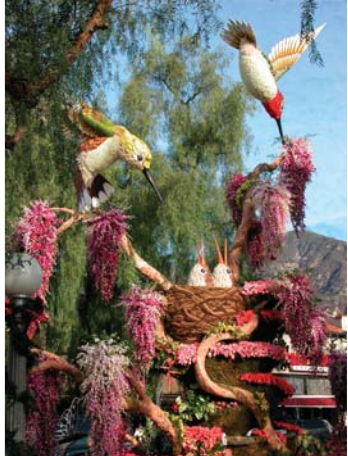


# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

A DEUXAMIS PUBLICATION  
WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, January 5 - January 10, 2007 Volume 2, No. 1

## THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOAT COMES HOME *Our Wonderful Wistaria wins the coveted Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy*



Photos by  
Jacqueline  
Truong

By Katina Dunn  
Heralding 2007, the award-winning Sierra Madre Rose float was parked at Kersting Court this week for all to enjoy. The brilliant people who designed and made this float, along with their cooperation and selflessness, are symbolic of the very best of Sierra Madre. We are deeply indebted to all those volunteers – including designer Charles Meier – who created the beautiful thing for its own sake, for the benefit of all of us. “I am so thankful for the opportunity to work with these people,” said Meier. Students from Gooden and Bethany Christian schools filed past the float Wednesday morning in childlike wonder. Leftover flowers including orchids and roses were sold as well as official Rose Parade hummingbird pins to support next year’s creation. Float builders Don Mills and Dick Sappington were there, with Rose Float Association President Bob Young.

Public Works Director Bruce Inman gave Young a great photo of the float from Inman’s home town paper, the *Orange County Register*. Council member Kurt Zimmerman was also

admiring the engineering and complimenting Young. “It is outstanding,” said Ronald Swim, a Texan visiting his daughter Susan for the holidays. “I am so proud of the people here.” Equally enthralled was Wes Haines of Sierra Madre, captured by its beauty.

The Sierra Madre float cost about \$35,000 in donated funds, compared to the Sweepstakes Trophy winning float which cost an estimated \$350,000, according to Meier. The award won by Sierra Madre is the Lathrop K. Leishman (he was 1939 Tournament of Roses President) trophy for “Most Beautiful Non-Commercial.”

It is fitting for the city to be so honored in its centennial year of 2007: “Most Beautiful,” “Non-Commercial” and – echoing the theme of the parade – “Our Good Nature.”

Work begins now on next year’s float. To volunteer, call Bonnie Colcher at (626) 355-7999. To donate funds – and new import taxes will increase the price of flowers next year – call Don Mills at (626) 355-0133.

## Citizen Shollenberger



Nancy Shollenberger performing her duties at City Hall (inset) and with son and daughter in Ohio. Photos courtesy of the Shollenberger Family

By Susan Henderson

When you first meet Nancy Shollenberger,

Sierra Madre’s City Clerk, you see a kind face, warm smile, welcoming eyes and an easygoing

demeanor. Beyond these exterior features is so much more – incredible strength, dignity, and intelligence.

I had the opportunity to sit down and chat with Nancy a few months ago before the holidays. This holiday season was going to be one of the most difficult ever faced by Nancy, for she lost her beloved husband Herb last August.

“I’m doing okay,” she said with a touch of sadness in her voice. Herb and Nancy had been married forever and were truly best friends.

(continued page 3)

## Work Begins On Reservoir Project

Mira Monte Reservoir Improvements Begin Next Week

By Dean Lee

The city could begin digging up streets and fencing off Mount Wilson Trail Park as soon as next Tuesday in perpetration for the first phase of the Mira Monte Reservoir project that

includes replacing two water tanks, pumping stations, and the intricate tangle of pipes running to and from the site, said Public Works Director Bruce Inman during a public meeting Dec. 27.

The Mira Monte project is the largest in the city’s history, Inman said, totaling \$8 million and possibly taking up to 21 months to complete in three phases. He explained that the project is desperately needed in case of a large earthquake, (continued pg. 4)



Sierra Madre Police Chief Marily Diaz proudly wears new Centennial Badge. Photo by Jacqueline Truong



Mira Monte Reservoir

## BIG Birthday Coming Up 2007 Ushers In Centennial Celebration Page 3

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- 10 High School Review

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# Weather Wise

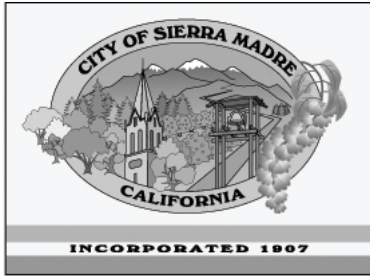
5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.  
Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Friday:	Clear	Hi 60s	Lows 40s-50s	Windy
Saturday:	Clear	Hi 60s	Lows 40s-50s	
Sunday:	Clear	Hi 60s	Lows 40s-50s	
Monday:	Clear	Hi 70s	Lows 40s-50s	
Tuesday:	Clear	Hi 70s	Lows 40s-50s	

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

## Citizens' Datebook



### City of Sierra Madre January Events

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 - Holiday, City Hall Closed                   | 17 - Cultural Arts Master Plan Meeting 6:00 pm |
| 4 - Senior Community Commission 3:00 pm         | 17 - Tree Advisory Commission 7:00 pm          |
| 4 - Planning Commission 7:30 pm                 | 18 - Planning Commission 7:30 pm               |
| 9 - City Council 6:30 pm                        | 23 - City Council 6:30 pm                      |
| 10 - Community Arts Commission 6:30 pm          | 24 - Youth & Safety Meeting 6:30 pm            |
| 12 - SMTV3 Fundraiser to Live TV Taping 3:30 pm | 24 - Library board of Trustees 7:00 pm         |
| 12 - Art Show in City Hall 6:00 pm              | 27 - Dog & People Walk 9:00 am                 |
| 12 - Travelers & Collectors 7:30 pm             | 31 - All-America City Rally 6:00 pm            |
| 15 - Holiday, City Hall Closed                  |  |

**SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS**  
**TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS SERIES**  
Friday, January 12, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.  
"Burma" By Marion Gasper  
Sierra Madre City Council Chambers  
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

**Bargain Books Table**  
Monday, Jan. 8, - Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007  
Children's books, fiction, collectible books, and specialty books - all in good condition - will be sold, priced as marked, during the Library's public open hours.  
The Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. is open Monday - Wednesday from noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Please visit the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186. Sponsored by *The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library*

**Tom Nuccio at Sierra Madre Garden Club**  
Monday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
Tom Nuccio is part of the family-owned Nuccio Nurseries, Inc. known worldwide for its camellias and azaleas - more than 600 cultivars and species. The nursery is located on six acres in Altadena.  
Public is welcome to enjoy a catered dinner with program following. RSVP dinner at \$8 per person (626) 355-0606. Lecture begins at 7:15 p.m.  
Memorial Park Hart Senior Center  
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



## Roy Roams' 91024

**Hip on Hops**  
One new law will please local ale meisters - it's the "Free Happy Hour Bill" which lifts the ban on free beer tasting. Apparently some buds demanded equal protection like the vines.  
**The Clymer Revolution**  
Kim Clymer has been promoting the use of fluorescent bulbs by giving them away for free for months. She touts an organization called Bright Idea which aims to distribute 110 million bulbs nationwide. Clymer always said if one compact fluorescent bulb (CFL) replaced one incandescent bulb in every household, it would reduce the amount of greenhouse gases equivalent to removing 1.3 million cars from the road.  
Clymer would often sit at a table downtown, collecting donations and passing out free light bulbs.  
The New York Times in a front page story January 2 announces a similar effort by Wal-Mart stores, to place fluorescent light bulbs in at least 100 million homes.  
Americans could save more than \$3 billion in electricity costs. There was even a light bulb summit in Las Vegas attended by Wal-Mart executives, environmentalists and government officials.  
So far, the mega store sold more than 4 million bulbs in 2006. Just 96 million more bulbs to go.  
Wal-Mart's goal is to create a "broader cultural movement" which could include other large retailers such as Target, Walgreen's and Home Depot. Google and Yahoo people are in talks with Wal-Mart people about promoting the CFLs, so said the New York Times. Meanwhile, Clymer has her people

and her very own cultural movement in Sierra Madre. For more information, call (626) 355-1629. Or look for her at Beantown.  
**Is C-17 the New Area 51?**  
A front page story in the Chicago Tribune by Jon Hilkevitch on New Year's Day features interviews with employees of United Airlines at O'Hare International Airport who claim to have seen an Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon in early November.  
The sighting occurred at 4:30 p.m. on November 7 in the sky above gate C-17, witnesses said. A variety of workers - airline pilots, administrators, a taxi mechanic, and a ramp worker all say they saw an elliptical gray object which then accelerated straight up into space, punching a hole in the clouds.  
The plot thickens. The FAA originally told the newspaper that it had no information on the alleged sighting. Hilkevitch writes that the federal agency "quickly reversed" its policy after the newspaper filed a Freedom of Information Act request.  
As it stands now, officials attribute the phenomenon to the weather. Workers are reportedly upset because they are not being taken seriously, and one shaken witness reportedly experienced "religious issues" over the sighting.  
Here's a quote from one mechanic, who was in the cockpit of a Boeing 777 he was taxiing to a hangar: "... I know that what I saw and what a lot of other people saw stood out very clearly, and it definitely was not an (earth) aircraft."  
One earthly contact to make is the reporter at [jhilkevitch@tribune.com](mailto:jhilkevitch@tribune.com) and the story can be summoned by Googling the Chicago Tribune and typing in UFO in the website's search box.

