

Former First Lady 'Lady Bird' Johnson - 94, Passes Away



"Though the word beautification makes the concept sound merely cosmetic, it involves much more: clean water, clean air, clean roadsides, safe waste disposal and preservation of valued old landmarks as well as great parks and wilderness areas. To me... beautification means our total concern for the physical and human quality we pass on to our children and the future." - Lady Bird Johnson
Photo by Frank Wolf - Courtesy LBJ Library

Sierra Madre's Wild Blue Yonder



Fourth of July Parade spectator Lara Laramendi of Monrovia, submitted this photo she snapped of the prop jets flying in the skies above Sierra Madre in honor of the city's Centennial Celebration.

False Alarm Tales Of A New City Manager Premature

When residents read in the Pasadena Star News that the city council had chosen a new city manager and that the selection had been announced to PSN via Councilman Don Watts before the city council had made public the decision, tensions began to boil over. The news was even more troubling to many because of reports in the article that the alleged candidate, Bradley Baxter was reported to have a puzzling background.

At City Council meeting on Tuesday, citizens arrived expecting to get more information

on the selection of the new city manager. Instead, Mayor Joffe announced that the matter was pulled from the agenda as no decision had been reached.

Resident Barbara Cline, however, questioned the council about consideration of Baxter for the post. "What dollar amount do we pay the recruiter when they give you the name of such a questionable candidate?" Cline's reference was to reports that Baxter had served less than

(continued page 7)

A Message From The Mayor

"I know that the community is anxious to hear who our next City Manager will be. Although we had hoped to be able to announce a new City Manager, I must report that the City Council has not finalized its selection, and the search remains in process at this time. The good news is that there are excellent candidates in the running and we have made a great deal of progress towards selecting a candidate. We are determined however to take as much time as necessary to find the right match for the City. We look forward to publicly announcing the name of our (Sierra Madre's) new City Manager in the near future. Thank you all for your patience understanding."
- Enid Joffe

Council Names Ad Hoc Finance Committee

At Tuesday's city council meeting, the council appointed a seven member Ad Hoc Committee to study Sierra Madre's current financial situation. The committee, which includes two council members, Kurt Zimmerman and John Buchanan, along with five members of the community. Each council member was asked to choose one resident to serve.

Appointed to the committee are:

Tom Jenson,
nominated by Enid Joffe;
George Enyedi,
nominated by Don Watts;
Mike Comer,
John Buchanan's nominee;
Scott Hood,
nominated by Zimmerman
and
Denis Kegan,
nominated by Joe Mosca.

(continued on page 3)

Sierra Madre's New ID



Take a look at the city's new logo, the result of winning the All American City honors last month.



Fire Safe Council Needs Volunteers

The Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council is looking for volunteers for our Red Flag Patrol. Learn more about the program by calling Contact the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council at: 355-0741, 355-7135 or 355-9350, or: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

Pack Station Owners Join Chamber



Chamber President Pat Hall welcomes Sue and Deb Burgess owners of the Pack Station at Chantry Flats. Photo By Susan Henderson

Persson's Nursery Saved



Edison has rescinded its' decision to force the closing of Persson's Nursery on Sierra Madre Blvd. The first shipment of new plants can be seen above with the ominous electrical towers looming in the background. Story on Page 5. Photo By Dean Lee

Recall Effort 150 Signatures Short

By Susan Henderson

According to Sierra Madre City Clerk, Nancy Shollenberger, the proponents of the Recall of Councilman Joe Mosca have failed to turn in enough signatures to get on the ballot. State law requires that a recall petition must have signatures of 25% of the registered voters in order to qualify. Over 1,600 signatures were gathered, however 150 additional names were needed. Because proponents were so close to reaching their goal, they may initiate another effort in the future. There are no restrictions as to how often a signature gathering effort can begin.

On the heels of the bitter fight over Measure V, emotions regarding the recall are mixed. One resident, who wished not to be identified for fear of reprisal said, "I supported Measure V and I was disappointed when Joe did not vote last year to give the citizens the right to vote on the Downtown Plan. However, I did not support the recall because it is time for us to heal and stop fighting."

As with Measure V, emotions run high on both sides of the recall. As for Councilman Mosca, at a recent event he said, "I haven't taken my eye off the ball the entire time. With the recall done, I'm optimistic that we can focus on the challenges facing the city."



Mosca says he wants to be a leader for the entire community.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

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Weather Wise

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



Friday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Saturday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



City of Sierra Madre July Events

- 14 - Midsummer Night's Dream
- 15 - Concert in the Park: Cynthia and the Sweet Potatoes - 6:00 pm - Memorial Park
- 16 - Community Services Commission - 6:30 pm - Council Chambers
- 17 - Summer Fun in the Park: Folk Dancing - 9:30 am - Memorial Park
- 18 - Tree Advisory Commission - 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
- 19 - Planning Commission - 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
- 20 - Community Submissions for the Fall Wistaria Vine Due
- 20 - City Hall Closed - All Day
- 21 - Quakes Baseball Excursion - 5:30 pm
- 21 - Midsummer Night's Dream - 4:00 pm Memorial Park
- 22 - Concert in the Park: Jumpin' Joz Band - 6:00 pm - Memorial Park
- 23 - Swim Lessons Session Four Begins
- 24 - Summer Fun in the Park: Eaton Canyon
- 24 - City Council Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chambers
- 25 - Library Board of Trustees - 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
- 26 - Kids Safety Camp & Healthy Family Fun Bailey Canyon Hike - 9:00 am - Bailey Canyon
- 27 - Portraiture Submission Due for the Fall City Hall Art Show
- 28 - Midsummer Night's Dream - 4:00 pm - Memorial Park
- 28 - Community Arts Commission Trip to Getty Villa - 10:30 am
- 29 - Concert in the Park: Pecos Brother's Band - 6:00 pm - Memorial Park
- 31 - Summer Fun in the Park: Arboretum - 9:00 am - Memorial Park

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

Family Excursion

Quakes Baseball!!!

Event Information

Saturday, July 21, 2007
Rancho Cucamonga v. Modesto Nuts
Cost: \$16.00 includes field box ticket and transportation
Cooler Bag Giveaway Game!
Bus departs from the Community Recreation Building, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. at 5:30pm.
Game Time is 7:05pm

*** Sign up today by calling 626-355-5278 or by the web-site at www.cityofsierramadre.com***

Come check out the California League affiliate of the Anaheim Angels. The Rancho Cucamonga Quakes are a Class A Advanced team. Notable past Quakes players have included Francisco Rodriguez and Jared Weaver. See the next generation stars of the Anaheim Angels now!

Sierra Madre City Flag Sales

The Community Arts Commission has Sierra Madre flags available for sale. The flags are nylon 2ft by 3ft, color flags with grommets or pole sleeves. They are appropriate for indoor or outdoor use. Flags are \$40 and can be ordered by pre-sale only. You order a flag at the Community Arts Commission 4th of July booth, at the Sunday evening Concerts in the Park (both at Memorial Park), or at the Community and Personnel Service Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

The deadline to order flags is August 27, 2007. Flags will be mailed in the middle of October. Show your Sierra Madre pride and order your flag now!

For further questions call the Community and Personnel Services Department at (626) 355-5278

Anniversary Party for Adams' Pack Station

July 14, 2007
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Something to Do for Everyone:

- Live Music & Open Mic
- Gumbo Cooking Contest
- Food Booths: Hot Dogs, Hot Links, Carnitas/Chicken Tacos, Fajitas
- Misc Booths: Historical info, Local artists' wares, Local hiking groups/companies
- Roping Contest
- Kids: Be a Packer Photo Op, Coloring, Sack Race

www.adamspackstation.com
 Adams' Pack Station is located at Chantry Flat in the Angeles Forest above Arcadia. Take the 210 Fwy to Santa Anita Blvd North. Drive 3 miles up to the parking lot.

Summer 2007 Concerts in the Park Series

Sierra Madre Community and Personnel Services is offering "Spectacular Summer Sounds" a series of concerts in Memorial Park. These events, every Sunday night starting July 8th, are great for families, couples and friends with a variety of music ranging from folk to rock and roll to jazz.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs as seating is on the green. Spectators are asked to support our local organizations who will be providing refreshments.

Alcohol is prohibited.

Every Sunday Night
 thru August 26, 2007
 6-8:00 pm

222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Event Schedule

July 15:
 Cynthia and the Sweet Potatoes
 Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association

July 22:
 Jumpin' Joz Band *
 Community Services

July 29:
 Pecos Brother Band
 Kiwanis Club

August 5:
 Ken O'Malley & the Twilight Lords
 Civic Club

August 12:
 Pasadena Crown City Chorus
 Centennial Committee

August 19:
 Elvis and the Heroes of Rock
 Rotary Club

August 26:
 Fairytale & Fantasy III
 Southern California Lyric Theater

*This concert series is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Recording Industries' Music Performance Fund through the assistance of the Professional Musicians Union Local 47.

For more information, please contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278

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
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 535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena



Dear Neighborhood Block Captain:

"National Night Out" will be held on Tuesday, August 7th, 2007, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Sierra Madre Police Department along with the Sierra Madre Fire Department will work together with the community to promote Public Safety-community partnerships. The theme is: "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs A Going Away Party, America's Night Out Against Crime".

Your neighborhood or Neighborhood Association can show support for "National Night Out" by organizing a block party or Neighborhood Watch meeting. If you will be doing either of these, we ask that you register with the Sierra Madre Police Department to assure that your celebration or get-together will be visited by participating city agencies. Every effort will be made by a police department representative to visit each party or meeting, as this event presents an opportunity for us to interact with you. However, due to the high number of gatherings expected on this occasion, the Police Department, Fire Department Representatives will make no formal presentations. However, Police Department and Fire Department representatives will have only enough time for a brief visit to each location.

Individual residents can also participate by leaving their house and porch lights on during the hours of "National Night Out". These homes will not be included on the list for our representatives to visit.

