

Sierra Madre Planning Commissioner Helps Throw A Really Big Party! *Commissioner Russell Replogle Also Serves On The Pasadena Heritage Board*

Photo and Story By Dean Lee

If there's any kind of record for the number of people you can fit on a bridge, Pasadena Heritage gave it a run for the money Saturday as thousands packed this year's celebration to sing, dance, drink and gaze at the stars atop the Colorado Street Bridge connecting Pasadena to Eagle Rock.

For years Sierra Madre resident and planning commissioner, Russell Replogle, has been a volunteer for Pasadena Heritage helping out in any way necessary to make the fund raiser successful. This year was no different.

"I'm out here sweating just like everybody else," he said as another volunteer interrupted, "Board Members don't get any slack around here." Replogle sits on the Pasadena Heritage Board of Directors.

As a resident of Sierra Madre, Replogle could not help but comment on the controversial Measure V saying that although he did not think the measure went far enough, he thought that development should be focused in the downtown keeping it out of the historical area as was done in Old Town Pasadena. Others from Pasadena Heritage agreed. "The measure that they did pass was not strong enough," he said. "There was too much left out of it and (continued on page 3)



There was something for everyone at the Colorado Street Bridge Party in Pasadena last week. Sierra Madrean Russell Replogle played an important part in making this event a success. The party raises funds to support the Pasadena Heritage Foundation.

New City Manager Will Start With A Full Plate

By Susan Henderson

When the City Council announces its choice for City Manager in the near future, there is one thing the community will know for certain: Sierra Madre's newest employee will have a full plate before them. No announcement was made after Wednesday's closed door session and responses council members have remained mum on the subject.

There has been much speculation in recent weeks about who this person may or may not be. There has also been concern about whether or not the council will make the right choice. Mayor Joffe has already expressed her desire to have the council make a unanimous decision, a very wise wish. Based upon the task at hand, a consensus among council members will likely satisfy most residents.

In addition to the financial problems the city faces, there are the pending development issues

in the Downtown Area, pending litigation for the Stonehouse and 1 Carter projects, the Police Ballot Initiative, the RHNA housing allocations, conflicts between the downtown overlay zone, the General Plan and possibly Measure V and more.

It is this full agenda that has some residents concerned about the experience level of the next chief executive of Sierra Madre. News reports carried by other papers have flaunted the names of two potential candidates, and questions abound as to whether either are up to the task.

The challenges facing the city have not changed much in the last five years. The city still has no money and the police still are not paid at the level of other departments in the area. However, whomever is selected will have the good fortune of following Interim City Manager Don Hopper. That should help.

Crimes Against The Elderly Increase

This Is Not A Topic To Be Swept Under The Carpet

In a matter of hours Monday morning, this paper received two telephone calls about incidents of elder abuse in Sierra Madre. One was from a concerned citizen who wanted to alert the paper of an arrest. Another was from the relative of a victim of financial abuse. The fact that these calls came in back to back was disturbing. Especially, since I, like most residents of our town, never think about the atrocious things we hear on television happening in Sierra Madre.

After further investigation into each of the calls, I contacted the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office on Elder Abuse. Deputy District Attorney Daniel Kinney, who is assigned to the Elder Abuse section, confirmed my suspicions. Crimes against our aging population are increasing in frequency and sophistication.

Several weeks ago in our Police Blotter there was a report of an elderly resident who had been the victim of an internet scam. There have been several reports of identity theft also.

According to DDA Kinney, these crimes are most often directed toward the elderly because criminals perceive all elderly people to be either physically or mentally challenged, or overly trusting (Cont. Page 3)

Liam & His Friend



18 Month Old Liam and his friend join the crowd at Sunday's Concert In The Park sponsored by the Sierra Madre Firefighters Association. For complete summer concert schedule, see page 2. - Photo by Jacqueline Truong

It Takes A Village:

Local Artists Help Raise Scholarship Funds



Local Sierra Madre artists representing the Scholarship Committee of the Mid-Valley Arts League. Left to right, Jean Tannhauser, Asst. Scholarship, Lynn Fearman, President, MVAL, and Reitha Wells, Scholarship Committee Chair. Painting by Chris Van Winkle. See Announcement on Page 2

Wheel of Peace



Falun Gong practitioners take time to slip off into the meditation exercises in the courtyard of City Hall while waiting Monday for the hopes to convince the Pasadena City Council not to allow the People's Republic of China to use the city's historic Rose Parade as they claim, "as a propaganda tool to whitewash human rights violations," before next year's Olympics in Beijing. A district of Beijing Xicheng, is a sister city to Pasadena. The term Falun Gong literally translates; "Practice of the Wheel of Law." The Story Page 5 - Photo By Dean Lee

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

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

- 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' Jaz Band - 6:00 pm - Memorial Park
- 22 - Swim Lessons Session Four Begins
- 24 - Summer Fun in the Park: Eaton Canyon
- 24 - City Council Meeting - 5:30 pm - Council Chambers
- 25 - Library Board of Trustees - 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
- 28 - Kids Safety Camp & Healthy Family Fun Valley Canyon Hike - 9:00 am - Bailey Canyon
- 27 - Portraiture Submission Due for the Yali 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 - 4:00 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.

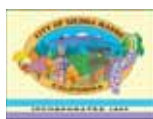
Family Excursion Quakes Baseball!!!

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 2 ft by 3 ft, 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 can order a flag at the Sunday evening Concerts in Memorial Park or at the Community and Personnel Services 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

DESCANSO GARDENS ART GALLERY

presents SUMMER'S BEST

A Collection of Plein Air Landscape
and Studio Paintings by
Karen Sill and Jean Tannhäuser



Karen Sill "Swan Lake" oil on canvas 18"x24"



Jean Tannhäuser "Sunlit Road" oil on canvas 16"x24"

Sierra Madre Artists Karen Sill and Jean Tannhäuser will show their collection of Plein Air Landscape and Studio Paintings at the **Descanso Gardens Art Gallery** this Summer. The Exhibit will run from July 20th through August 16th - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

This weekend on Sunday, July 22nd, Jean and Karen will host a reception from 12 - 3 pm. Descanso Gardens are located at 1418 Descanso Drive La Canada Flintridge, Ca. 91101 818-949-0125.

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 22:
Jumpin' Jaz 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
Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL
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 Hasnick 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, Hasnick Hartunian - Desk Officer

Got News? Call 626-355-2737

Southern California Lyric Theater

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 - "Reprint from November 2006"

Oil Independence

The internet, home to impartiality and reliability, is a wonderful place to learn more about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the debate to open it to oil drilling. Maybe start at the official website: anwr.org. Here you will find arguments as subtle and nuanced as Jerry Lewis on pledge day. In a section called "Making the Case for ANWR Development," you will learn that 58% of the petroleum needs of the US were imported from outside of the country in 2004. These imports cost \$150 billion and "robbed" tens of thousands of high paying jobs from American workers (exactly how the United States should go about reclaiming those jobs from oil fields in the Middle East and South America is not specified - for the record, invasions are not explicitly advocated).

You may be interested to find out that in 2004, according to this article, oil tankers delivered up to 1.2 million barrels to the United States per day from Iraq alone, while domestic wells were busily cranking out 15 barrels per day. This is a typo. Or a crazy bald-faced lie. Or maybe a huge, gigantic, paradigm shifting, world changing error that I just discovered by making two google searches (Domestic oil production is, in reality, about 7.6 million barrels per day). Quick, call someone! Senator, we are producing 7,599,985 more barrels of oil each day than we previously thought.

The anwr.org website also features the highlights of a national economic impacts study of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge drilling. According to this study, conducted by Wharton Econometrics (a division of Global Insight - "the global leader in economic and financial analysis forecasting and market intelligence for 40 years"), drilling on the Refuge coastal plain will create between 250,000 and 735,000 jobs.

There is a handy feature that allows you to find out exactly what the economic impacts would be for your state. For example, if you live in North Dakota, (hey, I don't know, maybe you are visiting) you will be excited to learn that drilling on the coastal plain could result in 1,800 new jobs in your state. In North Dakota that's like one new job per person.

In California we could end up with 80,000 new jobs in refining, tools, equipment, supplies, geophysical and engineering services, computer equipment, software and servicing. I guess that's impressive. But in the month of August, California added 36,900 jobs without having to begin oil drilling in a wildlife refuge, so then again maybe it's not... hard to say.

This website, really, you should surf there, (does anyone even "surf the net" anymore?) also has a slide show with pictures and statistics that you could use to make a bang-up presentation at a Kiwanis Club meeting. One slide has an American Flag background and lists a bunch of the organizations that support drilling in the Refuge. This is a helpful list. If, for example, you feel comfortable being affiliated with the National Paint and Coatings Association, the Montana Independent Automobile Dealers Association, the Center for

Individual Freedom, or the American Highway Users Alliance, then you too are probably an advocate of arctic oil drilling. You are also likely to be irritated by my columns. Sorry. Another slide informs us that between 1977 and 2004, North Slope oil field development and production contributed \$50 billion to the US economy. There is no slide that informs us that we just spent 27 years worth of North Slope oil revenue in Iraq this year, and last year, and the year before that, and the year before that, too.