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

**Café 322**  
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414  
Sing Broadway and Opera favorites Sunday evenings - or just listen.  
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends

**Farmer's Market**  
Every Saturday  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Grapes, apples, pears, nuts and Lily's Herbs & Greens. Local honey and fresh baked bread. Menudo & tamale stand.  
PHS parking lot  
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

**Beantown**  
45 N. Baldwin  
(626) 355-1596

Friday	January 5	Windy Ridge
Saturday	January 6	Carol Martini
Sunday	January 7	Jonathan Kelly and Angela Moore

### ART EXHIBIT

Friday January 12 to Friday, February 23  
George Girges Photography Exhibit at City Hall  
(Visit [www.myfourthirds.com](http://www.myfourthirds.com) to view some work)

### FUNDRAISER FOR SMTV3

Friday, January 12th at 3:30pm

Carpool from Recreation Center to Warner Brothers in Burbank for a live taping. SMTV3 is paid \$14 per person which will help purchase tech equipment. Bring your laughter. Here's the show: *THE CLASS* (CBS) Minimum age 18. This comedy is about a group of eight 20-somethings, all of whom attended the same third-grade class 20 years ago.

### TRAILS, TALL TALES & TIMBER

By Terry Terrell, Mountain Historian

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sierra Madre Historical Society  
Sierra Madre Woman's Club  
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
For more info, call Phyllis Chapman (626) 355-3928

### Sierra Madre Environmental Action Committee (SMEAC)

Wednesday, January 24  
Call Alison Wesley at (626) 355-1544 for more info

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DINNER

Friday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m.  
Honoring the Delightful and Remarkable Community Leader Bud Switzer  
Santa Anita Turf Club Chandelier Room  
Contact Patricia Hall for tickets at (626) 355-5111  
\$45 per person, sponsored by Chamber of Commerce

### SIERRA MADRE WOMAN'S CLUB

Saturday, January 27 at 11:30 a.m.  
Guest Speaker Joyce Ride, mother of U.S. Astronaut Sally Ride  
Luncheon at Sierra Madre Woman's Club  
Call Phyllis Chapman at (626) 355-3928

### RALLY TO WIN THE ALL-AMERICA AWARD

Wednesday January 31 at 6 p.m.  
Join the Delegation!  
Sierra Madre applies again after being chosen a finalist in 2006  
Youth Activity Center at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Call (626) 355-5278 for more info

## Remembering Mary Fearman

By Phyllis Chapman

A lovely light is no longer shining. Mary Fearman died suddenly on November 27 of a heart attack. She was only 57 years-old.  
Mary gave unconditional love to her friends and especially to her family - Dan, her husband of 38 years; sons Adrian and Andrew; Adrian's wife Christa and grandson Ocean.

Services were held December 1 at St. Rita's, with the song "You Are My Sunshine" dedicated to Mary by her husband, Dan. A reception was later hosted by Joan Crow and Marlene Enmark of the Sierra Madre Civic Club.  
Fearman was a devoted volunteer to St. Rita's Church, a member of its Guild and provider of flowers for the altar. She was the landscape designer for the grounds of the Sheraton Hotel in the City of Industry, and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 1996.

Fearman was a member of the Sierra Madre Civic Club for 25 years, where she held several chairmanships, including the Huck Finn Fishing Derby, Education Awards for high school seniors and Beautification of City Hall's Rotunda.  
Mary enjoyed sailing and boating, and the family made many trips to Catalina Island.

Mary's warm personality made it a joy to be in her company. We miss her so much.



### Driver's Ed Class in Sierra Madre

If you are 15 years and older winter is the perfect time to take Driver's Ed. The class costs \$280 which includes the 30 hours of required classroom time and the 6 hours of behind the wheel driving. The classroom portion takes place in Sierra Madre's Youth Activity Center for four consecutive Sundays starting February 25 through March 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
For more information or to register, please contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.



# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Ecology Update

### Some Advice From Your State Government

So, just in case you are not feeling quite guilty enough, the California State Integrated Waste Management Board has some advice for you. Like, for example, maybe your participation in the massive, holiday mall shopping frenzy has disappeared into the fog of memory (it was last year, after all). Or maybe you have forgotten exactly how many trips you made to the curb carrying trash bags filled with grapefruit-sized crumples of festive wrapping paper and inconvenient shirt boxes from JC Penney.

If any of that is a bit hazy, use a computing machine equipped with an internet web-browser of your choice and navigate to [www.zerowaste.ca.gov](http://www.zerowaste.ca.gov). That is, unless you happen to be a heavily armed libertarian with a stunted sense of humor. In that case, please never ever gain firsthand knowledge of this particular use of your tax dollar. Seriously, you don't need this. Stop reading now. You are cranky enough already.

Aimed, with admirable fervency, at the twin goals of education and advocacy, the Zero Waste website wants you to know that you produce six pounds of trash every single day, and that you can take steps to produce less than that. But, do



Courtesy of Google Images 2006

not be mistaken, it does not wish to bore you with charts and graphs and figures. No no no. There are stories!

"You and your family have just finished your big

holiday picnic." (Holiday picnic!? Do they think this is Maine? Or Nova Scotia?) "As you clear off the table, you toss the uneaten food, paper napkins, cups and plastic utensils in the trash can. Have you ever wondered where that trash goes?"

It turns out that it does not end up in the garage of the crazy lady next door. Actually, all of that waste from your holiday picnic ("everything from paper and uneaten food, construction leftovers, cut grass, plastic, metal, old batteries, computers, phones..." it was a wild picnic) is (now, get this) "transported to a landfill in big trash trucks." Oh, I see. Thank you handy California Waste Management Board website. Big trash trucks.

The absolute highlight of the website, though, has to be the section on "No Waste Gift Giving." Now, I realize that the official gift giving season is now over. But I would really appreciate it if you would consult this information as you are shopping for my birthday next week. Here are some California Waste Management Board recommendations for "no waste" gifts:

- gift certificates
- event tickets
- pre-chewed gum
- mugs your students gave you last year
- a pat on the butt
- a huge box full of packing peanuts and the high dive stolen from the community pool (they won't notice because it's winter).

I made a few of those up. Please don't stop there, though. Once you have purchased my no waste gift, please consider one of the following "no waste gift wrapping" ideas, all of which, I promise (for real for real), come straight from the Zero Waste Website:

- Decorate oversized gifts with just a bow that can be reused again (perfect for a high dive, right?)
- Put toy animals in a cowboy hat and wrap a cowboy scarf around it.
- Use a colorful tablecloth to wrap dishes or dining room gifts.

Yes yes yes. All fine ideas. But please ignore them all. Here is the California Integrated Waste Management Board gift wrapping advice that I really want you to follow (quoted word for word from the .gov website):

- Search the attic for old family photos and mementos and give them to your favorite relative wrapped in grandma's old hat and a lace curtain.

Please read that sentence again, slowly. Now think about what it would be like to actually participate in such a gift exchange. Now think about the fact that this advice is coming to you from a state agency. Is that not the funniest thing ever? Or are you libertarian? I told you to stop reading.

### Sierra Madre Turns 100 Year Long Celebration Begins

By Susan Henderson

The City of Sierra Madre will turn 100 this year and it is time for a year-long party. Starting with Our Wonderful Wistaria in the Rose Parade, the celebrations have begun.

The year will be filled with events commemorating 100 years of prosperity in Sierra Madre with something for everyone.

The Sierra Madre Centennial Committee has mailed to every resident a beautifully designed keepsake Calendar of Events. Sierra Madream Gwen Gordon created the brochure and the logo and local printer John Johnson printed them.

There is also a Centennial Pin available. Just in case you need another copy of the calendar, most merchants in town have them available.

#### JANUARY ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Sierra Madre Rose Float Celebrates at the Rose Parade
- 2 Centennial Display highlighting the years events at the Sierra Madre Public Library. Library Hours are M,T,W, 12 - 9 Th, F, 12 - 6, Sat. 10-6
- 23 Centennial City Council Ceremony and Reception at City Hall, 6:30 pm
- 31 All-America City Delegation Rally at Youth Activity Center, 6 pm

#### Sierra Madre Before 1907



The Sierra Madre Pacific Electric Station circa 1907

When Spanish Settlers arrived in the mid-1700's there were 31 Tongva villages. Mission San Gabriel Arcangel was founded in the area currently known as Montebello. Many Tongvas were assimilated into mission culture, and the tribe became known as the Gabrielines.

In 1881, Nathaniel Carter purchased the original 1103 acres that comprise Sierra Madre - 845 from "Lucky" Baldwin; 108 from the Southern Pacific Railroad Company; and 150 from Levi Richardson. (continued on page 4)

#### SHOLLENBERGER from page 1

They have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren. You really get the first insight into this woman's incredible strength when she discusses the difficult period of Herb's illness and passing away.

She quickly manages to pull herself away from her grief and begins to talk about her plans for the future. She was looking forward to seeing her granddaughters, Claire Marie, 12, and Helen Ann, 14, over the holidays.

The mention of her family cheers Nancy up and in true Grandma instinct, out pop the pictures.

Nancy Shollenberger has been our City Clerk in Sierra Madre for more than 20 years.

First elected in 1984, she has been clerk for many mayors, including Bart Doyle, Doug Hayes, Rob Stockly, George Maurer and our current mayor, John Buchanan.