Start organizing as soon as you can. Please feel free to contact Desk Officer Hasmick Hartunian at (626) 355-1414 or email hhartunian@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us, no later than July 20th, 2007, to register your party or meeting.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to your participation in this very worthwhile program.

Sincerely, Hasmick Hartunian - Desk Officer

Got News?
Call 626-355-2737

Southern California Lyric Theater

with the City of Sierra Madre presents the Inaugural Shakespeare in the Park

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Shakespeare's Classic Comedy Updated to 1958
 with Doo Wop music by the SCLT Troubadours

by William Shakespeare
 Directed by Alison Kalmus

Memorial Park Bandshell
 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre
Saturdays July 14, 21, 28, and Aug 4 at 7pm
 Seating on the green. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and a picnic dinner.
Admission Free
 For more information, please visit our website at www.socal-lyrictheater.org

The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Lady Bugs

Today I learned that \$3.96 will get you approximately 1,500 live ladybugs in a small mesh bag. This is interesting because it means that a ladybug is apparently worth about \$0.00264. Who knew? Think about that next time one lands on you and you encourage it to fly away home. That's like shaving pieces off of pennies and still leaving them there on the floor for anyone to pick up. Don't you hate that? It's so wasteful.

Is it heartening to you that there is at least one insect out there whose value is not negative? Most insects cost us money to get rid of them (with large festive circus tents that require a weekend move to the Embassy Suites, or low-flying planes and helicopters with high-powered spray nozzles and pilots looking forward to the growth and removal of "unexplainable" malignancies). There are no bags of black widows or bed bugs or silverfish waiting for you at the hardware store checkout counter. You could not buy a fungus gnat if you tried. Not even on Ebay.

Of course the reason a ladybug has a "dollar" value is that it will consume the very organisms we do not wish to be on our plants. A ladybug is on our team, which is why they are "ladybugs" (or if you are British, "ladybird beetles"), not "ticks" or "gnats" or "divergent metallic wood borers." None of this (in keeping with the spirit of this weekly column) is breaking news. Ladybugs were much appreciated as far back as the middle ages for ridding grapevines of pests. I'm not sure, though, if people back then would spend their hard-earned guilders or farthings or cronks (whatever unit of currency they used back when people smelled bad and never went to the dentist) to put them on their grapevines, or if they simply enjoyed their presence whenever the ladybugs happened to stop by. Anyway, we like ladybugs because an adult can eat up to 80 aphids or plant pests in a day. And because they are pretty and they tickle.

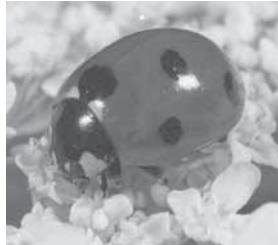
So, I purchased my "Ladies in Red - Organic Pest Control" ladybugs from the hardware store because I have three large Jasmine bushes that look much browner and wiltier and deadier than the other plants in my yard (which is really saying something). I had conducted a careful investigation of these nasty Jasmine bushes and discovered a whole lot of teeny tiny crawling things that don't look like they are part of the plant. I wanted ladybugs to eat them. I actually bought two bags worth. Sorry, I don't mean to harp on this but, that's 3,000 ladybugs! What else can you buy 3,000 of for less than 8 bucks? Words in the newspaper don't count. Nothing. Nothing else. Anywhere. I brought my beautiful little ladybug beetles (family

coccinellidae) home. My hopes were high. But I was a little bit nervous. Did I choose the right ones? Would they perform well? You could say I had butterflies. But you would be wrong. I had ladybugs.

After giving a pretty impressive little pep talk, I followed the instructions on the package carefully. I waited (impatiently) for evening. I watered the bushes and "clipped" the corner of the mesh bag and began "sprinkling" the ladies onto my plants. Now, OK, have you ever attempted to "sprinkle" insects? I am here to report that they don't sprinkle. They crawl.

Picture this: here I am in my backyard with two neatly clipped mesh bags of ladybugs upended over my head (I look pretty good, don't I?). I am lightly shaking the bags up and down (that is how you sprinkle, no?) But wait, the ladybugs are not falling out in an orderly fashion. In fact, look, here are 3,000 ladybugs crawling out of the bags and down my arms and into my shirt and up my neck. Some of them end up on the ground. They begin crawling up my legs. Now I am dancing around saying (in a somewhat agitated tone) "Ah! Bugs! Get them off of me!" I am brushing them off and shaking my head and crunching them under my shoes. Emergency! Emergency! Then I realize, wait a second, these are my bugs. I paid good money for them. I freeze.

We worked it out. Reasonably. Without resorting to further violence or armpit-crawling. Here is what we agreed to. I spent the next three hours carefully picking 2,991 ladybugs off of my arms and legs and neck and eyelids and carefully placing them each on their own aphid-ravaged leaf. Then, they all lifted their cute little wings and flew away. Stupid bugs.



Ms. LadyBug - Organic Pest Control

Curing the Nation: Sicko Draws Attention To Governor Schwarzenegger's Health Care Plans

By Dean Lee

Michael Moore's new movie "Sicko" may not be his best film but it did make a lot of people think including some Pasadena City Health Officials. On Tuesday a screening of the movie was held at the Laemmle Playhouse 7 and a panel discussion followed at Vroman's Books. The topic of discussion was how we might go about fixing what everyone agreed was a health care system broken on every level.

In the movie, Moore sets out to prove the obvious, Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) are out to make billions by letting the rest of us suffer. Viewers go on a road trip with Moore to see how other countries deal with their ailing populations and find that most feel the United States has a health care system that is backwards and money driven.

Moore also makes the point that if someone makes a better car, then we buy it, or if the French produce better wine we drink it. We are consumers of only the best he argues then asks, "If someone has found a better way of providing health care then why don't we use it?" That includes Cuba, he says.

In making that point he takes four 911 rescue volunteers with respiratory problems (that the government won't treat through the 911 victim's fund), to Cuba. In typical bullhorn roaring Moore style they land in Guantánamo Bay shouting the group only wants what the terrorists have, good health care. While in Cuba, Moore and the 911 gang decide to look around. At one point they are able to buy an asthma inhaler for five cents something that here would be \$100.

The movie makes clear that not only Cuba, but England, France, and Canada all have better health systems than we have here. In France the government even does your laundry for free, Moore says.

No one walking out of this movie said they thought the main goal was to be entertained and so it might be unfair to judge it for that. One thing was for sure, this movie gets an A+ for making everyone mad, including Billie Greer, Director of the Los Angeles Office for Gov. Schwarzenegger and Howard Kahn, CEO, LA Care Health Plan. Both were upset but for very different reasons.

Kahn was the most optimistic of the bunch saying Tuesday night was the first time he had seen the movie. Greer was so frustrated that at times she looked away as questions were asked about the Schwarzenegger Health Care Reform Plan. The goal of the plan is that all Californians be required to have health insurance.

"Yes but this [the Governor's plan] makes all providers required to cover anyone regardless of a pre-existing

condition," Greer said. "If for whatever reason, your employer does not pay, then you would be required to buy health coverage from a pool that you would pay into."

Greer added repeatedly, "This [Health Care Insurance] is a business and the insurance companies have a right to make money. The governor has said he will veto any one payer Health Care plan."

She said that Schwarzenegger wanted to make clear that all suggestions are on the table but the answer did not go over well with the 15 or so people that fired off questions aimed right at the governors plan in stark contrast to the movie.

To some, the governor's plan takes all of the horrors they just watched in Moore's movie and brings them to the table for the uninsured. Moore says right up front "Sicko" is not about those without health care. However the uninsured are the focus of the Governor's bill.

Kahn said he thought what most policy makers feared was a ballot measure over health care. "If it goes that route what you get is 'an all or nothing. There becomes no negotiating.'" He also said he thought both Schwarzenegger plans were bold but as startling as Moore's point to his movie.

Schwarzenegger has been criticized in the past for vetoing a dozen or so bills since taking office that would have made it easier for children and low income families to get health care coverage. The Governor said that uninsured emergency room visits are a hidden tax we all pay.

CommunityHealthAlliance of Pasadena representatives said although they thought the Schwarzenegger plan would bring the cost of insurance down, what concerned them was his office not focusing on any of the discussion that evening. Having put the event together they hoped to discuss some of the local health problems. "Unfortunately Margie Martinez the CEO of CHAPs did not get to say much," they said. Dr. Takashi Wada, a Health Officer for the Pasadena Public Health Department said he was told not to get involved with any of the controversy and only give information. During the evening, he flashed his British National Health Service card, "I keep it with me as proof."

Pasadena is unique in that it is only one of three cities in the state that has a local health department. "You don't get mixed up in the county here, that's nice," Wada said. He also said that the city has partnered with the PUSD to have a 24 hour health hot line anyone can call regardless of insurance.

Greer said before leaving, "Give the governor's health care plan a chance and don't go moving to Canada, or France." She also said that this is just the beginning in overhauling health care.

For more information on the 24 hour free nurse advice hot line call the Pasadena Community Health Center at (626) 744-6005. According to Wada, the service covers, Sierra Madre, Pasadena, and Altadena.

COMMITTEE (continued from page 1)

The committee has been assigned to look into the following six areas for possible solutions to our budget woes:

1. Public Safety Operations
2. Street Repair and Maintenance
3. Parks and Landscaping
4. Tree Trimming
5. Street Lighting and Landscaping
6. Library Building Improvements

These priorities were taken from the staff report submitted to the council in June. In the report, staff said, "The fiscal possibilities laid out before the council and the ad hoc committee are:

- Identify additional ongoing revenues
- Identify new one time only revenues
- Continue using current reserves
- Make reductions in expenditures
- Go without certain programs and services"

The report goes on to remind the council and the committee that, "There is no 'single' solution for the fiscal and service concerns listed in this report. Increases in ongoing revenues would alleviate some of the needs; however, with little business to spread out the costs, the residents should realize they will be responsible for a large portion of the burden."