Don't get me wrong. I understand, and have largely come to terms with, the fact that the United States economy requires oil to grow corn and get kids to soccer practice. And I would be lying if I said that I had not been bludgeoned into submission by the widely held and often stated belief that the United States needs to free itself from dependence on foreign oil, that our national security is compromised when we are forced to import oil from unstable countries whose citizens hate us.

But here is why I am confused. If we drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and spend the time and money to develop oil fields while trying not to disturb the caribou, eventually (in about 20 years) we have the potential to be extracting a maximum of 1.3 million barrels of oil per day, when operating at peak capacity (all of this according to information at anwr.org).... Are you ready? Right now, today, at this very moment the United States is exporting about a million barrels of oil every day. (Exact numbers? According to the United States Central Intelligence Agency World Fact Book, the United States exported 1.048 million barrels per day in 2004).

Wait, did I just write that the United States is exporting a million barrels of oil per day? Why yes I did write that the United States is, in fact, currently exporting a million barrels of oil each day. That's why I'm confused.



ELDERLY (from page 1)

with their devious plans. Residents of Sierra Madre should of particular concern because of the perception that this is an affluent and aging community.

Kinney says that the most common crimes which include the "full range of violent crimes", physical neglect and financial crimes. He went to name some of the more common schemes such as:

Sweetheart Swindles - younger suitor woos older, lonely, unattached victim. In this scenario, the predator seeks out older individuals who appear to be financially sound and disconnected from their family and friends. One noted former LA Criminal Defense Attorney said, "One of the reasons criminals are able to take advantage is because of how lonely many elderly people are."

Distraction Burglaries are another very common ruse. The criminals watch the victims house and habits, eventually approaching under the guise of being a repairman or a construction worker. They then state a reason for the elderly person to go with them to the back of the home while their accomplice, who the victim has not seen, goes into the house and steals.

"There are actually organized transit crime families that travel in groups with the specific intent of taking advantage of the elderly," says the prosecutor.

In order to avoid being a victim, it is suggested that families watch out for several notable signs of possible abuse. "Watch out for strange behavior, unusual spending habits," says the veteran DDA. He also warned that we should not stereotype who might be committing a crime against the elderly. "People who abuse are sometimes family members, family friends, and caretakers."

Seniors are the fastest growing segment of our population. The elderly often experience declining physical and mental health making them more vulnerable than the general population. Kinney suggests that older persons stay in touch with family and friends. In Sierra Madre we are fortunate to have a Senior Center with lots of activities and opportunities to make new friends.

Kinney suggests that families also watch out for signs of diminished capacity such as forgetfulness. "Stay involved in your loved ones life."

Los Angeles County is fortunate to have a division dedicated to protecting our elders. You can find more information on the Elder Abuse Department by going to their website at <http://da.co.la.ca.us/seniors/> or calling 213-974-3783.

This paper will also follow closely the two incidents mentioned earlier and report on any matters that will help protect our seniors. - Susan Henderson

They Come To Eat And Drink



The drought is forcing the wildlife to come down, and visit knowing f that we have berries, plums, vegetables and other fruits growing, along with our swimming pool and the pond that is home to our 3 turtles. Just last night, a bear went swimming in the pond too.

-Photos And Caption By Lara Laramendi

COMMISSIONER

(cont. from pg. 1)

I think they focused on the wrong stuff."

Measure V, passed in April 2007 and requires a public vote on Sierra Madre development projects that exceed two stories, 30 feet, and a density of 13 - 18 units per acre. Just last month, Pasadena passed the North Lake Specific Plan with very similar limits.

Replogle said Pasadena Heritage, organizers of the Bridge Party, was also involved in overseeing the restoration of both City Hall's \$117.5 million retrofit and the Rose Bowl upcoming overhaul at a cost of \$250 million respectively. The Rose Bowl funds were approved last month and the project. The funds will improve access in to and out of the stadium, add more comfortable seats and possibly add a museum that would reflect the Rose Bowl's history.

The group has a number of historical neighborhood projects, (18) in Pasadena such as Bungalow Heaven, near North Lake Avenue. They have also played leading roles in preservation efforts such as Old Pasadena, Huntington

Hotel, the historic houses in the path of the 710 Freeway, the Civic Center, and the Blacker House All proceeds from the bridge party will go directly to help support projects.

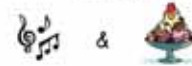
Replogle is also no stranger to music in the city being the Pasadena POPS orchestra technical director for over 15 years. "I was doing the outdoor concerts and I had control of the physical setup." He also sits on the Pasadena Symphony's board of directors. "I still get invited to the POPS concerts because of that, they're merging you know." He added, "That sure knocked me off my chair setting in a board meeting when that was announced. My first reaction was to get up and scream, no, no, no."

Russell thought the merger was "good" something not shared by many of the 65 members of the POPS orchestra who say they are being fired.

Pasadena POPS played Sunday night at the Grand Re-Opening of City Hall. See related story on page 5.

FREE!

Contemporary Praise Music Concert



Ice Cream Social

Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene
3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena

Sunday - July 29th - 6 p.m.

Spend a cool, comfortable, air conditioned evening at Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene enjoying the best contemporary praise music of recent years, presented by the full Praise Celebration Choir, 50+ voices, and the entire Sunrise Orchestra. It's Sunday evening, July 29th, at 6 p.m. There will be opportunities to sing along to soul, spirit and heart lifting music followed by ice cream sundaes on the patio. Who could ask for more! And best of all, it's all FREE! That's right, even the ice cream! Bring the family, bring your friends, co-workers, neighbors, and enjoy one of the best concerts happening this summer.

For information/directions call 626.351.9631 or go to our website www.pfnaz.org

All are welcome! Come see.... and sing!

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ARMED
RESPONSE

Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK
From Caroline Brown

Fuel modification. What is it? How to do it? How will it look afterward so you are not living in a landscape scraped clean of all vegetation? "Modification" is the guiding principal here. You are removing flashy fuels and ladder fuels and opening up distances between remaining native vegetation but not denuding the entire landscape. Go to www.firesafecouncil.org or the State Fire Marshals web page: osfm.fire.ca.gov and follow links to "building codes" to "homeowners" to "why 100 feet-make your home safe."

Remember one of the most valuable landscape assets on your property are your big trees. They need to be taken care of properly to keep from being fire hazards. During seasons of drought you can deep water your big trees with a slow volume soaker hose circled around the base of your trees. DO NOT DO THIS WITH OAK TREES. You needed to provide extra winter rain last "winter." Now all you can do it keep your oak trees free of dead branches. Do not cut living material out of the oaks until they are dormant. For further information look on line for oak tree care at: www.californiaoaks.org

When choosing what trees to plant in the future there are some species to be avoided in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. You can determine this by looking at lists of what to plant in this zone.

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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Application	Treatment	Complete

Se Habla Español

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, July 8th, to Saturday July 14th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 281 calls for service.

Monday, July 9th

8:24 PM – Drunk in Public, Sierra Madre Blvd & Santa Anita Ave. A man was seen staggering and having difficulty walking. The officer stopped and determined he was unable to care for himself due to his intoxication. The man was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

10:42 AM – Stolen DMV registration, 200 blk. Sturtevant Off. Berry stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and discovered that the driver had bought false registration tabs for the car. The driver was arrested and cited.

11:27 AM – Identify Theft, 100 block E. Mira Monte. A resident reported that \$963.00 was stolen from her checking account through the use of her ATM card. The charges were all in Las Vegas.

Wednesday, July 11th

11:28 PM – Attempt suicide, Mariposa public lot. The police department received a telephone call reporting a despondent man who was threatening to kill himself. Officers Toribio, Ellins and Sgt Abbott were dispatched. Officers secured the area for the safety of the victim and patrons of a local business. The man was found seated in his truck with a loaded .45 caliber handgun. Officers talked the man into surrendering peacefully and took him into protective custody for a 72 hour psychiatric evaluation. He was taken to a local hospital for admission.

Thursday, July 12th

7:41 AM – Arrest, Delaying an Officer, 110 West Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer conducting routine traffic enforcement made traffic stop on a bicyclist for a minor traffic violation. The cyclist refused to accept the ticket, and tore the citation in half, throwing it on the ground. The cyclist was arrested.

Environmentally Speaking,
“Did You Know?”

Leaf Blowers: A Double Environmental Assault

Emissions from gasoline powered leaf blowers include particulate materials, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons (CO, NOx and HC). The dangerous dust they stir up includes airborne feces, allergens, molds and pollens. Materials or toxins found in street dust as examined by the Los Angeles chapter of the American Lung Association, include traces of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, nickel and mercury. The study produced research that illustrates that leaf blowers generate as much pollution in one hour as is produced by a car driven for 100 miles.

One of the more disturbing features of leaf blowers is the major contribution that they make to noise pollution. Leaf blower use at one residence impacts eight to fourteen neighbors. Excessive noise pollution is associated with increased blood pressure, headaches, ringing ears and a lower frustration tolerance.

Leaf blowers are used mainly in residential neighborhoods where many types of residents are exposed to their pollutants and noise. This population includes homemakers, retirees, day sleepers, young toddlers, the ill or disabled, and pets.