"I love Sierra Madre and I love my job as City Clerk," she said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

The City Clerk is elected to a four-year term. Among the responsibilities of this office are recording the meeting minutes of the City Council, Financing Authority and Community Redevelopment Agency; advertising legal notices, codifying newly adopted municipal codes, administering oaths, ensuring that city staff and elected and appointed officials comply with State Conflict of Interest and Campaign Reporting Laws, providing notary services, and managing municipal elections.

However, despite her years of service and dedication there has been much controversy regarding the City Clerk's duties. No one has ever accused Mrs. Shollenberger of not performing her job. It appears that these attacks have all been politically motivated.

One controversy stemmed from the fact that the City actually pays her business instead of making checks payable directly to her. However, this is a common practice in Sierra Madre. Our City Attorney's fees are paid to his law firm rather than to him directly.

Another flap in 2004 stemmed from her request for an additional \$350 per month, to add to her \$650 per month, which would have been the second increase for a Clerk in twenty years.

Currently, many of her responsibilities were transferred to the City Manager's administrative assistant and out of the oversight of the elected City Clerk.

The City Clerk, who by state statute is

responsible for protecting the integrity of the City's public records and minutes and for the City's elections, also no longer has an office in City Hall and works from her home.

City Council meeting minutes are taken by staff and not by the official elected by the public to do so.

Such delegation was objected to in a letter written by Dr. Raymond Garubo in 2003, as "Usurping the power of the People of Sierra Madre; the people you also serve, by an action that erodes the independence of a fellow elected official."

Calls made to City Manager John Gillison for more information on this situation have not yet been returned. What is the cost, for example, of an administrative assistant to perform the duties of the City Clerk in addition to what is already paid the City Clerk?

Throughout the last 4-5 years of contention between the City Clerk's office, previous City Councils and the current city administration, countless numbers of residents have come forward on Shollenberger's behalf.

In a letter to the previous council, resident Mary D. Buchan's comments reflected the sentiments of many: "...I want an elected City Clerk to be in charge of all items... I don't want the job to be parceled out to others who are responsible only to their bosses and not the electorate."

However, no changes have been made by the City's management.

Yet, despite all of the obstacles that have been placed in the City Clerk's way, she continues to perform her duties.

Nancy Shollenberger epitomizes the strength of character, integrity and professionalism we all expect from our elected officials.

With any luck, she will stick with us for



Nancy Shollenberger has sworn in many over the years, including current City Treasurer Richard Mays in 2003.

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THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

RESEVOIR from page 1 replacing facilities dating to the 1920s and 1950s with new seismically retrofitted ones.

He said each of the two new reservoirs will be able to withstand a 7 to 7.2 earthquake minimizing the city's fear of losing up to 90 percent of the water supply during an earthquake crisis situation. "In an earthquake, the city could lose its entire water supply in a matter of hours," Inman said.

The project is being funded through a low-interest loan and federal grant money. Inman said that the city's water rates would not increase to cover the cost but were being used to repay the loan.

He also assured residents that the city was doing everything possible to minimize the construction's impact, reducing the work day to end at 4 p.m. and implementing dust control. The site will be constantly wetted down and trucks would always be covered, taking the most direct route from the freeway up the hill. "They will turn off the site and go directly down Mountain Trail Ave," Inman said.

At the meeting held during the holidays, a small number of residents showed up asking only minor questions such as: what color would it be painted? "Were not really sure at this point but when the time comes we would be more than willing to take suggestions," Inman answered. "We are thinking of using a green/tan color that changes with the color of vegetation depending on the time of year." After the project is completed Inman said a series of public meetings

will be held to discuss landscaping. "It's really up to you what you want to do with the park after," he said. "We could keep it the same or completely change it."

City Council Member Joe Mosca said that from what he understood, all of the playground equipment was being moved to other parks in the city during the project.

The Mt. Wilson trail head will stay open but all the historical buildings will be fenced off from construction. "I'm not even sure fencing it off is enough," Mosca said. "We should not only be protecting them but promoting all the historical sites for this year's Centennial."

Inman said the historical buildings would be open on the weekends during times without construction and that fencing them off was to protect them. "We don't want workers wandering over there to eat lunch," he said.

Both contractors attended the meeting - Berry Matchett from Spiess Construction Co. Inc. and C. Stephen Bucknam, president of Bucknam & Associates Inc. Bucknam said he would be available during all three phases of the project. The first, removing and replacing the large green tank directly behind the park.

The second, the removal and replacement of the concrete reservoir across the street and the third, the complete replacement of the pumping station at that same site. Bucknam also said that he could be reached with concerns or comments at (949) 363-6461. Periodic bulletins will also be issued to surrounding residents, Inman said.

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE

During the week of Sunday, December 24th, to Saturday December 30th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 230 calls for service.

### Wednesday, December 27th:

10:30 AM - Petty theft, 695 West Sierra Madre Blvd, United Methodist Church. A church official reported the red letter "O" missing from the church's Christmas display. The letter is valued at \$50.00, and is 4'6" x 2'. The letter was taken between 11:00 PM Saturday, 12/23 and 8:00 AM Sunday, 12/24.

12:00 PM - Vandalism/graffiti, 232 West Sierra Madre Blvd. While on foot patrol in Memorial Park Officer Krongchana reported vandalism/graffiti on a city owned park bench. The bench was vandalized with marking pens. Damage to the bench was estimated at \$50.00.

### Thursday, December 28th:

1:55 PM - Stolen vehicle, 00 block North Mountain Trail Ave. The victim reported his grey 1992 Chevrolet van stolen between Thursday, 12/28 at 12:00 noon and 12/28 at 1:55 PM.

### BEFORE 1907 continued from page 3

1882: First schoolhouse is built - Sierra Madre's first public building.  
October 10, 1882: Sierra Madre Water Company files articles of incorporation as a mutual, non-profit organization.

1884: First burials in Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery.  
1885: New schoolhouse is built at what is now Kersting Court.

1886: Episcopal Church of the Ascension is built.  
July 1886: Sierra Madre Library founded.  
1887: Pinney House built on N. Lima Ave.

1887: Town Hall is constructed. It houses the original post office, the town's first grocery store, and Emile Deutsch's cigar factory, and also serves as a meeting place for a number of religious groups.  
1887: Sierra Madre Dramatic Club is formed.

Summer 1887: First library building is completed.  
1888: Santa Anita railroad station is built.

1888: Episcopal church is rebuilt after original building was destroyed by a windstorm in 1887. It is later registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1971.

March 17, 1888: Publication of The Sierra Madre Vista begins, Sierra Madre's short-lived first newspaper.

1890: Original Congregational Church building is completed, after meeting since 1886 in the Town Hall and the library.

December 1893: S. R. Norris is appointed as the City's first postmaster.

April 1894: Now-famous wistaria vine is purchased by Mrs. Brugman from a Monrovia nursery for seventy-five cents.

Summer 1898: Sturtevant Camp opens to the public.  
1900: First street signs are put up, marking 18 streets.

1904: Nathaniel C. Carter dies at age 64.  
1905: Jewish families in Sierra Madre form the Temple Beth Israel, later to become the Foothill Jewish Community Center.

1906: Third schoolhouse is built on West Highland Avenue between Auburn and Hermosa.  
January 1, 1906: Pacific Electric Railway begins Red Car passenger service to Sierra Madre.

Spring 1906: Carter's Camp opens.

October 1906: First electric lights in Sierra Madre are installed by Edison Electric Company.

October 11, 1906: The first installment of the Sierra Madre News is issued, printed in the home of Mr. R. T. Cowles.

December 1906: First telephones are installed - 250 of them - by the Home Telephone Company of Monrovia.

Sources: Sierra Madre Archives and Wikipedia

## Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown



Homeowners in the hillside areas known as "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" have the obligation to clear 100 feet around their structures. This is the standard throughout the city, county and state, according to the Sierra Madre Fire Marshal, the California Division of Forestry and Fire Prevention and the Los Angeles County Fire and Forestry Division, all following the California State Fire Marshal's guidelines, see: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

There, the State Fire Marshal's Home Page will give you the California Division of Forestry Fact Sheets on Fire Safety Education: "Why 100 feet?" plus many others.

If you have any questions about how to achieve this goal please call Richard Snyder, Sierra Madre Fire Marshal, 355-7135.

Also, the California Fire Safe Council website, [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org) provides information on achieving the goal of "Defensible Space." The next meeting of the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council will be, Monday, January 8, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council chambers. The program will be entirely on the topic of brush clearance regulations and methodologies. For meeting information, call 355-1182 or 355-9350

## A MESSAGE FROM FIRE MARSHAL RICH SNYDER:

Fire Marshal Rich Snyder wants data from residents enrolled in the California FAIR Plan insurance collective. Snyder wants to know if residents are being surcharged for brush clearance and what those additional charges are.

Snyder needs this data for his meeting next Thursday, January 10, with Los Angeles County fire officials who are working to close the gap between city requirements of brush clearance 100 feet from a home and the FAIR requirement of 200 feet clearance from a home.

Snyder's office has been receiving calls from panicky residents who said they were being asked to cut down oak and sycamore trees as part of brush clearance or pay exorbitant amounts of insurance. Snyder said other cities are in the same predicament, and so they are all working together to try to unify city and FAIR requirements.

