions, alerts local law enforcement about this inappropriate touching of their son. Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job...

And now, I suppose, we can now add one more scenario:

**Scenario #8:** Bill and Susan worked hard all their life to pay off their home and assure themselves of having enough money to retire.

**1957 -** Bill and Susan are respected as a model senior citizens in their community.

**2007 -** Bill and Susan have their home seized under eminent domain in order to make way for state mandated "affordable" condos. As they are on in years it is decided that they are not capable of caring for themselves any longer and placed in separate nursing homes. The money from the sale of their house and life savings is quickly devoured as their combined yearly care is billed out at a quarter million ...

These are truly amazing times, aren't they? As always I can be reached at [eric.maundry@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.maundry@yahoo.com).



### Celebrating Flag Day

By Hail Hamilton



Wisconsin. Although he later became a professor of dentistry and a college dean, Cigrand began a lifelong crusade on June 14, 1885 to honor the anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. Thirty-one years later in 1916, his devotion to the Flag was rewarded when June 14 was declared National Flag Day by President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1949, long after Dr. Cigrand's death, President Harry Truman signed a Congressional Act proclaiming that the Stars and Stripes would be displayed on all government buildings to commemorate its importance as a national symbol. From then on Old Glory would be ceremoniously raised and lowered each day at schools, post offices, and other public buildings and monuments all across the nation.

Proudly displaying Old Glory on Flag Day is as American as cherry pie. Honoring the Stars and Stripes is a patriotic act expressing our gratitude for all we have as a free people. As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our Flag.

So raise the Stars and Stripes this Flag Day and every other day with pride! Hoist it high in the sky, and admire with reverence and humility as it billows freely in the wind. Take a moment to gaze at this red, white and blue Star-Spangled Banner, and ponder the meaning of this sacred symbol "of the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave." Take a moment to examine Old Glory more closely and reflect about its most important meaning; because it is not important what it means to me, or what it means to anyone else, what is important is WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG MEANS TO YOU!

Dear Editor,

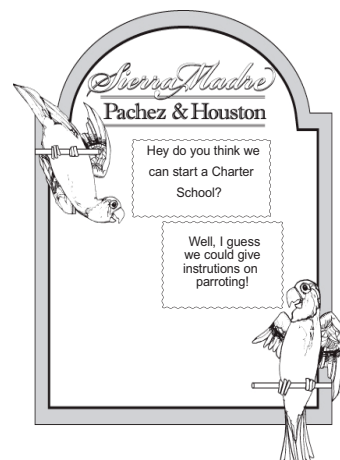
I look forward to reading Richard Johnson's articles as soon as I get your paper. Often times I am hilariously amused by his opinions and pleasantly surprised to find I am educated by his writings too. He's a real asset to your staff and I thought you might like to know this from one of your readers.

Dave Howard

### EXOTIC VACATION IN SM

Something I read in your paper lead me on a great adventure. Did you know that one can take a short exotic vacation without leaving Sierra Madre? Yes! Just take a walk into one of our wonderful restaurants, take it all in, let your imagination loose and off you go. Last night we tried Corfu which has new owners. My G-d the food was good. Sitting outside looking at the SM mountains yet it felt like we were actually sitting by the Aegean Sea while listening to the Greek music in the background and eating our Baba Kanoosh, Tabbuleh and Shish Kabob. Ah the sunshine in Greece! Or take a short rickshaw ride to Osaka at Mountain View Sushi with its Japanese prints, sea weed scent wafting in the air, Japanese cook & waitresses serving Oyster Tempura, Samurai special, Ika Unagi and Saki. Or for lunch we may go to Bangkok at Sierra Madre Thai. Surrounded by Buddha's, bamboo, eating aromatic coconut soup and Pad Thai with the King and Queen of Siam watching over us. The jungle is probably nearby! The last time we went to Lazano's, an exotic South American hostess took us to our table, and between the jazzy art on the wall, and the fantastically prepared gourmet food., all I could say was, "Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore." Happy traveling!!!

J. Brown





# Ed Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, Maranatha, Pasadena High School, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Field Elementary, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Odyssey Charter School, Norma Coombs Alternative School, Weizmann Day School and the PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## \$100 Million In New Federal Funds For Charter Schools

SACRAMENTO – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced Tuesday that the California Department of Education will receive \$101.86 million in federal charter school funds to support new, high-quality charter schools in California.