The leaf blower is a familiar nuisance that deserves greater public awareness and concern.

Brought to you by:
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The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

Pasadena POPS, Art, Draws Thousands as City Hall Reopens "And the beat goes on"

Story and Photos Dean Lee

Nothing ruins a party faster than a threat to fire the whole band that's throwing the gig.

Or tell a crowd of hundreds that "you'll be back next year," and the year after, but politely leave out the fact that they won't include the 65 musicians making up your Pasadena POPS Orchestra you are currently listening to. Other than that, everyone had a great time Saturday night as the official grand opening of City Hall kicked off.

The event started with Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard gave City Hall's proclamation claiming it "open for business," even though most of the city staff had already moved in May. Bogaard made a point of saying that the nearly \$118 million seismic retrofit was ahead of schedule.

"After three long years the project to retrofit and restore City Hall is complete," he said to cheers. "I wonder if all of you agree with me that the long wait was worth it." However, there were many mixed emotions in the crowd.

The California Art Club brought out 70 of its finest artists to paint the civic landmark using the French "plein air" technique, which literally translates to "in the open air." Artists said the plein air style is used, "to capture the moment." Some of the artist had started painting early in the morning. By 5 p.m. there was only a handful left still painting.

Elaine Adams, the club's executive director, said all of artist "moments" will be on display next week in the City Hall's courtyard Sunday 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and all of the art will also go on sale she said.

"What they are doing is quickly editing all the material out there, picking up atmosphere conditions, the lighting conditions," Adams said. "You will see them out there all lined up side by side but each is getting a different perspective and composition making each painting unique."



Members of the California Art Club captured the moment on canvas.

Catherine Hill was one of the artists out painting City Hall. She has had a number of paintings exhibited at The California Art Club Gallery at the Old Mill. Her husband Mark Kausler, an illustrator, explained his view of a plein air style. "It gives you a chance to hang out and look at where you are," He said. "You feel the color temperature. Like right now, the color is warm so we are using lots of yellows."

The Pasadena POPS played for 2.5 hours with a spectacular light show that at one point illuminated

City Hall with stars and stripes. A crystal clear night added to a surreal setting as the band played the theme to the movie E.T. But some were not so happy. POPS cellist, and founding member, Michelle Byrne said that a current move by the Pasadena Symphony Association and the Pasadena POPS Board last month to merge was nothing more than a mass firing something she said they planned to stop through a lawsuit. "I have the rosters for both groups," Byrne said. "After matching all of the names, only five musicians cross over playing for both orchestras. Not the 18 they [the two conductors in a press release] claim."



The Pasadena Pops played on despite being excluded from next year's roster.

Byrne said Professional Musicians Local 47 had filed charges of unfair labor practices against the Pasadena Symphony. "I can't say much about it because it is a lawsuit, but one thing they are trying to do is take away our rights by saying we are only part-time."

Byrne also said that for the last five years the POPS orchestra has had nothing to do with the orchestra's board. "I was the former chair of the orchestra committee for nine years. We have been kind of alienated from them. We don't even have a liaison from the orchestra." There was a push for having a liaison in the past but all talks had broken down.

From a business standpoint Byrne also said having the two become one did not make sense calling the whole thing a hostile takeover. "This POPS is the least expensive of the two orchestras and our subscriptions are up," she said. "We even added a concert where their [symphony] audience is in decline." She pointed out that the Symphony had 29 more musicians, costing them much more. Byrne said that even though subscriptions were up she had seen a steady decline in the number of POPS educational concerts, "we used to do more of those a year, and under Victor Vener we had a winter season as well."

The orchestras are divided on the possible actions. The move would combine office staff and office space. The two operating boards would also merge. The POPS is set to dissolve Oct. 1.



ROTC Honor Guards proudly display flags.

Bob Eklund On Special Assignment...



The Magic Is Back:

RAY BRADBURY'S GREEN TOWN

Friday, July 13, turned out to be an evening of green magic for me at South Pasadena's charming and intimate Fremont Centre Theatre. It started with a ride from my home in Westchester (near LAX) to South Pasadena via Metro bus and Gold Line light rail. I decided to try public transportation as an experiment to see if there wasn't a better way to get across Los Angeles than fighting the traffic for two hours—an ordeal I had gone through on the previous night.

So, after reading and dozing my way across the city, I arrived at South Pasadena's Mission station in about 1 1/2 hours—probably no longer than a Friday-night ride through downtown traffic would have taken, and a lot more peaceful. A 3-block walk took me to my theater, where a unique experience in time-travel awaited me—a trip back to a 1930s small Midwestern town full of magic memories, "RAY BRADBURY'S GREEN TOWN."

The play—really three short plays in one—was memorable. I won't spoil it for you by telling the plot, except to say that I had the pleasure of meeting Charles Dickens, Emily Dickinson, and a 99-year-old man who had been a drummer-boy at the Civil War battle of Shiloh.

The July 13 performance was a special benefit showing (including reception) on behalf of The Planetary Society, which has often teamed up with Ray Bradbury on similar occasions. Many of you, I'm sure, have met Ray at one of the talks he has given at local libraries, so you know how charming he is in person.

Actually I first met Ray, so to speak, at a barbershop in the early 1950s. While waiting for my haircut, I picked up a copy of "Esquire" magazine and my eye happened to light on a story titled "Mars Is Heaven." The story was about an expedition from Earth to Mars, which landed—quite inexplicably—on a green lawn surrounded by tall elms and well-tended Victorian houses. Those who have read *THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES* will recognize the story—titled "April 2000: The Third Expedition"—and it's still one of my very favorite short stories. When my turn in the barber's chair came, I hadn't yet finished the story, so when the haircut was over I went back, sat down, and finished it—thinking, when I finally left, that I had never before read anything quite so charming. "Whoever this Ray Bradbury is," I said to myself, "we're going to hear from him again."

And so we have. Now, 50-some years later, GREEN TOWN is just the latest in an incredible outpouring of stories, novels, plays, and movie scripts—and that wonderful lawn from Ray's home town, Winnetka, Illinois, is still popping up here, there, and everywhere, charming and dazzling us with its green magic.

You still have this weekend and next to see "RAY BRADBURY'S GREEN TOWN" at the Fremont Centre Theatre, 1000 Fremont Ave., South Pasadena. Performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. (through July 29). Tickets \$20, Seniors \$15, Students \$10. For reservations, call (323) 960-4451 or visit www.Plays411.com/raybradbury.

Bob Eklund is a regular columnist featured on our TechKnowledge page in this column, "Looking Up".

International Problem Keeps Spotlight On Pasadena

By Dean Lee

Outside the city council chambers Monday night half a dozen TV news crews interviewed those that showed up to express outrage at a plan to allow the communist government of China to participate in next year's Rose Parade. Inside, the city council focused on local issues and business.

Mayor Bill Bogaard commented later in the evening that any decision made on those who participate in the Rose Parade can only be done through the Tournament of Roses themselves.

Robert Manard, Secretary-General of Reporters Without Borders, urged the city to take a stand against human rights violations in China and called the country, "The largest repository for jailed journalists." The letter also asked they not take part in any of the "propaganda" surrounding the 2008 Olympics. "How can you accept the fact that Chinese citizens who have campaigned for more freedoms will have to be content watching powerlessly from their jail cells, the world's most important sporting event?"

The letter was addressed to Bogaard, and later, others accused the Mayor of meeting with Chinese officials about the parade and Pasadena's affiliation with the Xicheng District in Beijing, something they said was widely reported in the Chinese Press. Xicheng is a sister city to Pasadena. Bogaard did not deny the meetings, only saying he had to go back and look at his calendar. He then asked the name of the persons mentioned.

A number of Falun Gong practitioners said they would translate the reports. Falun Gong teachings have been described as spiritual, religious and metaphysical and are outlawed in China. The Practitioners claim that China is cracking down and jailing them so they cannot speak out when the Summer Olympics are in Beijing. "They fear we will tell the truth," they said.

In April, Maxine Russell, a Los Angeles county school teacher received notice from the Chinese government that her son, Darren, teaching in the Guangzhou province, had been hit and killed by a truck. She told the Pasadena City Council this was not true after an autopsy showed he had been attacked.

"When we got his body back we knew there was something wrong, so we paid to have his body exhumed and studied," Russell said. "He had defensive wounds."

According to Russell, Rep. Henry Waxman had opened an investigation with the State Department. Bogaard then asked if she had spoken with Congressman Adam Schiff, and then urged her to do so. Russell also said her son's death was far from unique. There has been a large push for people to learn English in China before the Olympics. So much so, that illegal schools have been opened and operating, something she said her son may have gotten trapped into. "We knew there was something wrong. A lady took his passport and would not give it back," she said. "When he called the consulate they ignored him. In the end he was teaching 1,200 kids and working 70 hours a week."

She hoped by sharing her story with the city they would understand how serious the situation is. Both council members, Chris Holden and Victor Gordo, denounced the human rights violations. Holden reminded the council that all the same issues had gone before the council before they voted to include Xicheng as a sister city.