The FAIR Plan is a pool of insurance companies providing coverage for those who live in hazardous areas, such as Sierra Madre's canyon, he said. Call Fire Marshal Snyder at (626) 355-7135. The number for the California FAIR Plan is 1-800-339-4099 and its website is [www.cfpnet.com](http://www.cfpnet.com)

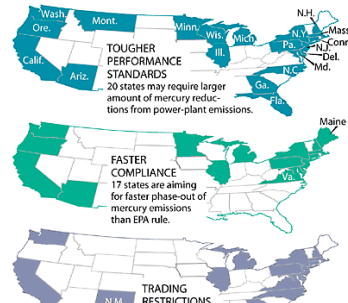
### Other Fire News: Investigation on Blaze at Lizzie's Trail Inn

Investigators continue to examine possible causes of the fire that broke out at the shed behind Lizzie's Trail Inn on the Mt. Wilson Trail Tuesday. Firefighters from Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Pasadena and a Battalion Chief from Monrovia responded to the fire at 1:27 p.m.; the fire was extinguished 27 minutes later, according to Fire Marshal Rich Snyder.

The fire started at the bottom of the hill and worked its way up, then stopped right where the brush was cleared near a home on Mt. Wilson Trail, said Snyder.

## States' tougher line on mercury emissions

At least 23 states plan to impose more stringent restrictions on coal-fired power plants than the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule.



NOTE: Rhode Island, Idaho, and Vermont are not required to participate.  
Source: National Association of Clean Air Agencies/ Rich Claburg-Staff - See New Laws - Page 8

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

## High School Senior Education Awards

By Phyllis Chapman

The Sierra Madre Civic Club announces sponsorship of its 2007 Education Awards.

Applicants must be:

- \* A senior in high school and
- \* Be a resident or employee in Sierra Madre or
- \* Have one parent working in Sierra Madre or
- \* Have a relative who is a member of the Civic Club
- \* Provide two letters of reference - one from a teacher or school administrator and one from an adult leader from applicant's volunteer activity or employer

The Awards Committee considers a student's volunteer activities, interests, talents, hobbies, accomplishments of recognition and educational and career plans.

Applications are available from high school counselors or Awards Committee Chair Amy Putnam at (626) 355-4198.

The application deadline is March 1, 2007 and awards will be announced Thursday, May 19 at the Civic Club's General Meeting held at the Senior Center in Memorial Park.

The Monetary Education Awards are part of the Club's philanthropic support of young people, which is one of the Club's priorities.

## A Kid's View of Divorce

By Anais Utzig

In a young child's eyes, Mommy and Daddy are the two people who you picture always being together. Mom is inside doing the dishes, dad is at the office, and the kids are having fun playing on the grass with the neighbor's kids. That is one of the most perfect stereotypes of a family that a child can visualize. Unfortunately, sometimes things start going wrong. Mom and Dad are fighting, the little boy next door can't play any more, and school becomes a disturbance.

You feel as if you're the only one going through this mess.

Have you ever asked someone whose parents are divorced, what it's like to have divorced parents?

I bet 99.9% of the time you have heard horror stories. I'm the person to tell you not all divorce stories have staggering endings. If you individually do not have divorced parents, it may be time for you to look at divorce in a different perspective.

I am thirteen years old, with divorced parents. My parents split when I was very young, so I don't remember fighting or any of it. The divorce did not affect me until I was about seven years old. The courts set up a system for my mom and my dad to split me during the work week and I would go back and forth on the weekends. I lived along the guidelines until recently when I moved with my dad permanently. Now I see my mom every other weekend, but I found a schedule that works for me. My dad and my step mom help me with my homework and I have a more balanced life. I've been through family therapy - for me that helped a lot - to get my feelings out about everything.

I have been through the roller coaster of divorce, and survived.

Now I live a pretty normal life. School is going spectacular, I have made lots of new friends, I am enrolled in Sierra Madre School Performing Arts group, singing and dancing are my hobbies, my relationships with both sets of my parents are going well, and I do motocross for a sport. So much for normal.

The main point of this essay is a person's view of divorce, particularly a kid's, is a bad Cinderella story. But when you look at a situation within a different light you can see all the unusual possibilities of the stories endings like my fairy-tale for example. I no longer live in a horror story.

## BOOKS

by Jeff Brown

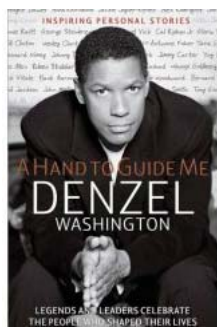
### A Hand to Guide Me (Hardcover)

Author: Denzel Washington

We all get where we're going with a push from someone who cares, says actor Denzel Washington. In this book, Washington shares his personal story of mentors who guided his life and introduces the stories of over 70 of America's leading personalities from theatre, business, sports and politics as they tell their own life changing stories.

One story by retired basketball coach John Wooden remembers his hardworking father, a farmer, making the time every night to read poetry and Scripture to his children.

Contributors include Bill Clinton, Gloria Steinem, Whoopi Goldberg, Bonnie Raitt, Cal Ripken. This is an anthology that will inspire successful men and women to help and empower the next generation.



## PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL GUIDE AND OPEN ENROLLMENT BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

Open Enrollment Period Begins January 15, 2007

The new Pasadena Unified School District School Guide is available for families interested in learning more about PUSD schools and the programs offered. The booklet also includes Open Enrollment information and an application. Applications for Open Enrollment may be submitted between January 15 and February 9, 2007.

As an Open Enrollment district, families have the option of applying to any school in the district regardless of whether it is located within their neighborhood.

A highlight of the booklet is the test scores section which shows the significant growth PUSD has experienced in the California Standards Tests and Academic Performance Index (API). This past year, the number of PUSD schools with API scores over 700 increased to 21, including three scoring over 800.

The School Guide also includes a description of the PUSD core curriculum, arts, sports, and after school programs, and special enrichment offerings. There is a section about each of the schools and school tour information.

The School Guide is available at the PUSD Ed Center, 351 South Hudson Avenue, Pasadena, in the Office of Student Support Services in Room 121, or at any PUSD school. They are also available online at [www.pusd.us/oe](http://www.pusd.us/oe). People interested in having a School Guide mailed to them, should contact the Superintendent's Office at (626) 568-4553

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Arroyo Pacific Academy  
41 W. Santa Clara St.  
Arcadia  
(626) 294-0661

Alverno High School  
200 N. Michillinda  
(626) 355-3463

Sunday, January 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Open House

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

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

Pasadena High School  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
(626) 798-8901  
Pasadena

Sierra Madre Elementary School  
141 W. Highland Ave.  
(626) 355-1428

Sierra Madre Middle School  
160 N. Canon  
(626) 836-2947

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

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

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

## Career and Technical Education Information Fair

for the parents of 9th and 10th grade students in the Pasadena Unified School District

Saturday, January 20 from 9 a.m. to noon  
Pasadena City College  
Creveling Lounge  
1570 East Colorado Blvd.  
Deadline for Registration Friday,  
January 12, 2007  
Purpose: To inform parents of Career and  
Technical Education learning opportunities

Contact: Dr. Eddie Newman  
(626) 795-6981

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1 - 3 p.m.

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Visit our website: [www.alverno-hs.org](http://www.alverno-hs.org)  
200 North Michillinda Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
(626) 355-3463

# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



## 2007: A GOOD YEAR FOR REACHING OUT

"AT SIXES AND SEVENS" is an old expression that means, more or less, "in a state of disarray." It describes how I tend to feel right now, looking back on what didn't get done in 2006 and forward, with tentative hope, to a better year in 2007. The feeling is probably not unusual. After all, in Roman times, statues of the god Janus, for whom January was named, were portrayed as having two faces—one looking forward and the other backward.

But by now, five days into January, it's definitely time to look forward—and up—to what's new. In outer space, at least, new things are happening, and this might be the year to try something you've never thought of before. Thanks to the Pasadena-based Planetary Society, you (and the youngsters in your family) can personally participate in solar system outreach in 2007. Here are three ways:

**FLY YOURSELF TO THE MOON**—Even though you can't actually go there yet, you can send a little bit of yourself to the Moon this year. Anyone can have their name and a short message included on a CD that will be flown out to the Moon this summer. The Planetary Society, in conjunction with The Planetary Society of Japan and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), invites the world to participate in their "Wish Upon the Moon" campaign to send names and messages to Earth's Moon on Japan's SELENE mission.

SELENE, which stands for SELEnological and ENgineering Explorer ("Selene" is also the Greek word for the Moon), consists of three spacecraft—a main craft and two small relay satellites, all of which will go into polar orbits around the Moon. The main orbiter will measure the Moon's magnetic field and map its gravity field as well as the distribution of minerals on its surface. The two small orbiters will relay radio signals to Earth from the main orbiter when it is on the Moon's back side.

People around the world are invited to add their good wishes to the mission. Adults and children alike can visit <http://planetary.org/seleone> to submit names and brief messages for inclusion in the spacecraft. As a sample, here's my submission (60 characters): **HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!**

**FROM TWO ADMIRERS, LAURA & BOB EKLUND**  
After a name has been submitted, an official certificate of participation can be downloaded from The Planetary Society's website. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2007.

**SEND A MESSAGE TO MARS**—As part of its "Messages from Earth" campaign, The Planetary Society is also collecting names to fly to Mars with NASA's Phoenix mission. The Phoenix program is being managed by JPL and is scheduled for launch this August. Phoenix will bring 11 science and weather experiments to explore the northern near-polar environment on Mars—an environment likely to have permafrost similar to central Greenland and Alaska.