"Charter schools are an important part of California's public education system," O'Connell said. "High-quality charter schools can be laboratories for best educational practices and can meet the needs of students who are not successful in traditional school settings. I am pleased that California will be able to support the development of new, high-quality charter programs."

California applied for the funding through the federal Charter Schools Program in February 2007. It is anticipated that with this level of approved funding, CDE will be able to provide financial assistance to all high-quality charter schools that will open over the next three years. Up to 10 percent of the total grant funds will be awarded to existing high-quality charter schools and to charter experts to disseminate best practices developed in charter schools to other charter schools and to traditional public school educators.

CDE will disseminate these funds in the fall. The Request for Applications, to which applicants for these funds will respond, is expected to be released on July 13, 2007 after approval by the State Board of Education (SBE). An online, streamlined application process will be posted on the CDE Web site. The first round of grants will be awarded at the September SBE meeting. Online applications for funding to assist with planning and initial operation of new charter schools will be accepted by the CDE on an ongoing basis, and grant project periods will be determined by the proposed opening date of the school.

In addition to funding charter schools and supporting their success with training and technical assistance, CDE will also use these funds to provide leadership to

California's charter authorizers to support high-quality charter school authorizing and oversight.

There are currently 618 active charter schools in California. An additional 50 are on track to open this fall.

For more information about this program or the availability of the Charter School Grant Program funds, please go to [Projected Funding Profile \(ID 1055\): Public Charter Schools Grant](#).

*Charter schools are publicly funded elementary or secondary schools in the United States which have been freed from some of the rules, regulations, and statutes that apply to other public schools, in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results, which are set forth in each school's charter*

### Charter Schools in Sierra Madre/Pasadena Area

Nia Educational Charter School  
Grades: 6-11

Odyssey Charter School  
Grades: K-8

Opportunities for Learning - Baldwin Park  
Grades: K-12

Opportunities for Learning - Dana Point  
Grades: 8-12

Opportunities for Learning - Santa Clarita  
Grades: 7-12

Options for Youth - Burbank  
Grades: 7-12

Options for Youth - San Gabriel  
Options for Youth - Upland  
Grades: 7-12

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Bethany Christian School  
93 B. N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-3527

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-2410  
[www.goodenschool.org](http://www.goodenschool.org)

LaSalle High School  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Pasadena  
(626) 351-8951

Odyssey Charter School  
725 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA  
(626) 229-0993  
[www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)

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(626) 355-1428

Sierra Madre Middle School  
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(626) 836-2947

St. Rita's Catholic School  
322 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-9028

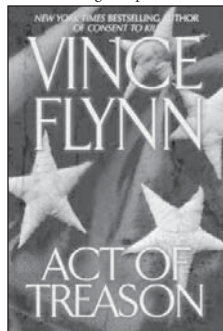
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626-797-0204  
Lisa Feldman Head of School

## BiblioFile

with Jeff Brown

### VINCE FLYNN'S POLITICAL THRILLERS!!

In 1992 Vince Flynn took a gamble, left his 9-5 job, worked nights and wrote his first book during the day. 5 years and 60 rejection letters later he decided to self publish 2000 copies of *Term Limits*. In a week he had a new agent and a 2 book deal with Simon and Schuster. Today he is the best selling author of 8 highly exciting political thrillers. He is lauded for his research and warnings about Islamic Fundamentalism & terrorism. He is read by Presidents, Foreign Heads of State and Intelligence professionals around the world.



have given a brief synopsis of each book below.

**Term Limits**, (1997) Three of Washington's most powerful politicians are executed in one night. The assassins then deliver a shocking ultimatum to the U.S. government: set aside partisan politics and

restore power to the people. No one is out of their reach, not even the president. A FBI-CIA task force reveals the killers are elite military commandos, but no one knows exactly what they will do next. Only Michael O'Rourke, a former U.S. Marine and freshman Congressman, holds a clue to the violence.