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.



MWO: Your Community Newspaper

By Susan Henderson

Your (adj.): relating to you; **Community** (n): a group of people with a **common** interest living together within a larger society; **newspaper** (n): a publication issued at regular intervals, and commonly containing news, comment, features, and advertising.

Lately, the amount of time I have available to write commentary is limited due to my new title of CCBW. (Chief Cook and Bottle Washer). However, this week I feel compelled to speak to you about what this newspaper is all about. It's all about you.

The Mt. Wilson Observer (MWO) was created almost a year ago because there was no paper in Sierra Madre whose primary interest was Sierra Madre. We have several other publications in town, but none that are all about us. Everything contained in the MWO, whether its' origin is Sacramento, Washington or LA, is there because of its' impact on our lives in Sierra Madre. Our news, columns, and even advertisers are here because we want to share information with the residents of this town. We want to keep you informed. Our city editor Dean Lee sums it up well, "Our job is to hold a mirror up to society and then let you judge the reflection."

That is not an easy task. For the most part people make their judgments about what should or should not exist based upon their own personal criteria. Therefore, we will never please everybody, but I guess that's really okay. (Hold it, don't pick up that phone and start calling). We will just continue to do our best to report the news, keep you informed of activities, bring you information that you may find useful, and focus on the accomplishments of our citizens. That's who we are and that's what a community newspaper does.

Earlier this week I was having an electronic conversation with a resident and was appalled at an implied suggestion that was made. This person wanted the MWO to drop two of their columnists, Sir Eric and Hail, because they don't agree with them. Wouldn't that be censorship? And what about the people in this town who do agree with them? To prohibit them from expressing their opinions is not what this paper is about. We are a community paper and we encourage everyone that we can accommodate to participate. You have a choice to speak out as a columnist or through the Letters To The Editor. However, it would be against the policies of this paper to silence anyone because of a personal difference of opinion. A community is a group of people with a common interest in living together. Because we have a common interest however, does not mean we agree on how to protect that interest. That's what makes this the diverse town that it is.

And the same principles apply when we report on activities in our city government. We hope you see truth but the sad reality is that most people want to be judged by what they intend to do and not what they actually do. We report. So even though your intentions are great, others have a right to know what is actually being done.

This paper will always strive to adhere to the highest journalistic ethics - ethics determined by industry standards, not the self proclaimed experts. We try to be fair, balanced, and truthful. We are not mean spirited or malicious. However, we will not suppress news or opinions because they may be unpopular. We are a small town surrounded by larger cities and knowing the truth of what happens in our town will keep us from self destructing.

So once again, I invite you to embrace the Mt. Wilson Observer. We bring to you every week news of your friends, neighbors, children, city, state and the world. We bring you news as it relates to you.

Oh yes, one last thing. I AM NOT SIR ERIC. Have you ever heard of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson? Well, I am certain you have. His pen name was Lewis Carroll and he wrote Alice's Adventures in Wonderland among other things. It is not an unusual practice to write under a pseudonym, and truth be told, as an opinion writer in this town, it might be better. There is nothing published in the Mt. Wilson Observer that the Publisher/Editor is not aware of who the author is. People have the right to privacy, however. And, given the evil attacks made on many who dared to speak their minds, this writer included, I can see good reason why a person with a family would choose to conceal their identity. So pass the word. I am not Sir Eric.

P. S., If I had a pen name, it would probably be - Ms. SGRTW (Ms. Smart Gorgeous Rich Talented Writer. - After all, if you have to make something up, it ought to be good!).

Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry



"Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are less intelligent." - Plato

I suppose we should talk a little bit about the Joe Mosca recall. Joe, as I am sure you get by now, has become an unpopular figure in this town, especially with the 'go slow on development' citizenry that put him into office in the first place. "Eddie Haskell," as he is mockingly called by those who have grown frustrated by his refusal to honor certain commitments he made to the voters, has become infamous for his uncanny and frankly annoying ability to seemingly take every side on an issue while not really saying much of anything at all.

As was reported in the Mount Wilson Observer last week, the effort to remove the m o t o r m o u t h e d councilman fell less

than 200 signatures short. The total amount gathered was 1,632, which, when you consider that the entire vote count that elected John Buchanan to our City Council in the 2004 election was 1,477 (with Enid Joffe at an even more modest 1,137), makes it a fairly substantial figure for a town of this size. However, the percentage threshold for getting a recall on the ballot is rather lofty, and the effort to remove Mosca came up a little short ... I personally knocked on doors and pounded the pavement for what seemed like a good portion of my adult life, and came up with a respectable percentage of that 1,600+ total. And in that time I got to speak with hundreds of my fellow Sierra Madreans, which was the one and only thing that made this arduous Baedeker bearable. And while much of what I took away from these conversations confirmed things that I have believed about Sierra

Madre for a while now, they also provided me with one rather disturbing epiphany.

Sierra Madre remains deeply opposed to the 'kind of generic McCondo development schemes that have defaced so many of our sister cities here in the San Gabriel Valley. We also apparently live in a town where the community is highly distrustful of its government, many believing that our elected officials are working against the interests of those living here. But also, and this is the revelatory twist I alluded to above, we also live in a town where the majority of the people who dwell here believe that their opinions are those of a small embattled minority. I was oft greeted as being something of a fellow conspirator, and was actually congratulated on a few occasions for my "courage." Now I might be a (continued page 7)



"Flipper Joe" Becomes Winner Joe

By Hail Hamilton

I just heard the news Joe—you survived the recall attempt. I want to be the first to congratulate you on retaining your seat on the City Council. I hope you will honor your promise to faithfully implement Measure V. I hope you will work with the rest of the City Council to solve the serious challenges facing Sierra Madre. I also hope you will succeed as Mayor Pro Tem in helping the city heal itself and bring its residents together again.

Whatever the final tally, those wanting your recall came up short—they failed to gather enough signatures to put your recall on the ballot. One estimate is 268 signatures short, another 150 signatures—it doesn't matter if they came up 1 signature short. It was close to be sure. But as the old saying goes, "close is only good when playing horseshoes." Politics for me is a lot like sports. It requires playing by the rules. It requires competing and trying your best. It requires sacrifice. But most of all it requires "good sportsmanship"—not gloating when victorious and accepting defeat graciously and without rancor.

Politics is like baseball. If your team is behind by 1 run in the bottom of the 9th inning of the 7th game of the World Series and you're at bat with 2 outs and the bases full but fail to score the winning run, you lose—it's that simple. There's no two ways about it! You can argue afterwards about how you might have played better and won but it doesn't matter—the game is over and the other team won. Your options are twofold—win next year's league championship and try again in next year's World Series.

I now realize I was wrong about the recall. Although I sympathize with the feelings of betrayal felt by the proponents of your recall, I do not think it was well-organized, well-publicized or well-timed. I think running around the hills of Sierra Madre asking people to sign a recall petition right

after the contentious and divisive Measure V election was a grievous mistake. I think the proponents of the recall failed to make their case. I think they just "angered" residents and divided the town more. I also believe that most residents just weren't up for another "battle"—at least so soon after Measure V. Heck! The police had a hard time collecting enough signatures to get their wage and benefit measure on the ballot. Although they did so by a razor-thin margin.

I have one more criticism about the recall. And it has nothing to do with its proponents or opponents. Rather, it is aimed at me and my colleagues in the press. Specifically, it is aimed at the total lack of serious press coverage of the recall. Except for the periodic mention in the Mt. Wilson Observer's "Around Town with Sir Eric Maundry" column and my two editorials—one in the February 23 issue of the MWO and the other published online in the Sierra Madre Village Voice on July 1—there was no real reporting of the recall at all. This is both unfortunate and inexcusable. I hold myself and my fellow journalists responsible.

With the local press avoiding its responsibility to cover the recall fairly, factually and truthfully, how could voters make an informed decision? The fact is they couldn't. Not allowed to know diddly squat from legitimate news sources, the few sources of information they did have about the recall came from local blogs—some good and some not so good! The fact remains, however, the Los Angeles Times, the Pasadena Star-News, the Sierra Madre Weekly, the San Gabriel Valley Weekly and to a lesser extent the MWO all kept mum on the recall—at least until its failure was assured. Then they all jumped on the bandwagon.

SO JOE—YOU BE THE MAN! YOU MADE IT AND PROVED ME WRONG... AGAIN, MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY.



The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer Kelley

The Birds & The Bees

"Are these mules, or donkeys, or burros?" I heard a male voice ask as I tightened the cinch on my horse, Jake. I cheerfully and gladly answered this question each of the thousands of times I was asked during my reign at the pack station.

"This is a donkey," I answered as I gave Bill (one of my donkeys who was standing hitched next to Jake) a pat on the ass and then a kiss on the nose. "Donkeys and burros are the same thing," I continued with my standard explanation. "Burro is just the Spanish word for donkey." I turned toward the source of the question and saw a young man standing there with his daughter who was about four or five years old. "Would you like to pet him?" I asked her.

She nodded shyly. "Come on over here then." I urged her. Her father led her over to where Bill was hitched and I took her hand and showed her that it was okay to pet Bill on the nose. "Soft, huh?" I asked. She agreed and continued to stroke Bill's nose.