Names and messages will be embedded in a specialized silica-glass DVD to be attached to the deck of the Phoenix lander. The disk will include "Visions of Mars," a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century stories, essays, and art inspired by the Red Planet. People around the world can add their own names (or those of family and friends) by visiting the Society's website at <http://planetary.org/phoenixdvd>. The deadline to submit names for the Phoenix DVD is February 1, 2007.

**HELP PREVENT AN ASTEROID IMPACT!**—If you're looking for something a bit more challenging, try figuring out a way to rendezvous with and "tag" a potentially dangerous near-Earth asteroid. Tagging may be necessary in order to track the asteroid Apophis accurately enough to determine whether it will impact Earth, and thus help facilitate the decision whether to mount a deflection mission to alter its orbit. The Planetary Society is offering \$50,000 in prize money for the competition.

Apophis is an asteroid about 400 meters in diameter. It will come closer to Earth in 2029 than the orbit of our stationary TV satellites (about 24,000 miles, or three Earth diameters). On that pass, the asteroid will be perturbed by Earth's gravity into an unknown orbit that might cause it to hit Earth in 2036.

Very precise tracking may be needed to determine the probability of a collision in 2036. Such precise tracking may require "tagging" the asteroid, perhaps with a beacon—a transponder or reflector—or some other method. Exactly how an asteroid could best be tagged is not yet known, nor is it obvious. "Learning how to do that is the point of the competition," said Bruce Betts, The Planetary Society's Director of Projects.

The Planetary Society is "betting" \$50,000 that someone will devise an innovative solution to the problem. The prize money was contributed by Dan Geraci, a member of The Planetary Society Board of Directors, together with donations from Planetary Society members around the world. The judges will determine how to distribute the award money among one or more prize winners. At least \$25,000 will be awarded to the first prize winner, and at least \$5,000 is reserved for the best submission received from a student team (high school, undergraduate, or graduate). For complete Apophis Competition rules, visit <http://planetary.org/apophis>. Teams or individuals intending to enter should submit a Notice of Intent to Propose by March 1, 2007. The deadline for the completed proposals is August 31, 2007.

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

## Let's Try Something Different

From Paul The Cyberian

If you're anything like most people who use a computer you probably use your machine for just a few tasks that you tend to do on a regular basis. I'm no exception if you discount for the fact that I make my living in the computer world (20 years and counting). In the normal course of work-related events I'm required to step outside of my usual routine in order to keep my job.

My situation has allowed me to watch the computers that people use shrink in size and grow in power over the course of many years. I've also seen them used in ways that computing pioneers would be hard pressed to imagine. The typical middle-of-the-road home computer of today (Mac, PC or other) is now more powerful than all the computers used to design the first vehicle to land on the moon (and plan the mission to boot!).

We are now in our second generation of mankind that has grown up with intimate knowledge of computers in some shape or form and it is the exceptional teenager or young adult who could even identify a slide rule in a lineup or even guess what one is used for.

But in the normal computing day (not at work!) I probably use my machine to do 2 or 3 different things. Gamers game, Shoppers shop and Browsers browse. That's just the way it goes.

This year I made a resolution to do something different with my personal

computing time. While I was doing some browsing for the sake of browsing I ran across an article that described an Online Physics Lecture Series hosted by The Physics Department at UC Berkeley. The story featured an award-winning professor who was telling about the response he was getting from the class and how he was just blown away by the wide reach of the program. One story related the tale of the son of a wealthy camel farmer from North Africa who was bound by familial obligations to continue in the family business despite having the money and talent to pursue a college education anywhere in the world. He told of downloading lectures to his iPod to listen to while he and his cousins rode the camels from the farm to the camel markets 300 kilometers away.

Talk about Old World meets New World! This guy gives distance learning a new meaning.

Although my travels aren't nearly as exotic as those described above I resolve to use this distance learning tool to attend the same course as the young man in the story. In this way I'll be using my computer to do something that I normally wouldn't and widen my horizons just a little bit more. That's my computing resolution. What's yours?

For questions, concerns or column ideas please email me at [p.carpenter@mtwilsonobserver.com](mailto:p.carpenter@mtwilsonobserver.com)

## WorkForce with Madeline

**Q:** I will be graduating from college shortly with a degree in mechanical engineering. I have a multi-ethnic background and am proficient in English, French, Italian, and German. I was told that it's not necessary to include foreign language skills on my résumé. What do you think?

**A:** The person who told you this is way off base. Foreign language fluency is always impressive because it shows that one is able to absorb a lot of detailed and often complex information.

In your particular case, there is the possibility that you will be communicating with customers from other countries who speak any one of the languages you mention. Conversing with them in their native tongue would definitely be a plus. In addition, my engineering source tells me there are technical journals written in German that might be helpful to you.

Your foreign language proficiency could certainly increase your hiring chances if all else is equal.

**Q:** I'm Director of Golf Operations at a mid-size country club. I'm thinking of applying to a larger club. I asked the General Manager at my present place of employment for a reference. He told me to write my own letter and that he would be glad to sign it. I have no idea what to write.

**A:** Start off as follows: "As General Manager of Riverside Country Club, I am pleased to write this reference letter for Joe Smith. Joe has been Director of Golf Operations for the past four years. He has proven to be an outstanding addition to our staff."

Talk about your excellent leadership and teamwork skills as well as your ability to relate effectively to guests. Include your experience in conflict resolution. If you have been involved in marketing, mention that you were responsible for bringing in over 100 new members. Note your competence in maintaining detailed records and your background in always keeping within a strict budget. Discuss any new procedures you initiated. Conclude by saying, "We here at Riverside Country Club will all miss Joe Smith and wish him well in his career." Be brief but specific. Keep your letter to one page. And don't forget to write in the third person using he instead of I.

Direct your questions to Madeline at [comtype2@aol.com](mailto:comtype2@aol.com) or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

## The Ever-changing Landscape of Gadgets and Gizmos By Dean Lee

Looking over the gadgets and gizmos that topped 2006, I think it's safe to say, the year started out with Apple ended with Apple and almost everything in between had also been touched in some way or another by them but sadly in 2007 they might not "get it," and go the way of the PDA. Lookout for the cell phone.

That said, I would first like to inform you that you're reading a newspaper, so why bring up the obvious? Some say, for better or for worse, this year was filled with gadgets that will forever change the face of news. This year was the birth of the "Citizen Journalist" armed with a cell phone and laptop.

The idea goes back awhile but whether the stuffy gate keepers of the press like it or not the news comes from you. So equipped with a doohickey like the iPod G5 capable of recording with an attachment, or the LG CU500 with Cingular's 3G Network, that's a mouthful but simply a cell phone that can stream and record video, or the T-Mobile Dash, kind of like a blackberry that the big media has only better and cheaper, you can bypass the middleman and be the "press" yourself.

2006 even produced the first educational video game that can teach journalism. Crazy. Professors Nora Paul and Kathleen Hansen at the University of Minnesota modified the game "Neverwrest Nights" and transformed the rogues, wizards, and barbarians into news editors and reporters. Ironically the game still has a glitch in it where the reporter gets mobbed and killed if the right questions are not asked.

The video phone is the latest "gotta have" gadget and there are plenty of makers out there to choose from. I personally like the LG CU500 because the video and pictures are crystal clear and its idiot proof, just flip it open and shoot. All the controls in an integrated MP3 player, that can hold 1 Gig of songs, are on the outside. This phone has the fastest streaming capability of any video cell phone made and is the first to offer HSDPA (High-Speed Downlink Protocol Access) supporting 1.8 Mbit/s or 3.6 Mbit/s in downlink times.

The big drawback to this phone is that you can't use the built-in speaker phone with it closed making it awkward to use, let's say, while driving. The phone is a bit pricey and varies

depending on the plan. The video add-on cost \$20 a month+ but you got have CNN or Fox News to know what's going on, right?

If you're not the broadcast journalist type the T-Mobile Dash is a good replacement for a note pad, kind of? It has a 2.4-inch TFT screen. The Dash runs Windows Mobile 5 Smartphone Edition and has a full QWERTY keyboard so you can easily integrate it with your home computer or send off stories as word docs with its integrated Wi-Fi, you can also email in a snap which is very cool. It has a 1.3-megapixel camera built in but for that Pulitzer. But for that you will need great striking quotes and need a recorder, that's where the Apple iPod comes in.

"The iPod does one thing and does it really good, that's play, store and record media files," said a spokes person for Apple. Simple put, it is by far the most popular MP3 player on the market.

By this year's end Apple predicted that, with a small microphone attachment, every reporter would be thrusting them in the faces of people like Gov. Arnold Swarzenegger with a broken leg or former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld leaving office. That didn't quite happen but with the help of Citizen Journalists everywhere maybe next year.

Apple did however come out with 5 new models this year including a new 2 gig iPod Shuffle that is about twice the size of a tie clip and priced under \$100 so you can listen to your favorite news podcasts in style.