**Transfer Of Power** (1999) On a busy Washington morning, amid tourists and officials, the air is shattered by the sound of gunfire. Terrorists have descended on the Executive Mansion, and gained access by a massacre that has left many dead. The Secret Service evacuates the President to his bunker, but not before many hostages are taken. Through the panicked responses and political agendas surrounding the crisis, Mitch Rapp, the CIA's top counter terrorism operative, makes his way secretly into the White House. Moving stealthily among the corridors and passageways Rapp tries to save the hostages before the terrorists can get the president from his bunker. Along the way Rapp makes a chilling discovery that could rock Washington.

**The Third Option** (2000) Mitch Rapp, the CIA's top operative, is sent on his final mission, to eliminate a European industrialist who has been selling equipment to a top terrorist. But the ultimate target of this mission is really Rapp. Set up by forces within the US who do not want the next Director of the CIA to take over, this will make her look bad, but Mitch refuses to die, the conspirators have made an awful mistake. They have

enraged the most lethal and efficient killer the CIA has ever produced.

**Separation of Power** (2001) Newly appointed CIA Director Dr. Irene Kennedy is the target of a plot to destroy her and prematurely end the American President's term. Also, Saddam Hussein is close to entering the nuclear arms race, something Israel has vowed to stop. With the haunting specter of World War III looming, the President calls on Mitch Rapp. But with only two weeks to take out the nukes, Rapp is up against a ticking clock and difficult odds.

**Executive Power** (2002) When a Navy SEAL team in the Philippines is ambushed, all evidence points to a leak within the U.S. State Department. And a greater threat still lurks, a ruthless assassin working for the most powerful men in the Middle East, who are bent on igniting a world war. With the world watching, Rapp must hold back the flames of Armageddon.

**Memorial Day** (2004) Seven days before Memorial Day CIA intelligence has pointed to a major terrorist attack on the United States. Rapp immediately leaves for Afghanistan, where his special forces raid a remote Pakistani village which is an Al-Qaeda stronghold. Within a subterranean room, Rapp and his team discover plans for a catastrophic attack on Washington. Information is relayed back to CIA headquarters, and a nuclear emergency support team locates the weapons and the danger has been averted. Or has it? Mitch Rapp can't shake the feeling that the operation was too easy. Rapp follows his instincts on a quest to unearth the whole truth. What he finds is truly terrifying!

**Consent to Kill** (2005) For years, Mitch Rapp's actions have saved the lives of countless Americans. He has killed with impunity, and shown he will do whatever it takes to prevent terrorists from fulfilling their bloody wishes. He is a hero to many, and an enemy to countless more. The powerful father of a dead terrorist demands vengeance, and Rapp instantly becomes the target of an international conspiracy. This time, he must use all of his vigilance and determination to save himself before he can turn his fury on those who have betrayed him.

**Act of Treason** (2006) When presidential candidate Josh Alexander's motorcade is ambushed by terrorists, the nation is thrown into turmoil. Two weeks following the attack, Alexander is carried to victory by a sympathy vote, but his assailants have not been found. While the FBI and C.I.A. begin scouring the world for jihadists, CIA Director Irene Kennedy and Special Agent McMahon get classified information so toxic they consider destroying it, as it points to some of the most powerful players in Washington. Enter Mitch Rapp, his journey takes him through the shadowy world of contract killers, into the darkest corners of the globe, and back to Washington, where the pillars of power are shaken to their core.

**Protect and Defend** will be out in 10/2007  
Enjoy! - For book recommendations and comments you can reach me at [jab33jab@yahoo.com](mailto:jab33jab@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto:kschultz@lasallehs.org)



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## YOUTH Needed to Serve on the Community Services Commission.

Interested in local City Government? Volunteer to sit as the youth member of the Sierra Madre Community Services Commission, an advisory team to the Sierra Madre City Council. It meets once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m.

As a member, you would serve as a communication link between the community, City Council and the Community and Personnel Services Director regarding recreation and community service items. Serving as a youth commissioner is a one year commitment from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Work on the City's Youth Master Plan.

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

# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

## Mt. Wilson Sees Altair's Face



Photo by Jean Boenish

Using a suite of four telescopes at Mount Wilson Observatory, astronomers have captured an image of Altair, one of the closest stars, and a well-known fixture in the summer sky. While astronomers have recently imaged a few of the enormous, dying, red-giant stars, this is the first time anyone has seen the surface of a relatively small star like our own Sun.