"How many donkeys do you have?" her father asked.

"We have seven donkeys, two horses, a mule, and a hinny," I answered, and waited for the next inevitable question.

"What is the difference between a mule and a donkey?" he obligingly asked.

"A mule is what you get when you breed a male donkey to a female horse. If the mother is a donkey and the father is a horse you get something called a hinny." I continued in my best school teacher manner. "Sometime soon we will have a new little donkey here...the first one to ever be born at the station. My mammoth donkey, Bonnie is going to have a baby soon.

"Where is she?" asked the little girl.

"She is in the back eating. Would you like to see the rest of the animals?" I asked her. She nodded enthusiastically.

"Come with me," I said. Father and daughter followed as I led them into the barn. On the way in we ran into two of my good friends, Canyon Dave and Leonard, who had been helping me out. They joined us and headed to the stall that had a window with a view of the corral and feed bin where the rest of the animals were eating their breakfast. We entered the stall and the little girl ran straight to the window.

"Here they all are...that is Cisco," I said pointing to the white donkey with grey speckles, he's a donkey...that is Eyore, I said pointing to the one who most resembled his namesake. "...and Andy is that white one...the shaggy, fat one over there is Slim...pretty silly name for a fatso like him huh?" The girl giggled in response. "All those guys are donkeys." I located our large, palomino-roan mule in the corner of the corral. "That is our mule, Happy, and that one over there is our hinny, Sugar...she is almost 40 years old!!" I said as I pointed out the boney, freckled old animal at the end of

the feed bin. Bonnie, the very pregnant donkey, stood eating just outside the stall window almost within reach of the little girl. "And this is Bonnie," I said pointing to the large donkey butt in front of us. I gave the little girl a boost up and she reached out and gave Bonnie's rear a pat. I placed her back on the stall floor in front of the window. "See how big her tummy is? She's not just fat like Slim, she is like that because there is a baby inside her!"

As the girl studied Bonnie's huge stomach in silence and awe for several moments, we all began to nervously await her reaction and the possibility of having to answer some sensitive questions.

"Where will the baby come out?" I heard her finally ask. Each of us hesitated, seemingly not wanting to be the one to tackle the question. Since I was the only woman, and the one who brought up the subject, I decided it best to be the one to pick up the ball.

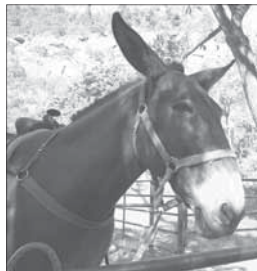
"Well..." I began, "do you see the two holes under her tail? The top one is where the poop comes out, and the bottom one is where the baby will come out. When the baby is ready it will let Bonnie know, and the hole will open up real big and the little baby will slide right out...he will stretch his front feet out over his head," I demonstrated by putting my hands over my head, "and they will come out first, and then you will see his head and then the rest of him. So when it is time he will come right out of that bottom hole there under her tail."

I turned my focus from Bonnie's butt to the little girl. Her mouth hung open and her eyes were fixated on the bottom hole in Bonnie's backside. There was a total, awkward, and nervous eternity of silence in the stall as we all watched her process the information she had just been given.

Leonard finally broke the silence. "I believe she said 'WHEN', Kim," he said. "She distinctly said 'WHEN', Kim." Dave chimed in, "WHEN will the baby come out?" "Oh," I replied sheepishly, "Sorry."

We all stood silently for few more moments as the girl continued to stare in amazement.

"It's going to be an interesting ride home," Dave noted to the father.



"Hmmm...I didn't know that."

SIR ERIC (cont. page 6)

reasonably well-centered fellow, and obviously I don't give a damn for the opinions of those I do not respect, but courageously? For participating in a local political issue? Hardly ... But I do suppose that this misconception about who exactly is in the majority on the 'development' issue might be somewhat understandable given the current state of our local press.

Many here get their information from The Pasadena Star News, SGV Weekly, Sierra Madre Weekly and the MVN Weekly, all poodle publications that consistently echo the disinformation generated by the development-at-all-costs cabal currently dominating not only our City Hall, but much of the region as well. As these papers are largely subsistence operations, in part dependent upon the advertising they receive from real estate concerns and developers for their survival, the odds of the Four Poodles ever taking anything but the McCondo side of the issue are fairly low. And since for many this steady diet of nothing is their exclusive source of information on the matter (outside of this blessed little paper, of course), it would be possible to start believing that the 'go slow' development approach really is a minority opinion, and that you have become a member of some sort of political underground ...

Early last June the Foothill Cities Blog broke the news that the City of Sierra Madre has employed a public relations firm, Platinum PR, a posh Santa Monica outfit that lists many real estate and development concerns on its client list. Shortly after we began to hear an awful lot about how this town is going broke and that we are in some sort of fiscal crisis. Joe Mosca, in his fight to hang on to his office, claimed in a PSN puff piece that he had become too concerned with city finances to worry about the recall.

Sierra Madre has been going broke for decades, just like any other small city America. Rule of thumb for underserving what is going on with the development or most any other issue in Sierra Madre: It's all about the money to be made. Lots and lots of money. Both the immense Howie's and Skilled Nursing Home shopping center and condo projects are still being pushed, and most everything we will be hearing from the small town real estate hustlers calling the shots at City Hall will be with the final approval of these vastly unpopular projects in mind. Count on it. All because we came up a few signatures short ... Always a pleasure hearing from a reader!

I can be contacted at eric.maundry@yahoo.com ... Cheers!



American Independence Revoked

One small quasi-serious column under my belt and your intrepid columnist had plans to resume the noble pursuit of childish drivel. This has all been changed, at least for this issue.

It has come to this reporter's attention that legal actions have been taken against the United States of America. Actions that have affected our very sovereignty.

According to the world wide web (which is always truthful and accurate), Her Sovereign Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, reacting to our apparent incompetence at governing ourselves, has revoked our independence effective immediately.

Her majesty further stated she will immediately resume monarchical duties over all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Crown spokesperson John Cleese has submitted a list of rules which are introduced with immediate effect. Here are highlights of those rules.

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour', 'favour', and 'neighbour'.
2. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left with immediate effect.
3. The country will go metric immediately and without the benefit of conversion tables.
4. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips. And those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called "crisps."
5. The cold tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as "beer" and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as "Lager." All American brands will be referred to as "Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine", so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.
6. You will cease playing American "football." There is only one kind of proper football; you call it "soccer." Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has similarities to American "football", but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full Kevlar body armour, like a bunch of nancies).
7. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. No exceptions.
8. You will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the "World Series" for a game which is not played outside of America.
9. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.
10. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due backdated to 1776.

Sierra Madreans, are we going to stand for this? Not this reporter. Give me liberty or give me...the head of the Cumquat Kid! Shhhhhh! Here's the plan. We'll meet up at the Delirium Pub in Kersting Court. Order a Budweiser or Coors and ask Joanna, Lisa, Lucy, Sonny, Chris, or Michelle, for the secret petition. You'll have to give them the secret password: "Jim Snider".

More later.

The Book Report

with Jeff Brown

Dangerous Book for Boys (2007)

by Conn Iggluden & Hal Iggluden

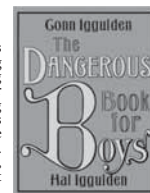
The *Dangerous Book for Boys* became a mammoth bestseller in the United Kingdom in 2006. Adapted for America in this edition, *The Dangerous Book* is a guide book for boys as well as dads or moms. It's for every boy from eight to eighty as a reminder of the lore and technique that has not yet completely disappeared in our computer age. Brothers Hal and Conn have put together a delightful collection of all things that make being young fun. Some girls will like this as well.

It covers such boyhood skills as building tree houses, finding true north learning how to fish, building go-carts and electromagnets, identifying insects and spiders, flying the world's best paper airplanes, heroic stories and even answering the question about what is the big deal about girls. There is still a place for skimming stones and making knots. This book captures Sunday afternoons, encourages curiosity, and stimulates ideas for great parent son activities. As the author wrote, "I've had a lot of emails and letters from boys who loved the book—as well as fathers. I've had responses from kids as young as ten and an old man of 87. The thing to remember is that we may be older and more cynical every year, but boys simply aren't. If they are given the chance to make a go-cart with their dad, they jump at it. Mine did. Nothing gives me more pleasure than to know the book is being used with fathers and sons together, trying things out. Nothing is more valuable to a boy than

time with his dad, learning something fun - or something difficult. That's part of the attitude too. If it's hard, you don't make it easy, you grab it by the throat and hang on for as long as it takes." Just some of the other chapters are: The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Stickball, Slingshots, Fossils, Cloud Formation, First Aid, Making a Bow And Arrow, Fishing, Astronomy, Extraordinary Stories, The Moon, Timers and Tripwires Baseball's "Most Valuable Players", Pinhole Projection Famous Battles-Including Lexington and Concord, The Alamo, and Gettysburg, Spies-Codes and Ciphers, Navajo Code Talkers' Dictionary, Questions About The World, Books Every Boy Should Read, The States of the U.S., Mountains of the U.S., Navigation, The Declaration of Independence, Making A Periscope, The Ten Commandments, Common US Trees, Timeline of American History, and Secret Inks.