FALSE ALARM (continued from page 1)

nine months as City Manager of Irwindale and left a position with the city of Richmond, California involuntarily.

Mayor Joffe attempted to put the concerns of residents at ease. "Rest assured, we do our own due diligence on all candidates we consider."

In a subsequent conversation with the mayor, she indicated that there were five candidates under consideration and that no decision had yet been made. "When we do, I hope it will be a consensus among all of our council members." Her reference was to many other votes that have been split 3/2.

Councilman Watts could not be reached at press time, however, sources have revealed that, according to Watts, he was misquoted by the Star News.

The council chambers will be dark for the month of August and if no candidate is selected by the next meeting on July 24th, no action will be taken until September. -Susan Henderson

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ARMED RESPONSE



Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

CNN reports that California's grass is too dry for goats to eat! Another news report describes a brush fire that started when a golfer tried to get a ball out of the rough and his metal club struck a rock causing a spark that ignited nearby dry fuel! As was mentioned in this column last week, the June fuel moisture is at a low not expected until September or October.

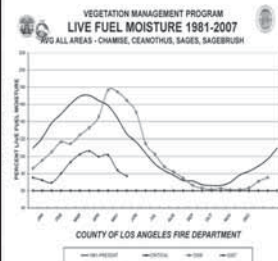
Day after day, there are news accounts of brush fires in differing parts of California, the U.S. and this past week on a Greek island. We usually find it difficult to believe that Florida can burn, but that has been in the news as well. It was in Florida where a group of fire fighters found themselves standing in a pile of soggy rubbish that had not burned during the wildfire they just put out. They were standing on discarded disposable diapers! The understanding of the absorbency of this material lead to the application in the fire foams and gels that are used for protecting your home before you evacuate as a wildfire approaches, after you (and your neighbors) have dutifully done 100' of fuel modification.

Contact the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council at: 355-0741, 355-7135 or 355-9350, or: 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



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!

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



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on average	off day	on average
COMPLETE	SPOT	COMPLETE
Application	Treatment	Application

Se Habla Español

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, July 1st, to Saturday July 7th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 253 calls for service.

Tuesday, July 3rd:

1:36 AM - DUI arrest, East Alegria Ave. and North Canon Ave. An officer stopped a vehicle for several traffic violations. During the investigation the driver was found to be driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

8:46 PM - Vandalism, 00 block Suffolk Ave. A resident reported a U.S. Postal mail box was tossed from an older model black Toyota Celica, striking the rear bumper of his parked car. The vandalism occurred Tuesday 7/3 about 8:46 PM. The cost of repair was estimated to be about \$500.00.

Wednesday, July 4th:

12:06 AM - Domestic violence, 322 West Sierra Madre Blvd, 322 Café. A woman came to the station to report that her husband assaulted her after an evening during which they both had been drinking at a local restaurant. The case is under investigation.

11:49 AM - Battery of a Police Officer/throwing a substance at a vehicle, 200 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. During the 4th of July parade, a man approached Off. Lorena Gonzalez while she was seated in her police car following the end of the parade procession. He expelled water from a soaker gun at her, dousing her right side, her handgun, tape recorder, and emergency car equipment, including the radio communications console and computer. The extent of damage to the equipment has yet to be determined. Officers arrested and booked the man, a Sierra Madre resident, and later released him on a citation.

4:55 PM - Disturbance, 500 block East Sierra Madre Blvd. Eight officers were dispatched to a large party consisting of mostly underage drinkers. Officers saw empty bottles of beer and hard liquor strewn about the property. The party reportedly had spread from a resident's front yard to the grounds of Pioneer Cemetery where the caller said that they some party goers were urinating. The party was dispersed and minors were released to their parents. Officers called paramedics for one intoxicated female juvenile who was transported to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for treatment. One 20 year old man was arrested for interfering with a police officer and transported to the jail for remand.

5:00 PM - Domestic Violence, Mariposa public parking lot. A man called 911 to ask for help after his former girlfriend used metal keys to scratch his pick-up truck parked in the lot. She also used the keys to scratch and stab him in the back. Paramedics responded to treat him, but he refused medical assistance. The woman was arrested for domestic violence. Both persons had been previously drinking beer at two licensed premises in town.

Thursday, July 5th:

3:03 PM - Alteration of imitation weapon, Bailey Canyon Park. Off. Chris Krongchana, while patrolling Bailey Canyon Park, saw four young adults, three males and one female, in possession of over a dozen air rifles and handguns. The four adults were detained and the rifles were verified as air soft mock rifles. One mock rifle's orange color tip had been removed, and appeared to be an actual rifle. Off. Krongchana wrote a report that will be sent to the District Attorney's office for review of a criminal filing for alteration of a replica weapon.

Friday, July 6th:

9:50 AM - Vandalism, 100 block South Sunnyside Ave. A resident reported a tortilla spread with mustard and peanut butter stuck to the driver's side window of his van parked in the street. The vandalism occurred between 6:00 PM Thursday, 7/5 and this morning 9:00 AM, 7/6.

10:25 PM - Drunk in Public, 242 West Sierra Madre Blvd. Patrol officers saw an intoxicated man who was staggering and having difficulty walking. He was arrested for drunk in public and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

11:18 PM - Drunk in Public, 70 West Sierra Madre Blvd. Officers were dispatched to the Buccaneer Bar regarding an intoxicated man refusing to leave. The man was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.



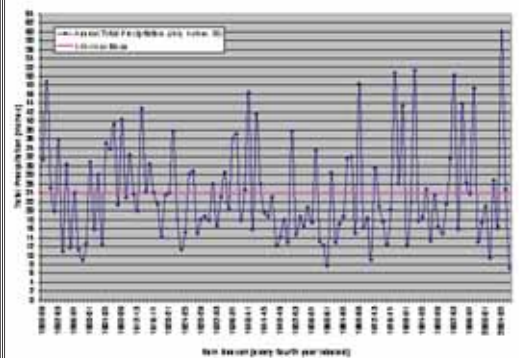
Only One Earth

Rainfall Another Milestone for Sierra Madre in 2007 -by Loren Metzger

Sierra Madre's centennial as an incorporated city is not the only notable milestone this year. June 30 marked the end of the driest rain season (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007) for Sierra Madre since records began 119 years ago in 1888. Just two years after Sierra Madre's record setting drenching in 2004-05 (60.0 inches), rainfall for this past season amounted to a paltry 7.04 inches at this observer's rain gauge. Based on records from as many as five concurrently operated rain gauges located predominantly in the northern portion of Sierra Madre, this amounts to only about 29 percent of the long-term average of about 24.0 inches. Only four other seasons, 1898-99, 1960-61, 1971-72, and 2001-02 have similarly tallied less than 10 inches of rainfall. In a normal rain season, Sierra Madre experiences about 45 days of measurable rainfall (at least 0.01 inches). During this past season rain fell on only 29 days.

Sierra Madre is by no means alone in reaching this weather milestone. According to the National Weather Service (July 2, 2007 Public Information Statement, http://www.wr.noaa.gov/lo/asets/pns_07_01_07.pdf), other locations in Southern California experienced even drier record-setting conditions in 2006-07. Rainfall totaled 3.21 inches (21-percent of normal) in downtown Los Angeles (USC), 2.83 inches (16-percent of normal) in Burbank, and only 0.65 inches (9-percent of normal) in Palmdale.

Will the rain season for 2007-08 be any better? It is a fairly safe bet that it won't be any drier, but as the 119-year record indicates, stretches of two to four consecutive years of well-below normal rainfall (less than 75 percent) are not uncommon.



The Mt. Wilson Observer



PASADENA

With A New Lease On Life - Nursery Looks To The Future

By Dean Lee



Persson's employees are happy about the news.
Photo courtesy of Persson's

After two long years, two liquidation sales, and the formation of two new open space advocacy groups, Persson's Nursery has been saved from being shut down after 35 years of doing business. Manager Gary Butters said he was now only looking to the future after receiving an eleventh hour call from Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard saving the landmark.

"We never gave up," Butters said. "We now have shipments coming in and we want to expand the diversity with new species. There are a lot of things we are planning to do like building displays showing some of our lesser known varieties such as gourmet and antique fruit trees."

He added, "Nobody local has those."

Persson's Nursery is located underneath the massive California Edison owned power lines at 3115 East Sierra Madre Boulevard.

Butters said that although their troubles leasing the property from Edison started in 2003 when Edison terminated a long term lease and allowed the nursery to remain on a month to month basis. It wasn't until 2005 when the utility giant began trying to force the nursery to close.

"What really caused all the trouble was when Edison wanted us to move across the street and keep that a secret," Butters said in an interview just weeks before the nursery was set to close at the end of June. "By refusing to do that, we took this fight to the people."

"I really do have to thank the Mayor coming out here last month and realizing this was worth saving," Butters said. "I think none of this would have happened if he did not stepped in."

Butters also said he did not want to comment on any of the council members or city staff saying only, "I'm done with politics for awhile."

Family Owned Business

The Nursery has been family owned since its beginning and Linda Persson-Butters, the current

owner, said they were afraid their daughter Jessica Persson-Butters would not be handed down the business if they closed.

"This sounds a little silly but just the other day she was out here wanting to put a display together," Butters said. "She wanted me to move a shelving unit over so she could put plants on it. I think it's great that she is interested in the plants at such a young age. She is only 10 going on 11."

All the families got together when Bogaard made his visit Butters said. "We had mom and dad. Unfortunately my daughter could not be there because of school. He looked around, I think that really helped."

Home Orchards Program

Butters explained some of the changes that customers can expect to see in the upcoming weeks and months,

"Along with pushing home orchards, and I'm not talking about dwarfs, we are talking smaller versions of full fruit trees, we want to expand our selection on drought tolerant plants such as succulents."

This year was the driest on record having many cities looking to force water conservation, including Pasadena and Sierra Madre. Butters said the canyon area in Sierra Madre was perfect for what Persson's was trying to do. "These are not cacti," he said. "They are water saving plants such as Echeveria and Euphorbia."