For more information and reviews on these products or where to get them visit [Cnet.com](http://reviews.cnet.com) at <http://reviews.cnet.com>







# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

## OPINION



**DEUX-AMIS PUBLISHING**

**Editor**  
Katina Dunn

**Managing Editor**  
Susan Henderson

**Art Director**  
Marco Careno

**Photography**  
Felix Orona  
Buddy Windsor  
Jacqueline Truong  
Steve Padilla

**Contributors**  
Dean Lee  
Stefan Bund  
Stanley J. Forrester  
Paul C. Cyberer  
Madeline Miller  
Kyle McClure  
Pat Birdsall  
Bob Eklund  
Caroline Brown

**Editorial Cartoonist**  
Ann Claves

**Web Master**  
Gary Miller

**For Advertising Inquiries contact:**  
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626-799-7129

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Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Phone: 626-355-2737  
Fax: 626-604-4548  
email: [deuxamispub@aol.com](mailto:deuxamispub@aol.com)

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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.

The Mt. Wilson Observer welcomes your comments, letters to the Editors and Stories. Please send your submission to:

**Editor**  
Mt. Wilson Observer  
280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
No. 327  
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
or  
email us at:  
[deuxamispub@aol.com](mailto:deuxamispub@aol.com)

### Inner Strength and Outer Challenges

By Stefan Bund

My wife and I went to see Mel Gibson's



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

**Apocalypto** last night, and it is a shocking movie. I totally recommend it, but you may leave the theater more than once before you get through it.

Mr. Gibson, known for **The Passion of the Christ** and **Braveheart**, erected a rendition of a Mayan city during the worst drought in 7,000 years. The people had created a city-wide cult where sacrifices were performed throughout the day to pacify a seemingly angry god. The Mayans could probably let themselves off the hook, had they known about the limits of slash and burn agriculture, and the Savannah switch grass that moved in on their corn.

Gibson spares little detail in depicting the Maya at their decline. They enslaved the able-bodied in lime quarries, and addicted much of the population to the death cult of the sacrifice, while burning the non-city dwellers out of the jungle to produce more failing crops. The movie spares its main character from the sacrificial altar when a solar eclipse covers the brilliant Yucatan sun, causing the priests to forgo ritual killings for the

day. Most of the audience found a reason to leave their seats. I left to complain about the sound, and the three women behind me simply got up to walk around the lobby, showing clear signs of distress. It was hard to watch the Maya as they destroyed their own while their civilization crashed. And this was before the Spanish, who end up docking their first boat on the Maya shore in the final scene. (The real Apocalypto).

This brings me to the point of **Apocalypto**, which is enunciated in the first frame of the film. Gibson flashes a quote to the effect (and I must paraphrase), "those who suffered domination from without first suffered corruption from within." I was probably able to recite it last night.

But the idea is rendered so clearly: insofar as you build a strong infrastructure of traditions and values, no one can come along to dominate you. And in the case of the hapless Maya, fraught with disease, slavery and sadism, it was possible for the Spanish to do that.

The Apocalypse of this city would entail an attack from either of two directions: from the mountains, from fire, and from the West, from profiteering. But the challenge can't be simply sacrificing; we can't be a Mayan city where we religiously torment our own. We have to constantly re-render our vision of what we want to be, and do the small things that help us get there.

According to the history, the Mayans had to weed their crops of switch grass. To me, it doesn't sound that hard.

### 2007 BACKGROUND NOISE REDUCTION ACT

By Susan Henderson

**background** (n): intrusive sound that interferes with received messages; **noise** (n): loud, confused, or senseless shouting or outcry; **reduction** (n): the act of diminishing in size, amount and/or frequency.

I have been looking high and low, and somehow one of the laws that should have been passed for 2007 is missing. It's the Sierra Madre 2007 Background Noise Reduction Act.

This is the Act that could be the single most important key to our peaceful coexistence this year. I couldn't find it anywhere but I do know that all of our leaders can see the need for it. As we ended 2006, the amount of intrusive noise that disrupts in a loud and senseless manner was deafening.

If we continue to give time to this noise, then we will continue to empower those who masquerade as model citizens yet stoop to racist comparisons in order to get their way.

If a comparison had been made between the KKK and any entity in Sierra Madre other than this newspaper, the purveyor of such hatred would have been ousted from the community. Instead, the publisher of the Mountain Views - who holds the city contract for legal notices - is allowed to continue with his particularly hateful brand of background noise.

His kind of hatred no doubt inspired someone to leave an empty moving box in front of my home the day after I disclosed my address at the last city council meeting. That's the council meeting where he invoked the name of the KKK.

The noise has been going on for quite some time. It is the same noise that probably caused a dead mole to be left spread-eagled in our editor's driveway months ago as a warning - "don't dig anymore!" - or caused a window to be shot through at the weekly where both of us previously worked. There, by the way, my column was censored by its publisher. This is the same noise that pressured the publisher of one of our local throw aways to proclaim that, "Sierra Madre is only 7% of my advertising business" and "I don't give a \*&% if they build five story buildings there."

Background noise can even be found on the internet. Funny how community leaders such as six ex-mayors and one prominent realtor support a website that continually trashes anybody who questions the status quo in Sierra Madre, as if that were a heinous crime. How do you openly support bigotry and hatred and call yourself a leader? Your background noise is shameful.

Highlights that have appeared on this website - which six ex-mayors and prominent realtor support - include calling a council member a cross dresser and implying that the **Mt. Wilson Observer** opinion writer Stefan Bund is similar to a serial killer and child molester.

Is this noise so loud because it is defending a vision of the city that is different from that of its citizens, or is it about possible investments in the building of extreme projects in this city that is 3 square miles, or is it both?

If they do have some financial interest or monetary connection to these projects, they stand to gain much profit, no doubt about it. From dead moles to bullet holes; serial killers to child molesters - and now the KKK - not one of these community leaders has stood up in the name of decency or truth telling or taken their name off that website. Intimidation is alive and well in our little city.

Our priorities at the **Mt. Wilson Observer** have always been clear and public. We (the publishers) support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. Sierra Madre is not an afterthought for this paper. We care about this town and its citizens. And yet, the attacks on this paper have been outrageous. A recent allegation that the paper is a direct mail vehicle for Sierra Madre Citizens for Responsible Development (SMRRD) is a lie.

When the **Pasadena Star News** or **Los Angeles Times** take an editorial position, do they become a vehicle for those organizations whose missions they support? Then why should this paper be ostracized when opinion writers share their opinion?

We are not all alike. We all have differences of opinion. However, to continue with fear mongering and mean spirited lies to suppress citizens who wish to exercise their rights is wrong.

We need a Background Noise Reduction Act now. Let's start this year off right. The best way for us to enact this is to stop encouraging these smear tactics.

Correct it right away to the perpetrators. When you hear a lie, say it won't fly. For if we as a community stand up together, the bad element will sit down, and some will even go away.



### While Sierra Madre Was Sleeping

Yes, as the citizens of Sierra Madre were going about their business of day-to-day living in comfort, trusting and feeling safe; enjoying the unique and quaint lifestyle Sierra Madre provides, the wheels of change were being expedited all around them.

The Wake Up call probably began in the month of January 2006 as a paper sent up to Sacramento called an NOP (Notice of Preparation) began to circulate throughout the town. What is an NOP? It is a notice of preparation for a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for a city project. That project was the Downtown Specific Plan.

As people began to read the summary of environmental impacts... safety, traffic, parking, density, air quality, historical preservation, noise, conflict w/ existing land use plans (ie the city's general plan), people started to ask questions.

When citizens were asked about the DSP, most answered "what is that?"

People hadn't seen the map, it wasn't on display at city hall, identifying certain buildings marked for development.

Proposed were 325 residential units and 220,000 square feet of commercial space.

As the questions flew, the city said "Wait we had an immersion week in April of 2005 with 350 people attending." However, when the "Vision Plan" of the Downtown Specific Plan did come out, most of the citizens' comments say only two stories, not too much density, keep the village feel of

the town. Somebody wasn't listening. Somebody was planning... but what?

Our 1996 General Plan addressed allowing an artisan mixed use area (East Montecito), with residential around the perimeter of the downtown with two stories and a development plan with 13 units per acre. How did we get from 13 units to 30?

Maybe the same way we got to height and density bonuses, reduction of parking space requirements, zoning code changes not addressing impacts, negotiating our city parking lots, down zoning private properties and more.

ZZZZZZ..... Feel a little disenfranchised?

If you think this is winding down, don't doze off. Next city council meeting Tuesday, January 9, may again address turning over the responsibility for traffic lights, parking zones etc, from the Police Chief to the City Manager. Picture Kersting Court after school lets out with kids from Bethany, St. Rita's, Sierra Mesa etc, as vehicles floor it hoping to make the yellow light. Hear Bob Eubanks at the Rose Parade and picture Sunset, Westways and the LA Times magazine never being able to say "The only little town without stoplights."

Wake Up. Be vigilant on this 100 year anniversary of Sierra Madre. Protect this valuable and historical little city that provides community for us one and all.

- Author's name withheld upon request

# New Laws Make Significant Changes in 2007

By Susan Henderson

January 1<sup>st</sup> not only represents the start of a new calendar year, but it is also the date that many laws, both state and federal go into effect. In California, there are more than 900 new laws that became effective New Year's Day. Lawmakers seemed to be most focused on issues concerning health, education and the environment. There are also several important new California Traffic Laws, several of particular interest to parents and teens. Below is a synopsis of some noteworthy changes:

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Beginning in 2007, DST will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November. Daylight Saving Time will begin on March 11, 2007 and end on November 4, 2007.

**INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE:** The first state minimum wage increase in five years will increase from \$6.75 to \$7.50. In 2008, the wage will increase again to \$8 per hour.