This first-ever picture, which includes details of hotter and cooler features appearing on the star's face, was announced last week by the National Science Foundation. John Monnier of the University of Michigan was the lead author on the study, which appeared on Science Express May 31, 2007. Monnier was part of an international team of astronomers that captured the image using four of the six telescopes at a facility on Mt. Wilson operated by the Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy (CHARA) at Georgia State University in Atlanta, with partial support from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The CHARA telescopes were able to make this breakthrough observation because they were outfitted with a novel system to clean up some of the distortions from Earth's atmosphere, a technology called the Michigan Infrared Combiner, developed with NSF support at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Recent advances in fiber optic telecommunication technology made this new combiner possible.

"For looking at optical or infrared wavelengths of light, the CHARA telescope array has the world's longest spacing between telescopes and therefore the greatest ability to zoom in on the stars," said Hal McAlister, CHARA Director and a professor of astronomy at Georgia State University.

Until now, astronomers could gather tremendous amounts of data from stars, but could not capture images of what the stars looked like. Even to the largest telescopes, stars looked like the points of light we all see when we peer up into the night sky.

Using the telescopes as an interferometer—a multi-telescope system that combines information from small, distantly spaced telescopes to create a picture as if taken from one large telescope—the researchers captured infrared light waves as if from a giant telescope 265 meters by 195 meters in size (100 times the size of the mirror on NASA's Hubble telescope, and having roughly 25 times the resolution).

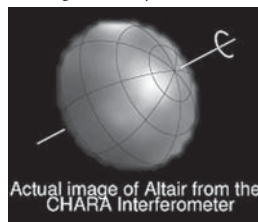
"Without the interferometer, the ability to obtain such detailed images would not be possible with today's existing telescopes—or even the planned 30-meter telescopes," said Julian Christou, one of the NSF officers overseeing the research. "The critical component of the CHARA system is the beam combiner which allows the light from the individual small telescopes to be mixed together, which up to now had only been successfully used with radio telescopes such as the Very Large Array near Socorro, N.M." The discovery is helping to answer some questions about stars while raising others, particularly when researchers compare long-standing models to the new observations.

For example, Altair is a speedily spinning "rapid rotator", just like Vega, one of Altair's partners (along with the slow-spinning supergiant Deneb) in the "Summer Triangle" familiar to sky observers.

Altair spins so quickly—about 300 kilometers per second at its equator—that its shape is distorted. The star is a full 22 percent wider than it is tall. The new telescope measurements confirmed the predicted oblong shape, while showing slightly different surface-temperature patterns than what models had predicted.

Altair is one of the closest stars in our stellar neighborhood—only about 15 light years away—and the researchers hope to image Vega, as well as more distant stars, in the future.

"Imaging stars is just the start. We are going to next apply this technology to imaging extrasolar planets around nearby stars," said Ming Zhao, an astronomy graduate student at Michigan who carried out the detailed stellar modeling in this study.



Actual image of Altair from the CHARA Interferometer

## "JackPot?!"

By Paul the Cyberian

I'm not really sure what a cyber-criminal says when they acquire the target they've been working so hard at acquiring, but I'm fairly certain that it's probably something along the lines of the title of this article. Earlier this week an on-line thief (or gang of thieves) surely had a reason to celebrate.

The City of Carson awoke the morning of May 24<sup>th</sup> this year \$450,000 poorer than when they went to bed on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's been reported that over the course of two days the culprit(s) stole that amount from the City of Carson's coffers. The first theft was for \$90,000 and the second, made the following day, was for an additional \$358,000. The missing funds were discovered by Carson Treasurer Karen Avilla during a routine records check of recent transactions made in the name of the City of Carson. With the help of the bank's forensic team, the city was able to freeze all but \$45,000 of the stolen funds.

It turns out that the thieves used a Trojan Horse that was downloaded to an unprotected laptop computer. A Trojan Horse is a type of malicious code that poses as something useful to the computer user. The unsuspecting user then activates the code by clicking on a booby-trapped web link or tries to run what he or she thinks is a program. In this case the code was keystroke logger that

recorded every key pressed and emailed that data, unbeknownst to the victim, to the code's deployer. The thief is usually looking for sensitive information such as passwords and account numbers. After enough of these secret emails the thief has enough information to gain the access they've been looking for.