A simply wonderful book! Enjoy! A book that looks good for girls is The American Girl's Handy Book: Making the Most of Outdoor Fun by Lina Beard

Any comments or recommendations please email them to jab33jab@yahoo.com



Scene One, Take One- DVD Reviews with Jeff Brown



Grand Hotel, an MGM release directed by Edmund Goulding, was winner of the Academy Award for best film in 1932 and is a wonderful treat with a fantastic cast that keeps you entranced from beginning to end. It is set in the Grand Hotel, the most luxurious and expensive hotel in Berlin. The art deco and luxurious sets are wonderfully rich. Only the highest of high society gains entrance to the Grand Hotel, a fabulous place where "nothing ever happens." Its guests, however, provide lots of drama: a Russian ballerina, the great Greta Garbo, who is in love with John Barrymore, a fallen Baron traveling with his Dachshund dog, desperately in need of money to pay off a heavy debt, a secretary Joan Crawford, mesmerized by a tyrant Wallace Berry, who is a non-sensate cruel industrialist staying at the hotel to negotiate a business deal with an important client, Lionel Barrymore, a bookkeeper, diagnosed with an incurable disease who quits his job to enjoy his remaining days to the fullest; and a lonely doctor Lewis Stone, who walks about the hotel lobby, observing the goings on, and reciting to himself quietly, "Grand Hotel, people come, people go, and nothing ever happens!" But so much does happen as these characters and the great Hotel activity fill the story with deep existential situations: Love, despair, greed, desperation, friendship. It's a very moving movie not to be missed. It can be found at Netflix and Blockbuster home delivery.

If you have any films you'd like to recommend email them to jab33jab@verizon.net.

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

PUSD Must Address High School Exit Exam Stats

By Dean Lee

During a recent PUSD Board meeting, newly elected member Renatta Cooper repeatedly begged the question, what happens to students that don't test well, after Younghee Jang, director of student assessment and program evaluation said 59 PUSD students will not graduate this year because of failed state exit exams even after having completed all other requirements.

"The reason I'm asking this is because on my long campaigning I met a parent who's daughter was in this exact situation," Cooper said. "She went on to be accepted into a well known university and I want to know how many other students are in this same situation."

Jang said students who failed the California High School Exit Exam but passed all other criteria was low but Cooper insisted that something be done in advance. Jang said starting in 10th grade students, on average, get six opportunities to take the test.

Jang also said students can still get their diplomas even after leaving high school but only after retaking the test through a number of programs available during the summer. She said last year 17 students did just that. She also said most students did not care as much about getting a diploma as they did participating in graduation ceremonies. The district was down five students from last year with 64 students in this odd situation she said.

Some Board members suggested that what they were really asking for was to rethink the graduation requirements.

According to the requirements only students that have been in the United States for two

year or less may graduate without passing the exit exam. Special education students are also exempt under the state disabilities Education Code she said.

Students can enroll in summer school CAHSEE preparation classes offered at PUSD high school and continue enrollment during the fall semester in preparation for the November administration of the test. The prep classes are also available to 10th and 11th grade students who have failed the test Jang said.

Another option students had was to attend Pasadena City College through the Committee Education Center. This was the most popular, "They don't like the idea of going back to their old schools," she said.

The Board asked staff to bring them back a report on the findings.

The 2007-2008 proposed budget was made available Tuesday, but only two copies will be available, with both held in the District office for viewing. Anyone requesting a copy will be charged a fee. In the interest of time staff did not go over any part of the budget, only saying that it remained very similar to last year's. This disturbed board member, Ed Honowitz.

Honowitz commented that if the budget stayed the same then there was no room for future programs, "We need to be moving forward."

Without any explanation the PUSD have not archived the minutes from the last two consecutive board meetings. Although the meetings have been streamed live on the internet, the last posted video minutes were May 8, coinciding with a change in leadership.

Back To School

By Pat Ostrye

Just about now, the middle of July, parents are wondering why they had so looked forward to the annual summer interlude, with no early morning school routine or after-school homework supervision. It seemed that those three months of leisurely do-nothing hours were all one would want out of life: time at the beach, early evenings on the patio, swim parties, not a care in the world!! Being situated in the foothills, we even watched the deer prance through the property on those heavenly, cool evenings.

So, what happened after only six weeks into this fantasy?! In my experience, our seven youngsters became sooo bored and my husband and I were running out of creative projects. In the early days, I didn't believe in enforcing summer school, although I recall that our family dentist once stated that there was always something beneficial at school, no matter what or when. I had the foolish notion

that everyone needs a rest from studying so that they would be happy to resume the old routine when September rolls around. I lived to regret that notion.

Fortunately, the city had a wonderful Summer recreation program at the elementary school only three blocks away. Against their better judgment, I would send six of them off at 9 am with their lunches and a large thermos of Kool-Aid and they would be kept busy until 2 pm, five days a week. My husband was a teacher who often wrote technical manuals for Lockheed in the summer, leaving the youngest, a pre-schooler, and me alone with our solitude. In those days I did a lot of baking so, after their trip home, there were handfuls of cookies and our swimming pool to keep them occupied and cooled-off for the rest of the afternoon.

With another six weeks to go, we would be counting the days, while the kids were perusing the Back-

to-School ads for whatever was trendy or whatever their friends thought was trendy. The common slogan at the time was First to Sears. Then to School! How unsophisticated we were! Today I picked up a supplement in the morning paper with a big headline, Back To School Sale!! It was Fry's Electronics. As far as I can figure, in this digital/electronics age, first of all, the kids must all be geniuses just to be able to understand what these ads are all about. Second, the parents won't get out of the store for less than \$2000.

However, there was a Staples commercial on TV, beginning around 1994 and has been brought out almost every year since, that says it all: the father is absolutely ecstatic as he pushes the shopping cart along, throwing in all of the necessary school supplies for the two gloomy-looking youngsters walking beside him.

Those Were The Days!!

TRISH'S TRUTH

Sibling Suggestions

By Trisha Collins

Brothers, sisters, children of your parents. They can be annoying, very distracting, and rarely sweet. Most live to annoy at the very worst times. While you're on the phone, they might get on the other line and make strange noises. They could embarrass you in front of your crush (it's happened to me before). All my life I've been an only child, but up until a few weeks ago I have become an older sister to a 7-year old boy and a two-year old girl. I wasn't used to the situation at first, but the awkwardness quickly went away. Within the day of our first meeting, my brother and I were fighting, like any other sibling in America.

At times you might ask your parents, "Are you sure he's not adopted?" You have to realize that they are your family and you're stuck with them. Maybe things aren't going so well between you and younger brother or sister, but here are some tips that might help your situation.

1. Your younger brother is constantly bothering you. He throws stuffed animals at you and is always following you. You normally yell at him to leave you alone or chase him out your room. Either way, you are responding to his actions; that's what he wants. He wants you to get angry and frustrated. Sad as it is, that is his goal: to get on his older brother/sister's nerves, and be a traditionally pesky younger brother. It's practically his job. Sure, he'll bother you, but you don't have to let it bother you. When he annoys you, show no emotion, act like you don't care. If you show him (or her) that you won't respond, he/she most likely will stop.

2. Friends call you on your cell phone, and you ask your mom if you can go to the movies. Immediately your little sister shows up saying, "I'm coming too!" You tell her that she can't come and she throws a fit, saying how she never gets to go anywhere and how mean you are. In your mind you're saying, "Not again...", but you have to try and understand. It's not easy being a younger sister but there's a time for you to bond and a time for you to have time for yourself. So, why not tell her you'll do something with her after you get back. She might just want to spend some time with her older sibling. Give her some one on one and she might not feel so left out won't ask to go with you everywhere all the time.

3. Your younger sibling is constantly bothering you to a point where it's unreasonable. You are always arguing and can't agree on anything. Maybe all this is a sign that you just need to talk. Sit down with them and cook up a plan to solve all the rivalry. Maybe you could come up with a deal, like: you'll help him with his homework, if he leaves you alone for a couple hours. You never know, a compromise that you made up together might be just what you need. Show him/her that you care and you just want to make things better for the both of you.

I hope some of this advice was helpful to you, and that things improve. But remember, at the end of the day, your younger siblings are still family, and family=love.

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Weizmann Day School
1434 N. Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107
626-797-0204
Lisa Feldman Head of School

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

Have you ever wonder is 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.

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TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS

Tipping Part I



I hope the headline grabbed your attention. Tipping is well, to insure good service. But wait, to insure good service in advance? Only at Starbucks would that make any sense. Very few times have I gone to a restaurant and actually tipped in advance. Opening day at The Race Track at Del Mar is the only occasion I can even remember having to tip in advance. The reason is there are very few seats available for the overflow crowd. Thus, the maitre'd just takes the tip and that really doesn't insure great service at all.

Let's get straight to it. When at a restaurant, you tip on the speed and accuracy of service not on the food. So with that being said, let's continue on. I have heard that tipping at a fancy restaurant and tipping at a coffee shop are different. Hogwash!!!