Persson's does carry some of the more common succulents including, Aeonium, Agave, Aloe, Sempervivum, Senecio and Yucca. They are also expanding their selection of fire retardant plants. The threat of moving and

subsequent liquidation sale greatly reduced the stock carried at the nursery.

"We will be right back to where we were and all this will be redone," he said pointing to the entire right front of the property. "We have practically no roses right now. They all went with the sale. We'll get more."

Nursery Is Chemical Free

According to Butters, the nursery is, and always has been, chemical free. "We don't use pesticides," he said. "We don't believe in them, you're not only killing the insects and damaging the plants but also killing of the predators." They do sell them for those want to by them. "But we never use them."

As he was talking a lizard ran for cover, bees were flying everywhere, and although you could not see them, the sounds of birds gave the impression there were a good number of them around.

Butters said they wanted to get back to growing on the site something he said they stopped doing when their troubles began. "Growing keeps the cost down," he said.

The nursery expects the backyard orchard program to do well because it was "small space gardening." With certain pruning and planting schedules a family could grow three different types of fruits such as apples, oranges, and plums.

"Planting three not only gives you a variety, but naturally keeps the plants small," he said. "It also helps cross-pollinate and can extend the growing season."

Persson's intend to set up a display so people can see exactly what they can do in a small space.

As a result of the Persson's controversy, a number of advocacy



Photo By Dean Lee

groups have formed including Open Space Now which helped persuade the Pasadena city council last month to allocate \$200,000 of the city's budget help identify and save open space through out Pasadena.

Arts & Architecture

By Virginia Olive Hoge

Maynard Dixon
at the
Pasadena Museum of
California Art

June 1 - Aug. 12, 2007

Hours:
Wednesday - Sunday
12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Admission:
\$6 for Adults
\$4 for Seniors & Students
Free to Members



Free the first Friday of the month (August 3rd)
If you haven't seen the Maynard Dixon show at PMCA, by all means, do! The show is spectacular.

A career retrospective, the exhibit covers the years of 1893 to 1941, and in it there are oil paintings, prints and drawings from the four principal, overlapping series of Dixon's work: Landscapes, Cowboy, American Indian and the Depression.

Dixon was a painter of the American West and to it he devoted himself slavishly, completing hundreds of paintings, drawings, illustrations and murals too, based on his first-hand impressions and travels. The marginalization of Western Art has perhaps contributed to his relative obscurity, but as this magnificent exhibition proves, Maynard Dixon from now on will be known for the great American painter he was.

Dixon chose for his setting time and again, the vast expanse of the desert. It was in how he interpreted this desert (and how he painted it) that set him apart. He was a painter of the "big picture," defined by Thomas Eakins as: "In a big picture you see what o'clock it is, afternoon or morning, if it is hot or cold, winter or summer, and what kind of people are there, and what they are doing and why they are doing it." Each painting reveals Dixon's full command of "time of day" as he captures dawn, noon, twilight and evening; and "season" as he renders each season's shadows and light, perfectly. He would display his facility with the brush in a modest manner, being an artist who prefers to freshness to over-working. If it seems sometimes, especially in his foregrounds, there are muralist short-cuts, look closer! A closer look reveals many things, for one, it wasn't the "foreground" Dixon wanted us to look at! It was the horizon line with its purple mountains and massive sky - that sent the spiritual message he often alluded to seeking. Look closely at his colors too - Dixon wasn't afraid to represent "things as they are" and not at all afraid of desert brown. He restrained himself and in so doing, avoided the over-bright color that many desert painters fall victim to. As always, Dixon captured the "real thing".

And this is why, I can't think of another painter who better captured the American Indian. Here



Maynard Dixon, Neolithic Afternoon, 1930, Oil on canvas, 36 x 40 in., Private collection

also, painters have fallen into the trap of easy sentimentalism. Dixon, not running away from depicting the powerful feelings images of Native Americans provoke, was seeking something deeper in his Indian paintings. He is quoted here, in Donald J. Hagerty's catalog essay, "[Indians] have imagination... dignity and form. These are things for the... painter to understand." Note especially the word "form". Time and again Dixon painted the Indian as a monolithic shape, at one with its landscape, and nowhere more clearly is this seen than in his masterpiece (one of them) "Neolithic Afternoon" in which two Indians become completely a part of the rock mass they are sitting on.

The bedrock of Maynard Dixon's art was the mastery of his drawing. In Hagerty's catalog essay, he quotes Dorothea Lange (yes, the photographer was his second wife!) saying, "He [had] a remarkable facility and an extraordinary visual memory, beyond anything I've ever encountered. He could capture anything, anything."

And then, if anything else is needed to prove the worth of this great painter (hardly), it was his social conscience. When the depression hit, Dixon grabbed the bull by its difficult horns and began a powerful series that chronicled the pain to the individual wrought by the Depression. As always, he was wildly successful in achieving his aim, though not financially. Not one of these beautiful paintings sold in his lifetime.

The show ends August 12, make sure you get there to see it.



Stepping Away - Pasadena City College current president Dr. James Kossler, (pictured left) walks away for the last time as PCC Board of Trustees members go into closed session to make the final decision on who will replace him. The special meeting was held Friday at Caltech's Athenaeum taking all of the afternoon and part of the night choosing between four finalists. The new president was expected to be announced Wednesday night during their regular meeting. - Photo by Daniel Belis

\$10,000 Reward For Information On Suspect In Shooting Of Altadena Cheerleader



Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) in the shooting of Britanni Idom, an 18-year old resident of Altadena and cheerleader at Glendale Community College.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. on July 6th, Idom was fatally shot while driving west on Washington Boulevard near Crenshaw in the Lafayette Square area of Los Angeles. She was a graduate of Pasadena High School and on the Glendale Community College's competitive cheerleading team.

Officials at the LAPD Homicide Division have indicated that she was likely not the target of this shooting incident and are seeking assistance with information that may aid in their investigation.

Supervisor Antonovich encourages anyone with information regarding this case to immediately contact the LAPD Wilshire Homicide Division at (213) 473-0446.

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



"It is the superfluous things for which men sweat."

-Seneca

I enjoy mixing it up on the local blogs, and one reason I do is that I get to meet some of the most quizzical people. You also find yourself learning the most interesting things. Now you'd think that almost everyone would be in accord on the matter of **Jim "Cumquat" Snider's** attempts to launch Sierra Madre's very first pornography site, right? There certainly can be nothing of redeeming or socially uplifting value in an event like that. To me that would seem to be a thing that can be safely assumed. However, and much to my surprise and unease, apparently the remnants of the 'No On V' set have seen fit to rally to the side of their traditional ally **Mr. Snider** and his new enterprise. Listed below are several quotes to illustrate where I am going with this. They are taken from a rather lively discussion on the Snider matter currently running on **"The Foothill Cities Blog"** under the topic title **"Unbelievable."** Read and wonder:

- **Miss Allie** takes a pro-business/improved tax base viewpoint: "On the other hand local porn viewers will be able to support a local business. If he pulls it off, I think we should have a porn tax, and use it to trim the trees or something. A sin tax so to speak." (It would seem to me that having a local predator pursuing our young women with money offers for porn site appearances would be a high price to pay for tree trimming. What's next, a pot orchard behind City Hall to pay off the Goldberg Park boondoggle?)

- **Nick** regards a local porn site as being of first importance to the United States Constitution: "I don't feel the need to legislate morality or force my standards or values upon anyone, nor do I feel a need to trample on any Amendments." (Nick needs to show us the phrase in the Constitution that states the requirement that citizens and communities obviate all of their civic responsibilities.)

- **Dame Erica** defends Snider by seemingly invoking the principles of the Inquisition: "I, for one, would like everyone who complains about **Jimmy** to be required to take an oath that they have never watched pornography or read pornographic materials." (Now that would be an interesting public spectacle. Perhaps **Dame Erica** could conduct the proceedings from a special diast set up in **Kersting Court**, shrouded and with a black executioner's hood over her head?) That **Jim Snider** became an important and possibly funded spokesman for the 'No On V' campaign is pretty much a given. Prior to April 17 those who supported a 'go slow' approach to local development were treated to the most outrageous and offensive attacks on his **Sierra Madre Cumquat** and other related sites. And, that Snider was also being given credibility through public statements of support by the former mayor of Sierra Madre and others in important positions of local trust certainly did not harm his presentation. So how do you account for the continued support for someone who stated in a front page **Pasadena Star News** article his desire to create a porn mill in **Sierra Madre**? I'm not sure I really know the answer to that one. Why did all those people in **Jonestown** drink the Kool Aid? Why did the **Heaven's Gate** cultists kill themselves in hopes of being taken aboard the **Comet Hale-Bopp**? Some things defy all reason and dwell in a realm far beyond our understanding...

Speaking of those whose calling comes from afar and is only heard by a very select few, I have sitting here on my desk something I've been wanting to comment about for a while now. **Steve Tobia**, former publicist for various California state agencies and now Publisher of the always wacky **MYN WEEKLY**, made some rather dubious comments in the May 10th edition of his publication: "When people become paranoid, everyone becomes your enemy, and perceived 'political' conspiracies start to run rampant. So, as the State Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) reviews who financed and distributed the defamatory and politically charged 'Sierra Madre News' that listed dozens of people as 'Enemies of Sierra Madre', those people in Sierra Madre who were behind this shameful act now have legitimate reasons to be paranoid." Well, it has now been 2 months since the publication of **Tobia's** screed, and still no reports of police vans rounding up culprits at midnight. And I have checked the **FPPC** website and I can assure you there is no reference to any deliberation on this matter taking place.

More Tobia: "In my opinion, the individual listed as the single source did not act alone. So, who else helped him plan, write, finance and distribute this defamatory hit piece? I won't express my assumptions until the FPPC finalizes its investigation." Well, since there never was any investigation, and apparently never will be, I guess we'll never get to hear **Steve's** "assumptions." One can only wonder what brand of tin foil he uses to pick up his information...