In this case the victim happened to be the City of Carson's Treasurer and the results were devastating.

On a more positive note the damage was mitigated by the computing vigilance of the intended victim who made it a daily habit of reviewing any and all transactions made on the city's coffers. The bank's forensic team also did a heck of a job in making the transaction protocols as secure as possible. The thieves were only able to move the funds in short hops because of restrictions placed on the account. The smaller transaction passed unnoticed but the larger was not as easy to hide and this led to the discovery of the heist.

Cyber-crime is real and the perpetrators are after unprotected goods. Don't make their jobs easier by neglecting to secure your goods. Make sure your firewalls are in place and properly configured. Keep your anti-virus protection updated and also make sure to use passwords that aren't easily guessed.

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## TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS

No Joke . . . Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich!



"As authentic as a Ryan Howard home run" claims one reader who e mailed me about the new Fredos Phillys in Pasadena. From my research, the two most famous places in Philadelphia that are true legends for a Cheese Steak Sandwich are Pat's and Rick's. These restaurants are what legends are made from. Now that I have got my two baseball references out of the way let's talk Cheese Steak Sandwiches.

Where was the Cheese Steak Sandwich invented? According to food historian Lisa Stradley, during the 1930's an Italian immigrant, Pat Oliveri, sold hot dogs and sandwiches. Business wasn't so hot! One day Pat was making himself lunch and his hot dog grill wouldn't cook steak fast enough so he sliced the meat thin, put it on the grill and added some onions. He then started selling these thin steak sandwiches; business was good! Soon longtime employee Joe Lorenzo

added some cheese --- you know the rest, it is history!!!

I was a little skeptical or just curious. I had never had an authentic Cheese Steak Sandwich. The concept is pretty simply - bread, onions, steak and cheese. But, there are

'Rules' that must be followed. Fredos owner, Dan Cox, explains that the steak must be thin and grilled a certain time, the bread must be amoroso imported from Philadelphia, and the cheese is a white American (no typo) and the onions and peppers fresh. Simple? Yes! But Fredos has done it right; on our visit we had the Philly (\$6.99) and the Pepper (\$7.29). The menu includes other 12" sandwiches including the Bomb for (\$8.99) with chicken, steak, shrimp and bacon. Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and chicken; all round out the menu. But go for the Philly Cheese Steak --- Dan has brought a taste of Philadelphia to Pasadena!!!

I will definitely be back.

Open every day at 11 AM-order in or to go 8 tables available  
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For complete menu.

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*Coming Up: My friend Camille from Webb-Martin has invited me to do a pie-eating contest, Sierra Madre style!!*



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## One of a Kind:

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Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

### Latino TV Brings Home Improvement To Monrovia Neighborhood



#### HOUSE EXTERIOR

Only the new, high tech roof shows the mostly "behind the scenes" construction so far. New windows, doors and paint will restore the exterior to the original period style.

Not long ago, Latino television producer, Juan Escano sat in his own home, wishing he knew more about new products and technology for upgrading and improving his own property. Combining his professional life with his personal interest resulted in the current production and home improvement work under way now in nearby Monrovia.

In this first home improvement series geared to the Latino audience, Escano comments that their target audience is the first time or first upgrade homeowner. This premiere season of "De Casa a Hogar" or "From House to Home," is scheduled to run at year end in Los Angeles, New York, Dallas, Houston and Miami.

Finding the right Los Angeles neighborhood presented the initial challenge. Monrovia was chosen for its ethnic diversity, style and range of homes available, plus the added bonus that, as Escano puts it, "Monrovia's upcoming Gold Line extension, for commuter train service to downtown LA, poises this city for a healthy property value increase in the next few years. Location, location!" Similar, predictable property value increases occurred in Dublin, CA, for instance, after San Francisco's BART commuter train extended there several years ago.

Next, the show staff started knocking on doors in potential neighborhoods, finally finding a group of five agreeable homeowners on Violet Avenue in West Monrovia. Unique here is that the end product will not only significantly renovate the primary home. The entire block will undergo an exterior facelift, moving it toward green friendly exteriors using cutting edge, "Duration architectural coatings" donated by Sherwin-Williams, the largest paint manufacturer in the country. Offered to the homeowners in period authentic color palettes, these paints offer advanced resin technology, low VOC and odor, high washability, extremely low fade plus anti-bacteria and anti-mildew properties, according to manufacturer's rep, Jonathan Juarez. Some additional exterior treatments like fencing and period trim may also be incorporated.