### NEW DMV LAWS:

#### Trunking

It is now against the law to knowingly operate an automobile with a person in the trunk. It is illegal for both the driver of the vehicle and the person in the trunk. Drivers will receive a fine and a point on their licenses, and the person in the trunk will receive a fine. This activity has become increasingly popular among teens in an effort to circumvent the restrictions on teen driving with passengers.

#### Reckless Drivers and Street Racers

Those involved in accidents that cause great bodily injury will now be charged with a felony - even for first offenses.

#### Teen Drunk Driving/Driving Under the Influence

It is now a criminal offense instead of a civil penalty for a driver under 21 years of age to have a measurable blood-alcohol concentration of 0.01 percent. First-offense violations will carry a minimum fine of \$350.

#### Vehicle Impounds for Illegal Dumping

Cars and trucks can be impounded for up to six months if the person driving the vehicle has a prior conviction for the offense for illegal dumping of waste. Waste includes oil and other petroleum products, paints, garbage, furniture, dirt, gravel, and body parts.

#### Graffiti and Vandalism

Courts may now impose increased driver license sanctions for graffiti and vandalism. Courts may now suspend a driver license for a period of up to two years, or delay issuing a license for a period of one to three years.

#### Driver License Suspension

Increases the mandatory driver's license suspension period to ten months for persons convicted of a first offense of Driving Under the Influence of alcohol if the individual's blood alcohol concentration level was 20% or greater, and the court orders an enhanced alcohol treatment program.

#### School Bus Certificate

Authorizes the California Highway Patrol to conduct a preliminary criminal and driver history check to determine the eligibility of an individual prior to issuing a special certificate authorizing the operation of a schoolbus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, or a general public paratransit vehicle.

#### Handicap Placards

Allows nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants to sign and certify the disability on the Application for Disabled Parking Placard (REG 195) for the purpose of allowing the disabled to obtain a disabled person parking placard or disabled person license plate.

### FOR LANDLORDS/RENTERS

#### 60-Day Notice To Renters

Landlords will be required to give 60 days notice before evicting month-to-month tenants who have lived in the unit for at least a year and have no lease violations.

### ANIMAL RIGHTS:

#### Dog Abuse

There are now laws protecting dogs from being tied up for more than 3 hours and for leaving them unattended in cars when it causes a risk to their health. Both new laws could result in jail time and fines.

### CIGARETTES

California merchants can now only sell cigarettes designed to extinguish quickly when they're not being puffed on. (They are allowed to use up existing store stock.) This is meant to help prevent fires.

### BRIBERY

"Quid Pro Quo" or 'responsive/retaliatory' voting by legislators is extended to County Supervisors and Local Elected Officials

### THE ENVIRONMENT

There are 3 new laws that will help protect our environment.  
1) California is now the first state to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, oil refineries and other industries. The State Resources Board must begin implementation of the program to reduce emissions 25% in the next 13 years by July 1.

2) The state's utilities are now prohibited from signing long-term contracts with electricity suppliers unless their power plants comply with greenhouse gas emission limits adopted by the California Energy Commission. This is intended to force coal-fired power plants in western states to install cleaner technologies if they want to sell power to California.

3) The third new law requires utilities to step up their efforts to replace fossil fuels with cleaner renewable sources such as solar, wind and geothermal. It will force utilities to get at least 20 percent of their power from renewables by 2010 instead of the old deadline of 2017.

The much anticipated prohibition against handheld cellular telephones while operating a motor vehicle will not actually go into effect until January 1, 2008.

New federal laws concerning slash toxic mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants are also now in effect. States had until November 7<sup>th</sup> to submit their plans. See chart on Page 4 for state by state responses.

## PUBLIC NOTICE: 2007A TAX SALE February 26 and 27, 2007

The Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector sells properties located in Los Angeles County for which taxes have not been paid for 3 years or more. The Public Auctions are open to the public. The next Public Auction of tax defaulted property will be held on February 26 & 27, 2007 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Los Angeles County Fairplex in Pomona, California.

The auction list is now available for the 2007A tax sale of the tax defaulted properties in the County of Los Angeles. The list is available in book form only. Bidder registration will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning January 30, 2007, and ending February 15, 2007. Prospective bidders are required to pre-register IN PERSON. The required registration deposit is \$5,000. Therefore, a \$5,000 deposit in the form of cash, cashier's check, or bank-issued money order is required at the registration time. Other money orders will not be accepted. You must register in person and receive your bidder card at the office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector, 225 North Hill Street, Room 114, Los Angeles, California 90012. YOU MAY NOT REGISTER AT THE AUCTION SITE. We will require valid photo identification at the time of registration (i.e., driver's license, military ID card, Mexican Matricula Consular, passport, California ID card). Please read carefully the Bidder Registration requirements provided in the auction book and on the Treasurer and Tax Collector's website at <http://tax.co.la.ca.us>, as other requirements may apply to persons registering for another person or as a corporation, partnership, trust, etc. We encourage early registration because the first 200 bidder cards issued will have prime seating at the beginning of the auction.

At the time you initially register or up to 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2007, you can increase your initial registration deposit by opening an Auction Trust Account. This will eliminate the need to stand in the cashier's line for the purpose of paying the deposit on property purchased. To open an Auction Trust Account, you must deposit a minimum of \$5,000, in addition to the \$5,000 registration deposit. During the auction, if you are the successful bidder, proceed to the Auction Desk and indicate whether or not you want to pay the minimum amount due or pay the full purchase price of the property. The Auction Operators will give you a Purchase Agreement indicating the amount that will be automatically deducted from your Auction Trust Account. Please note that we cannot apply any funds to your purchase until the Purchase Agreement is signed.

As long as there are sufficient funds in your Auction Trust Account, there will be NO need to see the cashier to complete your purchase. To setup the Auction Trust Account, contact the Bidder Registration Unit at (213) 974-2040. Only cash, cashier's checks, and bank-issued money orders payable to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector will be accepted for the Auction Trust Accounts. Act promptly as the last date to setup the Auction Trust Account is February 23, 2007 by 5:00 p.m.

Please be advised that unused monies in the Auction Trust Account and unused registration deposit will be refunded by mail within 30 days from the date of the sale. NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AT THE AUCTION.

The auction list can be purchased in the following three ways:

1. BY MAIL: Orders by mail should be addressed to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector, 500 West Temple Street, Room 114, Los Angeles, California 90012. Only cashier's checks or bank-issued money orders made payable to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector will be accepted. Personal or business checks will NOT be accepted. Applicable sale taxes of 8.25% will be charged to California shipping addresses only and postage in addition to the \$15 cost of the auction book.

BY TELEPHONE: Orders by telephone must be directed to (213) 974-2646 or (213) 974-2647 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and paid by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Card. Callers must have their credit card number ready when calling.

3. IN PERSON: Purchases in person are to be made at the Cashier's windows located on the first floor - lobby area- of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 225 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Only cash, cashier's checks, bank-issued money orders, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Card will be accepted. Personal or business checks will NOT be accepted.

#### COST OF AUCTION BOOK (all sales are final):

	In Person	Mail & Telephone
Price	\$15.00	\$15.00
8.25% Sales Tax (California Residents Only)	1.24	1.24
Postage	N/A	4.05
(Priority Mail Flat Rate)		
Total Cost		\$16.24
\$20.29		

The auction will be held at the Fairplex Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, 1101 West McKinley Avenue, Building 8, Pomona, California 91768. The auction will commence on Monday, February 26, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. and will continue on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, until all parcels have been offered for sale. For registration information, please call (213) 974-2040, and for information regarding a property that is in tax sale, please call (213) 974-2045.

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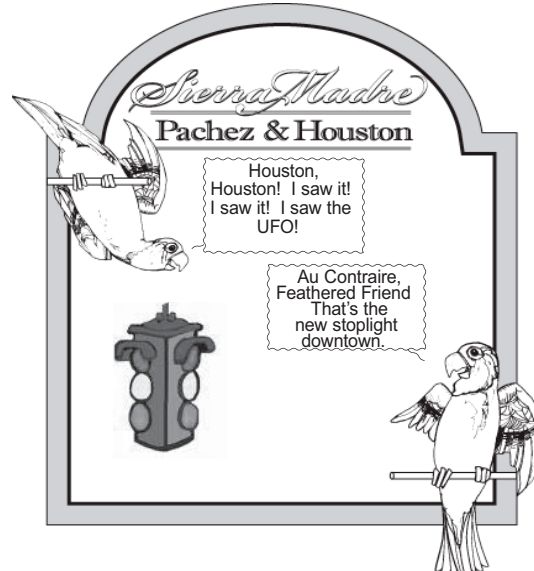
## Ruby Reds

This delicious grapefruit is in season now. It was patented in 1934 after its discovery in Texas by A. E. Henninger, who found a bud mutation. Eat it raw, cut into smiles. Peel and add it to salad of any kind for a fresh twist. Try this variation of a French classic recipe by Jacques Pépin:

Pink Grapefruit Terrine

- 24 pink grapefruit segments (two grapefruits)
- ¼ cup juice
- 2 tsp. unflavored gelatin
- 2 tbl. Honey
- 1 tbl. Grenadine
- 1 tbl. Shredded peppermint leaves

Divide grapefruit segments and mint leaves into four custard cups. In a pan, sprinkle gelatin over grapefruit juice, add honey and grenadine and melt the gelatin. Pour into custard cups and chill until set. Place cups in warm water to loosen sides, and invert onto small plate, or on top of salad.