My family and I had a lot of fun at the 4th of July parade here. Great to see many parade participants still tossing candy to the kids despite the edicts of the killjoys. But I do need to express my sympathy for our **Fire Department**. Since they are no longer allowed to hose down the crowd except with the most anemic of sprays, they found themselves badly out-gunned. Kids, who have been fighting back with 'supersoakers' these past few years, had a field day. This year it was the **Firemen** who left the parade drenched...

It is always a delightful experience when I hear from a reader. You can write me at eric.maundry@yahoo.com ... Cheers!



Police Get Signatures for Ballot Measure

By Hail Hamilton



First, I would like to thank all the residents of Sierra Madre who chose to sign the police petition. You are all to be applauded for supporting the Sierra Madre Police Department. Again, thanks for signing the petition.

Second, I would like to voice my support of the SMPD measure and encourage residents to vote for it when it goes on the ballot. Your yes vote will tell the SMPD that: "The people of Sierra Madre want our own police department and value the service the SMPD provides our community." It will also tell the underpaid patrol officers that we are willing to make the city budget the funds necessary so they are properly compensated.

My YES vote is already assured. Here are the reasons I want our own police department. These are why I want to keep the SMPD and not turn over local law enforcement to the LA County Sheriff Department:

- Local law enforcement is more responsive to the special needs of Sierra Madre and the visitors who frequent our little foothill community.
- Local law enforcement is more efficient than the LA County Sheriff Department would be because it focused solely on Sierra Madre.
- Local law enforcement is the primary reason for having a city government at all; security is the most important service a city provides.
- Local law enforcement is the "goodwill ambassador" for Sierra Madre; the SMPD is the organization most responsible for our image as a community.

So, what is the SMPD ballot measure?

The Minimum Police Wages and Benefits and Prohibition on Staff Reductions or Contracting for General Police Services without Voter Approval is a proposed ordinance that would require the City of Sierra Madre to keep the police department properly compensated, equipped and staffed. It would protect the SMPD from outsourcing police services to other agencies such as the LA County Sheriff Department. It also would require the City to hold an election and get voter approval to change the ordinance.

The measure would not alter the City's or the SMPD Association's duty to negotiate labor agreements as it does currently under state law. More importantly, the SMPD measure does not require a tax increase. It is simply a BUDGET MEASURE!

If you want our own police department, if you want our cops to continue serving Sierra Madre, VOTE YES on the police measure. Ten years without a labor contract is too long. Cops have families to support, car payments to make, and mortgages to pay. Some of them even have kids in college—we all know how expensive college is and how difficult it is for the middle class to pay for it.

So what's there to quibble about? Our cops need a reasonable raise. They need decent benefits. They need the future job security this measure affords. We need our own police department, and that means guaranteeing it is properly funded for the important services it provides. VOTE YES ON THE MINIMUM POLICE WAGES AND BENEFITS MEASURE—IT'S A NO-BRAINER!

Letter To The Editor

...."survived" the 100th Anniversary Celebration and 4th of July Parade in the city of Sierra Madre...

I am a member of one of the classic car clubs that participated and "survived" the 100th Anniversary Celebration and 4th of July Parade in the city of Sierra Madre. I choose to use the word "survive", due to the use of different arsenals that the viewers and participants of the parade chose to use during the parade. There were water cannons, garden hoses, water balloons, hard candy and silly string being used along the parade route. Also, there was candy being thrown and pass out into the crowd from city official's vehicles, musical bands in the beds of trucks and other participants in the parade. Candy was being thrown back and forth across the street, during the parade. All of the above ammo was banded for use by the Chief of Police and the city of Sierra Madre, with a published article in the local newspaper. Many people still disregarded the rules, while people were being injured, soaked with water, personal property was damaged, all in the name of holiday fun. Many parents stood by while their children participated in these destructive activities.

Our organization has participated in 100's of parade over the years and we have always looked forward to coming to the great city of Sierra Madre. We take great pride, time, financial investments and care with our classic cars. But, the last few years there has been an escalated problem with water damage to the interiors of our vehicles, cars being dented by the throwing of hard candy and silly string damaging the paint finish of our well maintained vehicles.

When will the residents of your wonderful city wake up and stop this type of behavior? When a child gets hit by a car or float retrieving thrown candy, or when a driver of a vehicle gets hit in the eyes with a water balloon and goes into the crowd with their car? We hope to be able to return to your city next year, with out the worry of having our cars damaged or used for target practice by the local residents.

Linda Glaue
Chino, CA

The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer Kelley

Birds of Prey

Nothing in my mind defines the wilderness' soul as well as its avian denizens. No matter where I may be, the sound of an eagle, a falcon or a hawk's cry can instantly transport me to a meadow on a mountaintop, or to a red rock cliff in a painted desert. Their sacred voices are as much a part of the landscape as anything that can be seen. I remember the first time I heard that cry. I was sitting outside at a friend's ranch in the desert and a hawk overhead let out a loud cry. I ran inside yelling to my host, "I just saw hawk flying around out there and it made a hawk noise just like you hear them do in the movies!!! It was so cool!!!" Needless to say, the lifelong Californian found that quite amusing, but for a girl from New Jersey, it was magnificent...a thrill that sent shivers down my spine.

Then there is the raven and its melodic clucking noise that reminds me of bamboo chimes playing the same phrase over and over again. It took me quite awhile to identify what it was that made that noise that came from the treetops no matter where I was in the canyon. Finally, one day on the trail I heard the noise and turned to see where it was coming from. Just a few feet from me on a branch of a maple tree sat a raven. When I caught his eye, he was sitting silently looking at me as if to say, "It wasn't me!!!" I stopped my horse and looked around for anything else that might be capable of making such an interesting sound and heard it again...this time I was sure it came from the raven and turned in time to catch him in the act. Knowing that he was busted, he kept on going and I sat and watched him as he opened his mouth slightly and stretched out his neck and let the sound echo from his throat. Fascinating.... beautiful...I thanked him and rode on. The station was home to both a peregrine falcon and a pair of ravens. The falcon had made his home in the top of a tall pine that stood just outside of the upper corral in the picnic grove. I am not sure where the Ravens (Mr. And Mrs.) lived, but it was somewhere nearby. I found it so touching when I learned that ravens mate for life. This pair was inseparable. I could always identify the pair because one of them had a small hole, about the size of a marble, in its wing...shot at sometime I assumed. When it flew overhead, you could see the sky through its wing...when it flew close enough, you could hear a slight whistling noise as the wind passed through the hole. I became friends with this pair...they were kind of my guardians. They even followed me from the station through the canyon as I rode on deliveries with my pack string. I could always identify them by the one with the hole in its wing. On many occasions the ravens and the falcon would stage dogfights over the station...surprisingly with the ravens as the aggressors...dive-bombing the falcon as it flew...until it finally returned to its nest in the pine tree where it sat calling out threats of revenge.

Ravens are amazing birds...incredibly intelligent and crafty. Almost daily we had to gather up a scattering of trash that they had spread over the parking lot...either from our dumpster or from the cans in the picnic grove. I had watched them many times as they picked through the trash with incredible dexterity, scrutinizing each piece to determine its value. I was well aware of their cleverness, but what I witnessed one day gave me even more respect for the level of intelligence that they possess. Since we had lost two of the original barn cats, we had adopted a litter of three feral kittens to raise in the barn as new barn kitties. With our barn cats around, we never saw even a trace of rodents around the barn or house, and I feared a take over if the cat to mouse ratio was not kept in balance. The new kittens were about 6 weeks old when they came to the station, and totally untamed. They were adorable, hissing, biting, spitting, scratching balls of fur. To tame them took about a month of constant handling and love. One of them was pure white with one blue eye and one green...I named her Cloud. The other two were almost identical...both black and white...one male and one female. The male was named Coot, and the female, Flower. Flower could be

distinguished from Coot by the black heart shaped marking on her chest right over her heart, and by her little black chin. From the beginning, she was the boldest, smartest and most outgoing of the three. She took only a week to decide that humans were her friends and looked forward to seeing us every morning when we came to visit them in the barn. One day when she was about 3 months old, she was out playing in the parking



Falcon in flight. Beautiful but dangerous for some.

lot. I was standing at the kitchen window doing the dishes watching her as she explored the woodpile a bit, wrestled with her brother, and chased a few blowing leaves. Suddenly something caught her eye and she crouched down into stalking position and began to stealthily creep up on her target. I looked to where her intense focus was directed and saw one of the Ravens about 30 feet from her hopping nonchalantly around the lot. I was a little afraid that she was overestimating her abilities, but I continued watching to see what would happen. The Raven, though seemingly unaware that he was being pursued, in retrospect, knew exactly what was going on. He turned his back on her and began to slowly hop away as she continued creeping up on him. Having the average attention span of any other youngster, she was momentarily distracted by a passing leaf. The Raven changed his direction and began to hop toward her again, regaining her interest. She assumed the stalking position again and continued the hunt as the Raven turned and once again hopped away from her toward the edge of the parking lot. Again she was distracted, and again the Raven crept closer to her to get her attention back, enticing her to follow him further across the lot. As I continued to watch, a thought popped into my head..."I wonder where the other Raven is?...she was always nearby...they were never far from one another. I glanced around the area and located her. There, on an overhanging branch almost directly above where the first Raven had now positioned himself, sat his partner. Her black, beady eyes were riveted on Flower and she was crouched for takeoff...waiting for Flower to be lead close enough to grab her without her seeing it coming. Suddenly realizing what was going on, I pounded on the kitchen window and yelled out the open window, "Leave my baby alone!! Don't you dare even think about it, you damn birds!!!" The noise sent Flower darting off to the safety of the barn. The two birds froze for a moment and cast a dirty look my way before taking off. There is no doubt in my mind that they knew just what they were doing, and there is no doubt in my mind that they also knew that I knew and were not pleased that I had foiled their evil plot. Since then, if I ever stop to question whether or not an animal is doing something intentionally or if there is an emotional or intellectual motivation behind their actions, I always give them the benefit of the doubt and assume that there is. Too many people underestimate the mental capabilities of other animals, and will, more than likely, learn the hard way just how small, if any, our advantage over them is.