The goal for the 1927 vintage, 785 square foot, primary home is to bring the infrastructure, technology and interior up to date on a middle income budget, reconfigure the landscape and fencing to improve usability on the small lot, and to restore the period exterior to qualify it for Mills Act status. According to the www.Ca.Gov website, 1972's Mills Act "Economic incentives foster the preservation of residential neighborhoods.... Owners of historic buildings may qualify for property tax relief if they pledge to rehabilitate and maintain the historical and architectural character of their properties for at least a ten-year period."

Many major corporations are donating products for use in the project, such as Toyota's Hino truck division, Sherwin-Williams paint, GAF roofing, Quikrete concrete mixes, JT Wood Windows and Mullican Hardwood Flooring, down to PODS onsite storage units, Bosch tools and Werner ladders. Since the products are usually donated in fixed lots, leftover donations will be allocated for charitable use within Monrovia. Hino's donated custom 26' truck will provide Escano's crew onsite production capability.

Familiar faces from Sierra Madre and Pasadena were chosen to tackle the flooring, tile and electrical

challenges. Marla Fields Jakovlevic, owner of Pasadena Wood Floors, was instrumental in securing the extensive prefinished hardwood flooring from one of her primary suppliers, Mullican. Pasadena tile artist and this project's architect, Cha-Rie Tang of Direct Imagination, whose custom products are available locally at Tap 'n Tile, met Escano through her artistic tile designs for the planned Monrovia train station. She will create Batchelder-style tiles in that renowned Craftsman fashion. Using molds taken from her study of the original Batchelder home in Pasadena, the custom tiles will be used in the kitchen and an outdoor fountain for the reconfigured landscape space.

Yiannis Arvanitidis from Sierra Madre's Cornerstone Electric will upgrade the entire electrical system to code, making it significantly more efficient and safe. He'll also relocate the service modules into the garage to improve aesthetics, and install high efficiency heating and cooling. The planned installation of a fuel cell will provide opportunity to reduce electricity dependence on



PRODUCER AND CONTRACTORS  
Producer Juan Escano and general contractor Cha-Rie Tang, (front), review remodel plans with representatives from Cornerstone Electric, Pasadena Wood Floors, Quikrete and GAF roofing.

"the grid." Escano speaks highly of Arvanitidis, "When we interviewed local contractors, he stood out from the beginning. He was steps ahead of me, offering suggestions and refinements to the process and products that weren't even on my horizon. He's been great to work with! In fact, so many of the products and contractors have shown exceptional quality. GAF singled out Arturo Ortiz and Modern Roofing as one of their top installers. They did an exceptional job, and their customer service was incredible!"

When choosing products, three priorities emerged; first, that it be highly energy efficient and/or green friendly. For instance GAF roofing's Timberline product, offers a wood shake look, but this high tech, asphalt shingle includes several layers of material, providing extra weather resistance, and "breathing" moisture release elements. Second, the products should be easy for the do-it yourselfer to use. Arvanitidis commented on using the Quikrete products, "Everything is there in the bag, instead of ordering a truck. With no special tools required, it's perfect for the smaller jobs, especially by the homeowner. They can read the directions, add water and use it without complicated professional knowledge." The third priority for product choices required that all products chosen provide Spanish language instructions. As Escano commented, "This is important not only for the Spanish speaking homeowner, but for Latino contractors, so prevalent in the LA area. The probability for success greatly increases when the directions, particularly for construction products, are in the native language!"

In the weeks to come, more hard work and construction will continue, with an unveiling later in the year, showing off the completed homes. Escano is particularly looking forward to the "wrap party" for the neighborhood, with a block celebration, ribbon cutting with the homeowners, neighbors and city officials.

## And The Best Actor Is...

By Rich Johnson



Reaction to last weeks column on movies was stunningly

positive. No, not one compliment was forwarded to this paper. But no one complained. That's a huge victory. So, let's continue in the genre of movies. Ever watch a movie and wonder how it might have been if another star was in the lead role? Bill Forrest, the son-in-law of noted local author Harry Kelsey wondered aloud about that at a local eatery in earshot of a meandering columnist. That local hack decided to write about it in his next column.