These are my tips for tipping - not necessarily the way I tip. I even give 10% for really bad service. Seems with my picture in this paper and on my TV show "The Chef Knows" that I might get a bad rep from the Server Syndicate.

Here are my suggestions for you. Again, no matter where you are:

Fair to medium service	12 to 14 %
Good to Better than Average	15 to 18%
Great Service	20%

Can't figure the whole percentage on tipping.
Best way is to just double the tax.

Let me answer a few other questions.

Valet Parking... If there is no charge and it's a tip only, I suggest at least \$5, again depending on speed of service. What if there is a \$5 fee? I will give at least \$1 extra and maybe even \$3 if my car is brought to me quickly.

How about Wine or a drink at the bar? A full bottle of a \$10 wine takes as much energy as a bottle of Dom Perignon to open. So, if the bartender keeps my glass full and clean and if the wine is kept cold and is poured for me, I suggest 10 to 12% with a minimum of \$3 for the bartender.

Have Kids? Sure I do. Sometimes they make a mess, throw food and crayons on the floor. I always leave the busboy at least \$3!!! If you don't, well you could consider cleaning it yourself.

Helpful? We review tipping again in a few weeks.

Email me at the chefknows@yahoo.com with your thoughts.

Join me every Sunday Night at 8 PM on KJLA TV for the Chef Knows



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The Snow Horizontal Solar Telescope:

At The Mount Wilson Observatory

Long before Frank Gehry discovered corrugated metal was "cool", George Ellery Hale had discovered the same. He was looking for a "skin" to cover his solar telescope, a skin that would allow as much cool air as possible to move through the 30' (30 foot) structure, ingeniously built to follow the exact contour of the mountain slope, on the side of Mount Wilson. His horizontal telescope (as it was once called), which was built to study the sun and the heat of the sun, would fry most telescopes. His very long telescope had an F30 f-stop, 30 times the distance of the diameter of the lens.

The telescope shot light collected from mirrors set out to the sun on the front deck to the back wall of the structure, to hit another mirror that would shoot the beam back to a telescope in the center of the building which then forced the beam down through a metal slit the width of a single hair, into the basement where the spectroscope lay. A really big prism was the result (as an artist, this seems enough for me, this "light opera" is done!) but the spectra held clues as to the elements of the sun itself that a solar physicist (Hale's discipline) could use for research.

As with all of the structures on Mount Wilson, the play of the structures with the setting (on the top of a mountain that re-defines the word "precipitous"; you are literally standing above the tops of these giant fir trees, with a drop of 1,000 ft. only steps away) is amazing.

To Hale's mind, the structure built to house the first telescope on the mountain, was purely utilitarian. But Hale was never a "utilitarian" kind of guy. Of course he had to build something heart-breakingly beautiful...and inventive...and practical.

Originally he used canvas, and old photographs from this period reveal a breathtaking structure. The canvas layers cantilever down and pick up wind; the building looks like a giant ship, ready to take sail.

Corrugated metal proved more durable and it follows the over-lapping shell design of its canvas-covered predecessor and in itself, a beautiful

material (as Gehry was to discover many years later). The Snow telescope is its incongruous name derives, where else, from the name of its benefactor - but the only thing "snowish" about it is the white paint, peeling to a beautiful patina) predated her modernized "brothers", the 60' and the 100' solar telescopes (built in 1908) standing (literally) by her side, and stealing her spotlight, pretty early on in her life. These are the ones that you can see everyday from Pasadena.

The good news for all of us is that this treasure, the 1905 Snow Solar Telescope, is still standing and, thanks to the countless hours of self-sacrificing volunteers, still working! I urge you to go and see this magnificent, historic structure for yourself.



The Snow Telescope
- Photo Courtesy MWOA

Visit The Mt. Wilson Observatory:

7 days a week - Summer Hours
10-4:00 p.m. and by special arrangement.
Walking Tours: Sat. and Sun., 1:00 p.m.
Directions: www.mwoa.org/direct.html
Info: www.mwoa.org

Students at Mt. Wilson Tackle Tough Projects

By Bob Eklund

Blair Cardigan Smith from the University of Winnipeg, Canada, wants to image the light of a distant quasar, magnified by the "gravitational lens" effect of a nearer galaxy.

Tabitha Whipple from San Diego State University wants to measure the change in brightness of a star as an exoplanet passes in front of it.

These projects represent frontier areas in today's astronomy—observations typically done by professional astronomers using telescopes far larger than the 16-inch available to students at Mount Wilson Observatory. But Blair and Tabitha and their fellow students at the 18th annual session of CUREA (Consortium for Undergraduate Research and Education in Astronomy) are out to push the limits of what students can do.

As of this writing, the six students participating in CUREA 2007 are halfway through the 2-week session, which began July 8. "It's a measure of the intensity of the program that our students are ready to take on individual observing projects after only one week of preparation," says CUREA Director Paula Turner, who teaches astronomy at Kenyon College in Ohio. "In that first week they learn a lot of observing and imaging techniques."

The work includes both daytime and nighttime observing. In the daytime

program, the students learn solar physics by using the historic 1904-era Snow solar telescope, now equipped with state-of-the-art instruments that include a CCD digital camera for recording the solar spectrum.

For nighttime projects, the primary instrument is a Meade 16-inch telescope. "With the 16-inch, the students are learning to use a typical set-up on a well-equipped college telescope," Turner explains. "The equipment includes an imaging CCD camera, a 3-color filter wheel, and a small spectrometer. We teach them how to use it for 3-color images, photometry (brightness measurements), and spectroscopy."

"By the end of the first week, the students have learned what is possible with this equipment," Turner adds. "Then they decide what kinds of things they'd like to learn more about—and that determines their projects for the second week."

Three of the students have chosen to work on solar projects at the Snow telescope. Allison Bretna from the University of California at San Diego is measuring the differences in the pressure and density of the hot gases on different parts of the Sun. Clint Burdick from the University of Hawaii, who says he has always wanted to know more about magnetism, is studying the intense magnetic fields

that exist in and around sunspots. And Joey Konieczny from Kenyon College is measuring how the Sun rotates—much faster at the equator than near the poles.

All but one of the CUREA students are of college age and preparing for careers in astronomy or physics. The exception is Joan Chamberlin. Joan is a retired special education teacher from Maine, who fell in love with astronomy a few years ago and now devotes her time to helping young people get in touch with the stars. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, she is also a member of JPL's Solar System Ambassadors program, which helps encourage school-age children to go into aerospace and astronomy careers.

After she completes her CUREA project—which involves 3-color imaging and brightness measurements of the stars in a star cluster, in order to chart the distribution of the cluster's young, old, hot, and cool stars—Joan plans to share the techniques she has learned at Mt. Wilson with her friends at Southern Maine Astronomers, an astronomy club that provides advice and help to astronomy classes at Cape Elizabeth High School near Portland, Maine.

To Learn More About CUREA Go To:
<http://www.curea.org>

The Time Is Now

by Paul the Cyberian

I was working on friend's computer the other day and after the initial diagnostic checks and virus \ spyware scans, I determined that the machine was functional enough for their uses, but it really was on the borderline of needing replacement. At first we balked at the idea of replacing the machine outright as it was slightly under 3 years old and a little pricey at that. So instead of going on a full-scale computer shopping spree we decided to upgrade the machine instead.

The plan was to re-locate space-hogging data directories to a second hard drive, re-configure installed programs to save and retrieve data from the second drive and install more RAM. The machine in question had always been under-populated in my opinion since it only had 256MB of RAM but it had worked just fine. It was running Windows XP Home Edition which isn't known for being especially efficient when it comes to memory management. We had mulled the prospect of also upgrading the OS to Vista Home Edition but opted to put that project off until a later date as it would not have given them any significant user advantages at the desktop.

Our shopping list consisted of

- One - 512 MB DDR RAM module and
- One - 80GB Hard drive.

The total price came to just under \$125.00 for both items. The total cost for the labor involved was \$125.00 bringing the grand total to \$250.00.

None of what transpired that afternoon was remarkable and the work was completed without a hitch with all the promised benefits being delivered. The final result was a 2.0 Ghz Pentium 4 - Windows XP Home computer with 768 MB of DDR RAM. All the programs worked better than they had before and the mission was completed at minimal cost.

I used the Internet Archive (archive.org) or as it is popularly known, the "Wayback Machine" to compare advertised prices from July 2004 for the computer retailer that we purchased our parts (and their computer) from in order to see what the price difference between the upgrade now cost vs. what it would have cost when they purchased their computer.

Today's Prices:

One	80GB Hard Drive	\$80.00
One	512 MB DDR RAM	\$45.00
One	1.5 Hrs House Call	\$125.00
		Total = \$250.00

July 2004 Prices:

One	80GB Hard Drive	\$230.00
One	512MB RAM	\$80.00
One	1.5 Hrs House Call	\$125.00
		Total = \$435.00

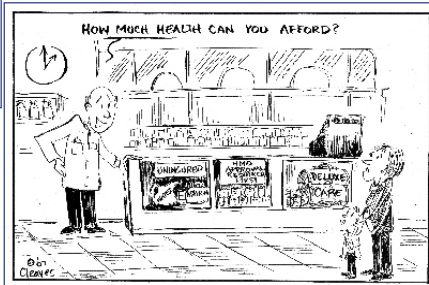
There is a moral to the story:

You don't always have to buy a whole new computer if your old one isn't serving your needs.