The common Raven

Fledgling Sierra Madre Book Club Invites New Members

Monday, July 16 at 7 p.m., Karen Maezen Miller, local Sierra Madre author of *Momma Zen*, Walking the Crooked Path of Motherhood will attend this new book club for women. The book is brief, perfect for a busy summer, with lots to discuss on spirituality and balance in life, etc., for mothers and non-mothers of all ages. Check out Miller's website, MammaZen.com. The book is available locally, as well as at Amazon.com. New members are welcome.

Call Chris Bertrand for more information at 626-355-1621

Illegal Immigration

By Rich Johnson



In case you didn't know it, this newspaper is seriously cutting edge! Yes, a major newspaper AND major network apparently are taking their editorial cues from the Mount Wilson Observer.

If you happened to read the editorial page of the LA Times on July 7, 2007 you read an editorial on the subject of presidential pets. Written by a senior political analyst for ABC news, the publication you are currently reading and your intrepid reporter ran a column on presidential pets way back on March 9, 2007. That's four months before the LA Times ran theirs. Take a bow Ms. Henderson. It's only the beginning. Someone chill the champagne.

Since we now know "the majors" have their eye on us, this reporter feels compelled, at least this week, to tackle at least one serious societal issue through this column.

Hmmmm. What shall we talk about? Why don't we talk for a moment about illegal immigration. It's a tough issue with hard choices. But you know, a question throughout this whole debate that hasn't been asked let alone answered within earshot of this report: How do other countries deal with illegal immigration?

France's president, Nicolas Sarkozy, for example has pledged to deport at least 25,000 illegal aliens a year. There are somewhere between 200,000 to 400,000 illegals in France. What's more, French law requires immigrants to not only prove they can support their families without using welfare, and pass a French language test before entering France.

Germany, which has approximately 1 million illegal aliens within its borders won't let you or your children receive health care or education if you don't have your official papers. And Germany rejects about 20,000 asylum seekers a year. Statistics show the European Union, as a whole, deports about 200,000 illegal aliens a year.

Japan has about 220,000 illegal aliens. What's interesting they have 350,000 legal Latin Americans working at what they call 3D work: "Dirty, dangerous and difficult". Apparently its work that no one else wants to do.

Googling illegal immigration in China revealed the problem from a whole different perspective. The illegal immigration issue in China revolves around the Chinese government trying to keep the Chinese people from fleeing the country. Apparently not many people are trying to sneak into China.

Here's something that might surprise you. Mexico deports more illegal aliens a year than the United States does. In 2005 they deported more than 200,000 Central Americans alone. And by the way, it's a felony to be an illegal alien in Mexico.

Let me end with a slightly tongue in cheek suggestion at a solution here in the good ole' USA. Why not have a nationwide vote on illegal immigration and let the fate of each ethnic group of illegals be decided by Americans of the same ethnicity. Frankly, I'm ready to throw out all the Scandinavians here illegally. Lets get started.

If you would like me to regroup and come out with drivelt next week please let me know by contacting me at Rich@versatape.com.

Hey, I didn't mention the Sierra Madre Cumquat this week. DOH!

The Book Report

with Jeff Brown

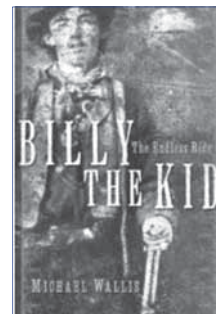
Billy the Kid: The Endless Ride

By Michael Wallis (Hardcover - 2007)

Award-winning historian Michael Wallis is author of 14 books including the esteemed biography of Pretty Boy Floyd. Now he has taken on Billy the Kid who was a legend in his own day and lives on in his endless ride as deeply mythologized character of the old West. The author makes it clear from the beginning of the book that not much is known about the life of his subject, but the book is still rich in known detail and anecdotal information. It is filled with dozens of rare images, 60 illustrations and period photographs and attempts to separate myth from reality in the Kid's brief and violent life. The boy who would become Billy the Kid (1859-1881) was born Henry McCarty, perhaps in the Irish immigrant wards of New York City. He lived in the midst of the Gilded Age and the Industrial Revolution which was reshaping America.

What was he really like and was he a cold blooded murderer?

Actually he was a very likeable young man though lethal when needed. He was sensationalized beyond recognition by the tabloids and dime-store novels and later by Hollywood. Pat Garrett himself wrote his own book and also exaggerated Billy to sell more books. He was suppose to have killed 21 men and be a sort of psycho killer but none of it was true. He did kill but closer to 6 and according to some they "needed it". They were not blood thirsty murders but the killings were in gun battles in a kind of war, he was a hired gun, and one was in self defense. He loved the dime novels, was a very colorful young man who loved to sing and dance. He was something of a hero to the poorer people. A kind of champion social bandit who fought back against the corrupt establishment, corrupt judges, and banks who foreclosed on the poor. The powers that were went after him and finally Billy the Kid is gunned down by Sheriff Pat Garrett at age twenty-one, and became a celebrity



outlaw. He dies young and like a Janis Joplin, Kurt Cobain, or Jim Morrison he is from a kind of outlaw class and is mythologized.

During his life the power that was in control in the New Mexico territory at that time was a group of political and business leaders called the Santa Fe Ring. They controlled life there. And then there was the other group consisting of ranchers, store owners, and local people. The struggle was over the land, cattle, natural resources and mercantile interests as well as ethnic strife. An incredible amount of money was at play. It was a very lethal and unruly time in that territory then. The homicide rate was 47 times more than other places and everyone had guns. Early on for a brief period Billy was in a gang and became involved in horse and cattle thieving but soon he became a kind of foot soldier for the ranchers and other mercantile people fighting against this power group. From sheer attrition he worked his way up to be a leader. The era in which the events occur is brought to life, and the reader is pulled into that wild, old west world of the New Mexico territory in the 1870's in this well written colorful biography. Enjoy!!

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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

KIDS IN THE COURTYARD A MONTH OF FUN FOR KIDS

Thursdays in July at 11:00 a.m. Free!!!!

One Colorado and the Armory Center for the Arts are ready to celebrate the summer with the acclaimed children's series Kids in the Courtyard, which consists of participatory, live performances followed by art workshops led by the Armory Center for the Arts every Thursday in July. All performances and activities take place under the big umbrellas in the One Colorado Courtyard, and are free and open to the public. Children of all ages are welcome. Free baby stroller parking is provided.

Each week children will be treated to great entertainment including juggling, magic, music and comedy. Following each performance, children are invited to create their own artwork, supervised by expert instructors from the Armory Center for the Arts. Workshops begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. and are inspired by the theme of that day's performance, with a new program each week. Art projects run until approximately 12:30 p.m. Each child can take home their artistic creations!

JULY 5 - Michael "Tuba" Heatherton Things get into a delightful mess when Tuba discovers what's inside his suitcase. Kids will be delighted by the things he finds. What does he find? Juggling? Magic? Live music? Come see for yourself. You'll find him hilarious!



JULY 12 - Drumtime - What happens when you mix kids with drums and percussion?... The magic happens when Drumtime Drum Circle, a hands-on, total-audience participation rhythm-based event, leads everyone in an expressive drum circle.



JULY 19 - Suzanne Haring aka the Soozie Show! "Bubble Trouble!" Physical comedy, slapstick & magic combine in a high energy show based around a slightly inept adult having trouble with bubbles. Kids are empowered as they help solve "problems" that arise.



JULY 26 - Hope Street Youth Circus The fast-paced Hope Street Youth Circus show features talented kids who juggle, ride the unicycle, stiltwalk and tumble. You'll be fascinated and inspired when you see all the amazing things that kids can do.



The One Colorado Courtyard is located on Colorado Blvd. between Fair Oaks Avenue and DeLacey Avenue. Convenient parking is located in the adjacent multi-level structure at Fair Oaks and Union. Call 626.564.1066 for further information.

The Armory Center for the Arts is a Pasadena-based community arts center that offers innovative approaches to creating, exploring, and presenting the visual and performing arts to students of all ages. In addition to providing an outlet for contemporary art exhibitions and performances, the Armory offers studio art classes and a variety of educational outreach programs to schools and the community.

For more information about the Armory Center for the Arts, visit www.armoryarts.org



4 Simple Summer Tips for Teens

By Trisha Collins

Having a pretty boring summer? Not turning out how you imagined? Don't fret; here are some easy tips that can help you look and feel better. You'll be ready for school when the time comes, but for now, enjoy summer while it lasts!

1. Don't worry. This is a pretty broad tip, but also a good one. The summer is a time where there should be no worries, no cares at all (to a certain degree, may I add). This is generally a school-free, social status-free season, so why waste it on stressing things that are unimportant? Little things, like an annoying little brother/sister, or loathsome chores, can easily ruin an almost perfect summer! Instead of acting how some normally approach the situations negatively, try thinking more positive. Focus on the bigger picture: you having the best summer possible, and the small inconveniences will seem even smaller.

2. Have some "me-time". When I say "me-time", I mean set some time out for you. An average teenager's summer is 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 months long. Take those long, lazy days and relax. Think about you, your goals, and the necessary steps you need to take to achieve them. It doesn't take much, just after your done cleaning your room, or finishing your summer reading book, go to a quiet place and simply think. This will help have more self-realization.

3. Be safe from the sun!!! I know you've heard this a thousand times already, but only because the sun's rays can be harmful. Not everything, you hear is true! A lot of teens think that you only need sunscreen when the sun is out. This isn't true because "UV radiation (Ultra Violet radiation) can penetrate through clouds," says Dr. Galitzer. This means that you need to wear sunscreen even when the sun isn't shining! Along with suntan lotion, there is also sunscreen makeup for girls.