For starters here's an interesting one for all you fans of Bond...James Bond. The films may have started ten years earlier if a certain famous director had decided to acquire the rights to Casino Royale. That director? Alfred Hitchcock of course. He later turned down "The Exorcist".

A certain distinguished Scottish actor turned down both the role of Gandalf in "Lord of The Rings" and Morpheus in "The Matrix" because he didn't understand either script. The actors name: Connery...Sean Connery.

The original actor slated to play the Sundance Kid in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" supposedly quit the project because he couldn't get top billing over Paul Newman. The man who helped pave the way for Robert Redford's future? Steve McQueen. He also nixed the lead in Dirty Harry because it was touted as a sequel to "Bullitt" and Mr. McQueen "...didn't do sequels."

Maybe if it had been Close Encounters of the First Kind, Al Pacino might not have turned down the lead which ultimately went to Richard Dreyfuss. Al also turned down the role of Han Solo the year before. What? Work for George Lucas or Stephen Spielberg? They'll never make it!

Paul Newman turned down the lead in the movie "Romancing the Stone". He felt there was too much violence. Romancing the Stone? Michael Douglas must like gratuitous violence more than Paul Newman.

Jack Nicholson said no to the part of Michael Corleone in "The Godfather".

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### The Pee Wee Plan

In an engagement announcement a few weeks ago, it was mentioned that the couple had met while working at the Wildlife Waystation. That brought back memories for me...not of weddings past, but of my days as a volunteer at the Waystation. It's a refuge in the Angeles National Forest above Lake View Terrace that houses abused, injured, and unwanted wild and exotic animals of all sizes and shapes. Volunteering there was one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my life. I could relay story after story, but will save them for another time...except for this one.

Pee Wee was his name. He was one of 27 lions rescued from a deplorable compound in Idaho. They were all malnourished and had been badly treated. Pee Wee was considered smaller than the others, hence his name. Well, news flash people... When face to face with Pee Wee, small was not a word that popped into my mind. With his full mane and a roar that would make the hair on the back of one's neck stand up I was always glad that there was a chain link fence between the two of us. That was not the case however, one very hot day. I was walking up a steep dirt road with two other people to get to the parking lot above the compound. Having a compromised respiratory system, I was usually able to hitch a ride, but when unable to do so, I walked at my own pace bending over

frequently to catch my breath. Lo and behold, just after we started our jaunt hadn't animal trainer Neil decided to take Pee Wee for a walk. Not just any walk mind you, but one just ten feet behind us. Neil told us to just keep going rather than freezing and letting them pass us. Great Neil, thanks! Everything I had learned in class to prepare for being around these animals came flashing back to me...especially, "Do not bend over or they will consider you prey." PREY! The word prey came to mind. I thought my lungs would burst, but we finally reached the car and I gratefully got in. I heaved a huge sigh of relief, which was not lost on Neil. I know that he thoroughly enjoyed seeing us do the "Pee Wee Shuffle." He also knew that we weren't going to complain about it, not with Pee Wee there at any rate.

After I was safely ensconced in the car, I had a fantastic fund raising idea! Say goodbye to Jenny Craig, Weight Watchers and the other diet and exercise plans. "The Pee Wee" plan is a sure thing. No excuses accepted here. There is nothing like having an African lion walk behind you on a steep hill to make your weight loss goal attainable and your motivation level high. After Pee Wee, a Marine drill sergeant would seem like a "girly man".

The idea was never embraced, go figure! They let a little thing like liability insurance get in the way. Geez.

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## SPORTS

## A Cushy New Track For Santa Anita

By Larry Bortstein



The 2008 Derby Day will be run on the new cushion track at Santa Anita.  
- Photo courtesy of Cal Tech

The recent announcement by Santa Anita that it will install Cushion Track in time for its fall Oak Tree meet means that about 210 of the 250 annual days of thoroughbred racing in Southern California—about 74 percent—will be conducted over the same artificial surface.

Del Mar, which has installed another synthetic surface, Polytrack, for its 43-day seaside season, is the only area track not embracing Cushion Track as a replacement for its dirt surface. Southern California jockeys see no reason for concern.