So if you're thinking about upgrading now is the time.

There is no telling what it may cost you tomorrow.

P.S. - Only the price of parts went down. Not the House Call.



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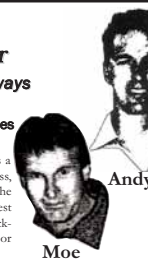
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Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Extreme Classroom Makeover at John Marshall

John Marshall Fundamental School, on Allen in northeast Pasadena, ranked 130th in a *Newsweek's* current ranking of the top public high schools in the nation. Using *Newsweek's* ratio dividing the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at a school in 2006 by the number of graduating seniors, Marshall ranked 10th in California's schools in that same evaluation. Yet 70 per cent of the student population falls beneath the poverty line.



Clutter, broken equipment and white walls filled the "before" picture of Kavanagh's classroom.

English teacher, Patricia Kavanagh is known for her Herculean efforts to identify a myriad of college scholarship opportunities for her students. EXPO Corporation, manufacturer of dry erase markers and boards, once again offered \$1,000 for college scholarship funds to student essay winners on the topic, "Why My Teacher Deserves a Classroom Makeover". The winning teacher would receive a \$25,000 classroom makeover. Kavanagh encouraged her students to enter and write about a special teacher. Chosen from over 10,000 entries, Kavanagh's own student, Samantha Stauber wrote the grand prize

winning essay, featuring this special teacher herself. In fact, three of the nine finalist essays came from Marshall.

Obviously something good is happening at this academically strong school. Kavanagh commented that the preponderance of Marshall's budget dollars go to the books and learning materials needed to drive this commendable school's programs. Little is left over for niceties.

She chuckles wryly about the state of the classroom before the makeover. "It was a pit. My desk drawers had been broken for years, and sat next to my desk on the floor. It was drab. There was no color in the room; everything was in a pale eggshell color. Color was the most startling and most powerful change." Right in line with what EXPO's classroom research, their company website indicates, "Both color and technology are important components for learning, indispensable in today's changing classrooms. In fact, a recent survey commissioned by EXPO found that virtually all teachers strive to integrate color in their teaching materials... to get students' attention and help them to concentrate and retain information." The 2007 EXPO Classroom Makeover Contest aimed to enhance learning by adding color to dusty, drab classrooms with a \$25,000 colorful classroom overhaul. For Kavanagh, this included a bold new color palette of gold, purple and lime green, repaired and refinished hardwood flooring, a carpeted area, a seating area under the windows, new desks and chairs, updated technology including a mimio interactive whiteboard system and, of course EXPO dry erase boards and those famous colorful markers.

Co-sponsored by EXPO/Sanford and Scholastic, St. Louis based designer, Jessie Goedecker was sent to identify Kavanagh's classroom needs. "They look around the country for dynamic young designers intrigued by the notion of how to make classrooms look vibrant. Jessie was incredible, and really listened to what I needed. One of my problems was clutter. Instead of locked cabinets, the open storage forces me to organize."

Local Pasadena flooring contractor, Marla Jakovljevic of Pasadena Wood Floors, was referred to the project through her association with the National Wood Flooring Association (NFWA). She coordinated not only the refurbishment of the decades old wood Douglas fir flooring, but also the custom designed seating and cabinetry. Jakovljevic, a first generation immigrant of Filipino descent, was drawn to the project in a school with many first generation immigrants, as she herself came here as a young adult, with English as a second language. She prizes and prioritizes learning for her own children, and considered this a great opportunity to give back to her Pasadena community.

Completed in only a week, the unveiling was a poignant moment for Kavanagh. Essay winner, Stauber, tore through the wrapping, bringing her teacher into the newly completed room at a special ceremony and assembly on May 18. Kavanagh says "What an amazing difference! The built-in seating nook on the side provides intimacy and makes the students feel special. I think of it as a piece of art! It's all beautiful, very durable, attractive and great quality!"



John Marshall English teacher, Patricia Kavanagh, and contractor Marla Jakovljevic, of Pasadena Wood Floors, are all smiles at the completed classroom makeover results.

The new 2007 makeover essay contest is open for submissions until October 15. Full rules are available at EXPO's website link at www.exposchoolmakeover.com, inviting K-12 teachers nationwide to submit a classroom photo and write an essay of no more than 100 words describing why their classrooms deserve a makeover.

Know of an interesting building or garden that might interest our readers? Contact me at C.Bertrand@TheMtWilsonObserver.com

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Tough Times Call For Drastic Measure.....

Well, it's our one month anniversary... "Enrico's" and mine. That's how long my little avian Lothario has been serenading me in his quest to appeal to the distaff side of *Mimus polyglottos* (mockingbirds). I did a little more research about him and got rather discouraged. It seems the older the mockingbird, the greater the repertoire. If that wasn't bad enough news, this is also molting season. Just great! Not only is my Enrico old, he's losing his feathers and would probably be considered a "double-bagger" in bar room lingo. Translation: Ugly with a capital U. Woe is me.

My Kiwanis Club had a fascinating program last week given by Steve McNall, CEO of the Pasadena Humane Society

(and "eye-candy" for the AARP set, by the way). Falconry was his topic. He mentioned that the bill of fare for birds of prey includes other birds. Hmm... A light bulb went on in my sinister brain. Tough times call for desperate measures, as they say. Even though he sits atop a telephone pole with nothing camouflaging him, it's obvious that little Enrico doesn't even appeal to a hawk or a falcon. Dra! Must be the molting thing.

I'll be in Catalina tomorrow and I'm looking forward to some peace and quiet. However, with my luck mockingbirds have made the trek 23 miles across the sea. If they aren't there, I know one will be waiting to welcome me home. Tra la twedle dee dee dee, yet again.

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SPORTS

"It's a phenomenal feeling to go one-two-three"



U. S. WOMEN SWEEP 2007 PAN AM GAMES IN BRAZIL

Iyana Hong, 14, took home the Bronze medal at this year's Pan Am Games in Brazil. The US Women swept the All Around in gymnastics. The last time the US swept the women's all-around was in 1995. The USA has done so seven times: 2007, 1995, 1987, 1975, 1971, 1967 and 1963.

"It's a phenomenal feeling to go one-two-three," said young Miss Hong. Iyana is the daughter of Mike and Michelle Hong.

In order to continue competing, the Hong family must maintain a residence near the Olympic Training Facility, which means Dad must stay in California and work. Mom and siblings Isabella, Isadora and Preston live away with Iyana. Needless to say, the financial burden is enormous. The Hong family is responsible for many of Iyana's expenses when she travels with the team. If you would like to make a contribution to assist the Hong family, please contact Despina Arouzman at 355-3414. -Photos courtesy of USGA

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View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

Isn't It BASEBALL, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie...?

As I prepared to write my column this week the media was focused on Michael Vick, the quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League who had just been indicted in federal court for his actions surrounding dog fighting. If the allegations prove to be true, then this is yet another example of a professional athlete thumbing his nose at the rules and living outside of the law when he has every reason to be a model citizen. I don't know about you but I am tired of these guys who should be very thankful for what they have rather than act like complete idiots. Enough of the 'athlete screw up of the week', instead, I decided to write about a group of college students that did not get the ink they deserved, the Oregon State, Beavers baseball team.

The Beavers won this year's College World Series of Baseball, again. They also won the championship last year. Because baseball is not one of today's glamour sports, not much was said about what these student athletes were able to achieve. Compare the Oregon championship run to that of Florida in basketball. The Gators got all the media attention. Oregon and baseball was an afterthought to most of the press. This is truly unfortunate for the college World Series held true drama.

In the finals the Beavers were playing the Tar Heels of North Carolina a best of two out of three series. They had beaten NC the year before to win the title so NC was out for redemption.

The college world series are held in Omaha, Nebraska every year and is a tournament much like the NCAA basketball tournament - March

Madness. Because baseball no longer has the public interest they way football and basketball do, what the Beavers did in late June was not discussed with the fervor of the other sports. During the basketball tournament there is the office pool and depending upon your office size the winnings can be a tidy sum. There is always much discussion as to how your team will be seated and in what region. The crowning of a college football champion is discussed, debated and argued for the entire season, Congress has even been known to be involved in the discussion. College baseball does not get that type of coverage so what the Beavers did by repeating as champions went largely unnoticed.

Oregon was fortunate to be invited to the tournament; the team had finished sixth in the Pac Ten conference. The invitation was extended because they had won ten straight games at the close of the season. They were also the champions from the year before. The Beavers traveled to Virginia and were almost eliminated in the regional. After that lost in Virginia they never lost another game, but even more impressive was the fact that they were behind for only one inning while in Omaha. They literally ran the table. But, did you hear about that? Was there a pool in your office? Did any major network carry coverage of what used to be America's pastime at the college level? My apologies to the stars of this championship team. My apologies for our neglect. Go Beavers, job well done.

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