4. Start a healthy lifestyle. Spend your days getting prepared to be the best you can be, come the first day of school. Use this time to start eating healthier and exercising. Trade the candy for cucumbers, and the phone for fun! This doesn't mean you have to be a vegetarian or anything, just start thinking healthy. To me, you can also get exercise by shopping at the mall. All that walking and trying on clothes has to burn off calories some how!

With this advice, I hope you have the best summer! Remember, it's only for a little while so spend every moment wisely.

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Lisa Feldman Head of School

Sierra Madre's 2nd Annual Kid's Public Safety Academy

Have you ever wonder if my child safe? Does your child know what to do in an emergency? Is your child safe? Really Safe? Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Sierra Madre Community Foundation a free program for kids and their parents is happening this summer throughout Sierra Madre.

The City of Sierra Madre KIDS Safety Academy, an eight week program for KIDS ages 5 to 11 and their parents to learn about safety in the following areas playgrounds, internet, bikes and skateboards, mountain animals, hiking, water, as well as recycling and so much more. Presentations will be made by the Sierra Madre Police Department, Community & Personnel Services Department, Department of Public Works, Sierra Madre Search & Rescue, and Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department.

Parents and children will meet at different locations throughout the City on seven consecutive Saturdays, beginning July 7 - August 25, 2007 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Registration for the program is now being accepted for this amazing program with the Community & Personnel Services Department. Space limited to 30 kids and their parents and remember it's FREE. Please call 355.5278 to register - TODAY or come by and see us at 611 East Sierra Madre Blvd. A week before the program begins all confirmed participants will be mailed-out the class schedule with locations.



Sierra Madre Honors... Recognition Nomination Form

Due to City Hall Monday, July 30, 2007 at 4:00 pm

This is an exciting event and the City's opportunity to recognize and honor the true treasures of Sierra Madre, its volunteers, City Commissioners and employees. **Sierra Madre Honors...** a Recognition and Appreciation Dinner will recognize all out-going City Commissioners as well as extraordinary community members, organizations and employees. Please take a moment to review the awards listed below and nominate any person you feel is eligible for such an honor. Selection of the awardees will be made from nominations submitted to the Mayor's Ad-Hoc Committee comprised of past recipients, employees and volunteers. **Applications are due no later than July 30th.**

George Maurer (Lifetime Service) Award - Presented to a person/entity that most strongly represents a commitment to serving and volunteering, which is the true spirit of Sierra Madre.

Nominee: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Explanation: _____

Wistaria Award - in recognition of City/Community partnership, presented to a local business whose major contributions to the City/Community of Sierra Madre have demonstrated a true partnership which assists in and provides services, programs or enhances the general welfare of the community as a whole.

Nominee: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Explanation: _____

Police Chief's Special Award - presented by the Sierra Madre Chief of Police to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to duty (employee) or service (community) in resolving a community law enforcement related issue.

Nominee: _____ Phone: _____

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Explanation: _____

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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

TechKnowledge

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Long Ago and Far Away



Photo by Jean Boenish

Remember the old song "Long Ago and Far Away?" Well, a team of astronomers led by Caltech professor Richard Ellis announced this week that they had observed something that existed longer ago and farther away than anything else that's ever been seen.

Using natural "gravitational lenses," an international team of astronomers claims to have found the first traces of a population of the most distant galaxies yet seen—the light we see from them today left more than 13 billion years ago, when the universe was just a half-billion years old.

When light from very distant bodies passes through the gravitational field of much nearer massive objects, it bends in an effect known as "gravitational lensing." In a pioneering technique, the Caltech-led group used massive clusters of galaxies—the best example of natural gravitational lenses—in a series of campaigns to locate progressively more distant star systems that would not be detected in normal surveys. The team found the galaxies using the 10-meter Keck II telescope, sited atop Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Ellis explains, "Gravitational lensing is the magnification of distant sources by foreground structures. By looking through carefully selected clusters, we have located six star-forming galaxies seen at unprecedented distances, corresponding to a time when the universe was only 500 million years old, or less than four percent of its present age."

It is thought that when the universe was 300,000 years old it entered a period when no stars were shining. Cosmologists refer to this phase of cosmic history as the "Dark Ages." Pinpointing the moment of "cosmic dawn" when the first stars and galaxies began to shine and the Dark Ages ended is a major observational quest and provides the motivation for building future powerful telescopes such as Caltech's Thirty Meter Telescope and the space-borne James Webb Telescope.

The new survey is the culmination of three years' painstaking observations that represent the thesis of Caltech graduate student Dan Stark. "Using Keck II, we have detected six faint star-forming galaxies whose signal has been boosted about 20 times by the magnifying effect of a foreground cluster," Stark says. "That we should find so many distant galaxies in our small survey area suggests they are very numerous indeed. We estimate the combined radiation output of this population could be sufficient to break apart (ionize) the hydrogen atoms in space at that time, thereby ending the Dark Ages," Stark adds.

Proving definitively that each of the six objects

is unambiguously at these enormous distances (and hence being viewed at such early times) is hard, even with the most powerful instruments. "As with all work at the frontiers, skeptics may wish to see further proof that the objects we are detecting with Keck are really so distant," Ellis notes. However, in addition to numerous checks the team has made following their initial discovery a year ago, Ellis and Stark point to supporting evidence from galaxies containing old stars that are seen when the universe was just a bit older.

"We can infer that the universe had a lot of star formation at these early times from Spitzer Space Telescope measurements of larger galaxies seen when the universe was about 300 to 500 million years older," explains Stark. "These galaxies show the tell-tale sign of old stars. To produce these old stars requires significant earlier activity, most likely in the fainter star-forming galaxies we have now seen."

Images of the new galaxies and a description of the technique used can be seen at: http://www.astro.caltech.edu/~johan/cosmic_dawn/

MEANWHILE, CLOSER TO HOME, I had the pleasure yesterday of visiting Mount Wilson Observatory and meeting the six students attending this year's summer learning session put on by the Consortium for Undergraduate Research and Education in Astronomy (CUREA). The CUREA students—primarily college undergraduates with majors in physics—come from all over the map: Maine, Ohio, Western Canada, San Diego, and Hawaii. The CUREA learning session is unique—a hands-on, concentrated 2-week course in astrophysics, using the historic Mount Wilson solar and stellar telescopes. Few students ever had so much to assimilate in so short a time—working days with the historic Snow solar telescope and nights using the famous 60-inch as well as the Observatory's 16-inch—and few students ever had the benefit of a faculty-to-student ratio like CUREA's: nine faculty/staff members for six students. By the time the course is completed July 21, each student will have chosen and presented—as a final exam—his or her own individual research project.

TWO MEMBERS OF THE CUREA FACULTY, Karina Leppik and Chris Martin, have agreed to speak at the Mount Wilson Observatory Association's monthly lecture/meeting on Sunday, July 22. Their topic is

"DOING ASTRONOMY IN ANTARCTICA"

—something they have a good deal of personal knowledge of, having both spent a full year observing at the South Pole. The public is invited to share in this free event at the Altadena Public Library, 2:30 p.m. (refreshments served from 2:00 p.m.). The library is at 600 E. Mariposa St. in Altadena, two stop signs west of Lake Avenue at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa Ave. The meeting is in the library's community room.

WorkForce

with Madeline



Q: I was just laid off from my job. My brother is owner and manager of a very successful business and has invited me to join him. I'm not quite sure I want to do this. Although I love my brother, he's a bit controlling. I'm 32 and he's 39. Please advise.

A: I would strongly steer you away from working with your brother. I've seen too many family relations as well as friendships dissolve because of business. The very fact that you say your brother is controlling, gives me a bad feeling. Also, 7 years is a big age difference when brothers are growing up, and I'm afraid you'll always be thought of as the younger brother. This could be a real problem in a business setting. From personal experience, you're going to have to work very hard to prove your worth.

Get your résumé in order, and start sending it out. Accept your brother's invitation only as a last resort.

Q: I'm applying to jobs that I feel I'm qualified for. I've sent my resume to over 60 companies. Thus far, I've been asked in for only 2 interviews. I can't understand why I'm not getting a better response. What is your input on this?

A: Maybe it's your résumé. Remember that this is a critical marketing tool. Perhaps, your résumé is cluttered and difficult to read or you are forgetting important information.

During the course of my résumé writing career, I've had many clients come to me with this same problem. Just a quick scan of their résumé explains their lack of interview opportunities. They may have the skills, but these are hidden among meaningless fluff. Also, many times they do not adequately describe accomplishments which might set them apart from all the other applicants.

My advice is to find a professional résumé writer who can turn your résumé around. It's one of the best investments you'll make.

Madeline Miller is manager of Compu-Type Résumé Service. She would love to hear from you at comptype2@aol.com. Her website is computype.bizland.com.

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

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

A Passion For Wood Floors



Always active in civic and business projects, Marla (far R.) and Alek Jakovljevic (far L.) join new Chamber director, Bill Podley and Realtor Sharyn Nelson at a July Pasadena Chamber of Commerce event.

In this day and age, women-owned businesses proliferate the economic landscape with few exceptions. Construction related businesses are still one of those exceptions. Few women have ventured there. Marla Jakovljevic did.

In the mid 1990's, Marla Jakovljevic, then Marla Fields, was restless in her executive marketing position at a national jewelry chain. Early in life she followed the path set by family to study accounting, but yearned for a creative channel in her life. A Filipino native, she immigrated to the states in the late '80s. A chance meeting threw Jakovljevic and the owner of a local hardwood flooring business together. Marla says "I learned from the old wood master" referring to Benjamin MacAdoo of Benjamin's Hardwood Floors and furthered her knowledge through the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA), currently holding a "Master Craftsman" certification from that organization. In wood flooring, she discovered an outlet for her lifelong interest in architecture, design and homes... and her creativity. So she started Pasadena Wood Floors.

Throughout the years Jakovljevic always differentiated herself. Not only as one of only a handful of female wood specialists in the country, but as a highly respected leader and teacher in the global wood flooring industry. You'll see her donating her time to teach at the NWFA schools throughout the country, Pasadena Community College's construction school and at FIDM, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles.