"As long as they're all artificial surfaces, that's a good thing," David Flores said.

The California Horse Racing Board, the governmental agency that regulates the sport in the state, mandated late last year that, because of a growing emphasis on increased safety for horses and riders, each California track replace its old dirt surface with a synthetic one made of varying degrees of wax, fibers and rubber. Hollywood Park unveiled its Cushion Track, manufactured in England, for its fall meeting last November. The Inglewood track currently is in its second season with Cushion Track. The vastly reduced number of catastrophic injuries to horses has made Cushion Track a very successful experiment. One notable and obvious change is the absence on synthetic surfaces of "kickback," dirt being kicked back in horses' faces on former surfaces. This has scared many horses into changing or shortening stride, causing them to take missteps. California is the only state that has made synthetic surfaces mandatory as a prerequisite for renewal of tracks' licensing.

"It keeps horses sounder, so they can race longer and more confidently," trainer Doug O'Neill said. "We like that and so do the owners because their investment in these animals is protected."

Santa Anita's Cushion Track will be installed during the Del Mar season and will be ready to be used for training the first week of September.

Polytrack, now in use at two Kentucky tracks—Keeneland and Turfway Park—and at Woodbine, outside Toronto, has the reputation of adapting to extremes in weather, such as the cold of Kentucky and Canada and the heat and humidity of Del Mar.

Jockeys are finding that Cushion Track generates heat of its own.

"Heat rises from the surface," Jon Court said.

"I jog over it at Hollywood Park all the time," Alex Solis said. "When I finish I feel warmer than I did before."

Bettors, who always have had to make adjustments in their wagering strategies when the circuit moves from one track to another, have developed new plans to stay in action.

"There were some complaints when Cushion Track started, but handicappers know things change all the time," said James Quinn, author of a dozen books on betting and conductor of seminars at Santa Anita for novice and experienced horseplayers.



Photo by Steve Turner - Pictured above is a shot of the Cushion Track project that was completed on September 16, 2006 at Hollywood Park. Santa Anita will make the same kind of improvements this year.

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## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

## QUACK, QUACK - WE WON!

I am not much of a hockey fan, but even I have the "Go Ducks" fever. I watched the Ducks win game four with the enthusiasm of a true hockey fan. My watching the game was true happenstance in that it was not a planned part of my things to do that evening. As luck would have it, I was at the service station a few hours before the start of game four and had the good fortune to meet Andre an avid hockey fan and aficionado. After speaking with him I was determined to watch the game. You see, Andre had predicted a Ducks win, a prediction that was directly against the conventional wisdom that I had been hearing on the radio. Most of the fans calling into the radio station were concerned because they felt the team needed to have Pronger on the ice. All seemed to agree that he was a necessary player in order for the Ducks to win and that his one game suspension would hurt the Ducks. Very few fans felt that the Ducks had the ability to win without Pronger. Well the Ducks did win and they won convincingly.

On Wednesday, while watching the morning news, they showed the hockey faithful standing in line at the Honda Center to buy tickets for that night's championship game. Now, being at a game where your team wins the championship is exciting. There is nothing like being present for the post season play unless, of course, it is for a post season win. I was at Dodger Stadium when Gibson hit that

momentous pinch hit homerun in the 1988 World Series. Being there at the winning championship game is a fan's greatest wish. For the Ducks, the tickets that the fans were in line for were standing room only tickets at a cost of \$150 each. That's steep. The average wage earner is being priced out of seeing a professional game. But that's the subject of another article, this one is all about the Ducks. Well, the Duck's won and hoisted that most coveted championship trophy, Lord Stanley's Cup.

The Stanley Cup has interesting folklore and history. It is said that each member of the winning team gets to have the cup sometime during the year. They take it home, or to the barber shop to show their friends. Compare that to the Green Jacket that you get for winning the Masters. You can't take that away from Augusta. It has to stay in your locker at the course. They say that when Gary Player, the great South African golfer, won the club called and wanted to know where the jacket was. Gary in that great crisp English said "well I have packed it, going home with me". I understand he had to ship it back to Augusta. It's much better to be able to have the individual members of the team take the cup home to show off. After all, the quack of the crowd is much better when you're holding the cup in your hands.

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