"No matter how tired or busy I am," she comments, "I always wake up looking forward to the challenges and creativity of each new flooring project. I love to solve the difficult flooring problems with an elegant or unusual solution, particularly one that the architect or designer did not consider. A beautiful, completed flooring job is my personal signature." Often her flooring projects receive awards and recognition from the NWFA, as did three of her projects this year.

She stresses that the right flooring creates the proper foundation, upon which the interior design is built. And it needs to complement the architecture. "I'm honored to have had so many local museums, libraries and significant buildings like the Huntington Library, Pacific Asian Museum Norton Simon Museum and the Valley Hunt Club entrust their flooring to me."

One of the keys to a great wood flooring installation is the racking process. Wood flooring is a natural product, and by its nature is not homogenous. Gradations of color, grain and other wood appearance characteristics need to be carefully arranged to flow, so the eye is not drawn to a cluster of light or dark in one area. This could appear as a mistake, disturbing the flow of the room. Often, installers just grab each piece as it comes out of the box, placing it without even looking at the big picture, resulting in a disjointed unprofessional look.

Many people think the only place to buy wood floors these days is from a big box store or discount outlet. There are so many wood flooring options these days. Many exotic woods previously unavailable in the US provide a wide, sometimes dizzying array of decisions. Then you have prefinished or unfinished, solid or engineered (for installation on a slab foundation or areas with moisture issues) material choices. The list can go on and on. A buyer can find it hard to feel confident in the materials choice, when the sales person in an orange apron could easily have just walked over from the plumbing or garden department. Pasadena Wood Floors prides itself on their expertise and extensive experience in wood floors and only wood floors. No plumbing or garden supplies. No orange aprons.

"Once you make a name for yourself, owners of high end properties find their way to the door. It's wonderful to do the posh, expensive homes all over LA, but I haven't forgotten my roots. I'm just as happy to install a beautiful hardwood floor in a young couple's first home as a celebrity's dream home. The satisfaction of a job well done is the same, whether it's a 500 square foot cottage or 20,000 square foot estate."

Jakovljevic makes a point to give back to the community. Recently married, husband Alek Jakovljevic, a civil engineer, has now joined her at Pasadena Wood Floors. Together, they are active in local Chambers of Commerce in Arcadia and Pasadena, Arcadia Host Lions Club, Pasadena Women's City Club and others.

As an industry partner of Pasadena's ASID, American Society of Interior Designers and Affiliate Member of AIA, the American Institute of Architects, Jakovljevic often works with high profile designers and architects on large projects for their clients. Pasadena Wood Floors also contributes to ASID charitable projects, such as the upcoming refurbishing of the century old Blinn House in Pasadena, owned by the Women's City Club.

When a job is completed, often there are leftover materials the owner does not want or are impractically short. Those leftovers, plus used job equipment are given to educational institutions for use in their wood shop classes. This positive "recycling" effort is not only charitable, but saves building products that might have ended up in a landfill.

Jakovljevic often arranges with building materials manufacturers to donate products to Habitat for Humanity, where she also donates her own time. Recently, she organized manufacturer donations of hardwood flooring for Latino television's first foray into the Home Improvement Show arena, "De Casa A Hogar" or "From House to Home." The Monrovia based project is under way, with filming to start in the Fall.

With all these irons in the fire, her financial background actually helps coordinate the myriad of business details, but the reason she wakes up in the morning is her eagerness to put that long latent creativity to work to deliver a floor her clients will love for years.

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BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Poetic Justice.....

I sold the little guy short...not only am I in the minority, but the folks that thoroughly enjoy the mockingbird's trills have let me know in no uncertain terms that I was all wet in my assessment of him in my last column, "To Kill, or Not To Kill a Mockingbird." He has a fan club for crying out loud!

Last week I pulled into my driveway, grabbed my purse and made sure I locked the car doors before exiting. Exit I did, but my car keys didn't make the journey with me. I was on the outside; they were hanging in the ignition on the inside. Great...I gave my son the other key to the house, always meaning to get a duplicate to "hide" somewhere in the event I did something stupid like this. Of course, that is on a rather long "to do" list that never seems to get done.

I was in luck though. As I mentioned previously, my son gave me a cell phone for Mother's Day and I actually had it in my purse. Ta da! Just call the Auto Club and my embarrassing situation would be resolved. I quickly found what some people refer to as a cell-phone-hell area that we have in Sierra Madre. I finally had to stand at the end of my driveway in the

blazing sun to get reception and finally connect with the Auto Club. The young lady that took my information was very nice. I was instructed to wait by the car and someone would be there within 45 minutes to unlock the door for me.

Waiting by the car meant I had to sit on the front porch or pretend I was watering my yard. God forbid, I can't have anyone think that I had locked myself out of my house and my car! There was only one problem with waiting in this area...guess who hangs out there? Correctomundo! My little unlucky-at-love-but-can't-stop-trying avian soloist. I really think that either little "Enrico" knew I had written something nasty about him, or thought I was a judge on "American Idol" because he really revved up his repertoire and the volume. What a showoff!

Then it occurred to me...Maybe he wasn't showing off, he was gloating and this was his way of giving me the raspberry. Revenge is sweet isn't it my little gray and white winged muscologist? Oh, where is that guy from the Auto Club???

Business Spotlight

First in a series featuring
local businesses

Story and Photos by Chris Bertrand

"Let There Be Light" From Cornerstone Electric

Yiannis Arvanitidis is a mouthful of a name for the American tongue. On the other hand it's a hard name to forget, and one worth remembering, according to this electrician's clients! This cheery Greek owner of Cornerstone Electric has 15 years of electrical experience under his tool belt, five of it as a California licensed electrical contractor. He's come a long way. Under his father's electrical tutelage in Athens, he started learning in his early teens, and then through the Greek school system, which requires six years of study for electricians.

In the process, he met his wife, a San Francisco native. They decided together that the United States, California in particular, was the place for them. A connection to a local Evangelical church led to their pastor praying that the Arvanitidis couple would join them here in LA to help guide young married couples and youth in their church. Apparently the move was in the cosmic plan, for they soon made LA their home, settling in Sierra Madre after getting to know Greek restaurant owners, Bill and Michael Kefalas of "The Only Place in Town." Arvanitidis and his young family not only settled here, but made Sierra Madre the home of his electrical contracting business, Cornerstone Electric, a few short years ago.

Today, they're beginning a large new project in Altadena for general contractor Rose City. Owner Nick Kalandjian spoke enthusiastically about his work with Cornerstone. "Of course, he keeps a clean jobsite, and works on time. More important, he makes my clients happy with his great work and communication. They are always delighted that his entire crew speaks English. That's a really important part of good communication. It makes my clients feel comfortable that both sides understand, in English, what's going to happen, and how."

A large part of the electrical business in an area of homes that sometimes exceed 100 years, this older Altadena home is typical. It requires complete rewiring, removing all the 50+ year old wiring, upgrading the amperage of service from Edison at the street to meet the ever increasing power demands of computers, new appliances, plasma televisions and high end audio components, plus contribute to the planned kitchen remodel. Another part of Cornerstone's business is new construction homes, such as a large custom home project underway in Arcadia.

A special penchant of Arvanitidis is finding energy saving products, a characteristic which caught the eye of Latino television producer, Juan Escano, for the Monrovia based home improvement show, "De Casa A Hogar" or "From House to Home." Escano praised Arvanitidis' forward thinking and guidance when it came to the electrical planning for the home improvement show, commenting that he came up with ideas and suggestions that weren't even on Escano's radar.

Arvanitidis is excited about reducing his clients' energy consumption. His two highest recommendations are solar panels and another product called Power Save. According to this product's internet corporate documents, it "reduces the amount of power drawn from the utility by storing (in its capacitors) otherwise lost electricity (watts) caused by the inductive motors in your home. (Some examples of inductive motors are air conditioning units, refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, dishwashers, pool pumps, vacuum cleaners, furnace blower motors, fans etc.) The technology applied by the unit supplies that stored electricity back to your inductive loads, thus causing you to decrease your demand from the utility. If you decrease your demand from the utility, your meter slows down, and you use less electricity. The thought is, you've already paid for that electricity, why pay for it and waste it when you can pay for it, store it, and reuse it again. This whole process is called power factor optimization." Power Save claims an average 15-20% reduction in power usage, with an additional benefit of about 10% lower running temperatures for motors.

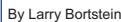
There will always be the regular service calls for the occasional outlet or fixture change, etc. and Cornerstone invites you to visit their website for a first time customer discount coupon! Let there be light as Arvanitidis' logo suggests... and air conditioning, appliances and more! Yiannis and crew will happily supply them all with power!



Jakovljevic oversees a pre-finished flooring installation in Sierra Madre.



Sierra Madre Pony All Stars Make It To Regionals



Among those returnees for the 2008 campaign are shortstop Kyle Wong and catcher Garrett Salzman. "I look for them to be major parts of our success," Esquivel said.



Photos Courtesy Mt. Wilson Photos



Michael Novell First Baseman

By Stanley J. Forrester



What, Oh What To Do?

The following two points have baseball in a quandary. Bonds' has consistently maintained that he has never knowingly taken steroids, and until recently steroids were not a banned substance in baseball. Those two sticky points present major issues for baseball. What to do, what to do? Hank Aaron has let his feelings be known, he will not be there when the record is broken. The Say Hey Kid, Willie Mays will be there after all he

Baseball is a sport of numbers and the home run record is the most important number. But can you deny the man the honor if he never knowingly took steroids and they were not banned? Perception in baseball, as in life, matters and no one likes a cheat. In law, due process is said to mean fairness and the appearance of fairness. Barry, people feel that your record should carry an asterisk indicating that you used performance enhancing drugs to reach your goal. Others have responded that any record prior to Jackie Robinson should carry an asterisk because before Jackie so many were excluded from playing, making those records tainted. What to do? What to do?

From the couch I only ponder.

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