# Along For The Ride

By Tina Salvatore

Everybody gets over zealous around this time of year and decides to kick off the new year with some strong resolutions. Weight loss, being more patient, and saving money are common resolutions. Well unfortunately for most us around late January, early February we will inevitably find ourselves weaving in and out of traffic to get around those going too slow on the freeway. As we are headed to the nearest mall to spend a few paychecks while double fistng a couple of donuts. Only to look in the side mirror to realize a torn off gas pump is still in the gas tank. As this happens, it begins to come clear to most those resolutions aren't really working out. People feeling bad causing more scenes similar to what I just described.

This is why I strongly suggest lowered New Year resolutions. Some examples:

1. I will try to always tie my shoes before leaving the house.
2. I will eat less chocolate. Notice there is no specific number. Less than what is up to you. It could be less than before, or it could be less than a truck full. That's fair. Don't push yourself.
3. I will not be late to every event that I show up for. I will still be late to the majority of events though.
4. I will not lie as much, unless it's a good reason. See example 5.
5. This is a freebie I will tell people I made six resolutions, but only really hold myself accountable for five of them.
6. I will make these resolutions work for about six months.



# BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

The year 2007 was looming when I started to pen this little column of mine. I thought that perhaps I would poke fun at New Year's resolutions versus reality. Just then, I heard a local television station's promo for, I am assuming, looking toward 2007. The voice posed the question, "What kind of world do you want?" Using the pronoun "you" personalized it for me and I gave the question some serious consideration. The following just scratch the surface of things that I would want in this world of ours.

I want us to reassess our priorities...Our society continues to move at break-neck speed in the direction of overwhelming excess. The larger the house the better; never mind that it is ostentatious and in poor

neighbor's. Push the wildlife into extinction? So what! That's what zoos and encyclopedias are for. Then, by golly, one SUV won't do, let's get two, and throw in an off-road vehicle just for fun. Of course getting anywhere in these over-sized vehicles takes forever because everyone else is trying to get someplace in their over-sized vehicles. Use public transportation? Surely you jest. Air pollution? Pshaw!

I am also appalled at the truly obscene amounts of money thrust into the ever-burgeoning bank accounts of professional athletes, movie stars and corporate executives, to name just a few. I recently heard about a baseball pitcher who was given a five-year, twenty-two million dollar deal. Twenty-two million dollars!!!

# What Kind of World in 2007?

Then... we have the nightmare that is Darfur... AIDS and starvation are rampant in parts of Africa, and far too many people in the world go to bed hungry. We see homelessness and hunger in our own backyards (or, maybe, we don't see it.) Shamefully, it is very real, and keeping our heads in the sand or wearing blinkers will not make it go away.

Every person in this world of ours deserves to be safe, have a roof over their head, food to eat and access to medical care. Perhaps I sound like Pollyanna, but I feel that although the task may seem monumental, we have to start somewhere. "Somewhere," to me would be the aforementioned reassessment of our priorities. Twenty-two million dollars to play baseball?

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# SPORTS

## Bortstein's Picks

Larry's Personal Best For 2006

By Larry Bortstein

**Coach:** Ealar Gallagher, La Salle Football - He could have allowed his team to throw in the towel when the Lancers lost their first five games. But he coaxed, wheedled, exhorted and drove them to eight wins in a row. La Salle didn't lose again the CIF Southern Section Mid-Valley Division championship game.

**Team:** Pasadena High School Boys Basketball - The Bulldogs won the last two Pacific League titles and got off to a great start in the 2006-2007 by reeling off nine wins in a row and two tournament titles for coach Tim Tucker.

**Player:** Kimmee Roleder, Pasadena High School Girls Volleyball - Roleder led the Bulldogs to the CIF divisional championship game and was, in Coach Ronnie Joseph's estimation, the best player in any division in the section. She'll next be seen slamming kills and blocking shots at USC.

**Others of note:** Alverno High School Girls Cross-Country - The Sierra Madre girls' school captured the Horizon League championships in both the varsity and junior varsity divisions. Coach Ken Berry eagerly awaits the spring semester, when he will have the school's first track and field squad.

Nick Posthuma, St. Francis High School Boys Soccer - A junior forward, Posthuma has sparked St. Francis to a fast 6-0 start with seven goals. He was voted The Most Valuable Player of a tournament in Burbank.

Trevon Harmon, Pasadena High School Boys Basketball - A 6-foot senior with virtually unlimited shooting range, Harmon has the green light from Bulldogs' coach Tim Tucker to launch his lethal jump shot from virtually anywhere in the gym. He'll average nearly 25 points per game and the only thing that keeps him from scoring more is an extremely talented supporting cast who also can play the game.

David Baier, La Salle High School Football - Only 5-foot-6, Baier broke many long runs in the Lancers' run to the Mid-Valley championship game against fellow Camino Real League member Verbum Dei. He accumulated more than 1,000 yards on the ground. While many La Salle starters were seniors, this blond bombshell will be back for another year.



PHS Lady Bulldogs - Photo By Mark Lansdown

## That's A Lot Of Dough

Barry Zito signs a 7 Year - 126 Million Dollar Contract with the San Francisco Giants

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 3 (Reuters) -

The San Francisco Giants presented Barry Zito, the most expensive pitcher in baseball history, as a new team leader on Wednesday, but stayed silent on controversial slugger Barry Bonds.

The Giants signed Zito, the 2002 American League Cy Young winner, last week to a seven-year, \$126 million contract. Local media reported he would be earning nearly \$5,000 a pitch as someone who plays only every four or five games.

Zito talked about his leadership qualities for a National League team long divided by Bonds, whose reputation has been clouded by the BALCO steroid scandal.

"Half of my role here is to pitch on the field. The other half is to help everyone else be the best they can," the left-handed thrower, who was 16-10 with a 3.83 ERA in the 2006 season with the American League As across San Francisco Bay in Oakland, told a news conference.

Other team mates have privately grumbled about the team's longtime dominant player Bonds, who is within striking distance of becoming the all-time Major League Baseball home-run king next season. Recent books have chronicled sometimes abrasive behavior by Bonds toward team mates.

The Giants reportedly agreed last month to pay the record seven-times MVP \$16 million to carry on for another season, but declined on Wednesday to discuss the player that has brought them so much joy as well as headaches.

"I'm not going to say anything about the other Barry," team president Peter Magowan said when asked if the contract had been finalized.

A spokesman later said the deal has not been completed. Bonds also faces legal uncertainty, as federal prosecutors are believed to be investigating whether he lied to a grand jury when he testified that he had never knowingly used steroids.

UPBEAT OUTLOOK

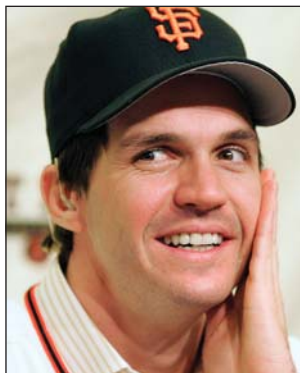


Photo Courtesy Reuters Z i t o

contrasted the other Barry with a sunny disposition, speaking at one point about "a lot of good vibes flowing around here."

Magowan highlighted Zito's attributes that do not appear in the statistics on a baseball card.

"What I think sets Barry above so many other very skilled players are the other things he brings to the table," Magowan said.

"He is a combination of charisma and dedication and desire that makes him a truly special player and that's the kind of things this organization wants to be associated with on a long-term basis," he said.

Magowan acknowledged that a record long-term contract posed risks, but cited Zito's work ethic, track record of not missing a start throughout his career and relatively young age of 28.

"Those are three factors that don't eliminate the risk but reduce it," he said.

Asked about the risk of such a lucrative deal, Zito said: "I think my work ethic has led to the durability...My work ethic and determination are only going to increase."

## Don't Ya' Just Love College Sports?



## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

On New Year's Day at the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Arizona, Boise State won a big one for the little guy. It was a wild and crazy game - they played a season of football in the last eighty seconds.

Some have said the Boise coach used gadgets and trick plays to win. Tell that to the Oklahoma players who were out hit, out scored and out hustled until the last few ticks of regulation play.

Boise State Head Coach Chris Peterson decided to go for the win instead of the tie because he knew his kids had put it all out on the field and they didn't have another set of overtime downs left in them. Oklahoma was just plain too strong, too big and too deep. The Broncos did have the energy for that one spectacular, ancient play which they executed to perfection.

Boise State had to win in regulations they had nothing left in the tank. To the Broncos Boise State, Congratulations!!!

All the little guys of the world salute you. You are our hero. The Sooners are at home trying to figure

out exactly what happened, I know that I would be. I just love college sports. Our young people that play the games can have the pollsters, the pundits, and the computers attempting to explain away the win by the little guy.

Ohio State and Florida will be playing in the same town and in the same stadium next week. It seems very improbable that the game for the national title will match the excitement and drama provided by the Broncos and the Sooners. That win by the undersized Broncos over the great football powerhouse Oklahoma put the issue of a Play Off for crowning the national champion in college football up in the air again.

And, it adds to the mix the question of how the smaller schools are treated when the polls are created. What happens if Ohio State loses to Florida? Boise State will be the only unbeaten team in the nation. Should they then be crowned Number One? Or will they have the right to say that they are co-champions

with the winner of the Ohio State-Florida game?

By the way, have you been following the Bruins in basketball? They are number one in the nation. I was telling a friend just the other day that life in Southern California is as it should be, UCLA is playing great basketball and USC is playing great football. And, now that I've mentioned it, how about that Rose Bowl!!! The Trojans put a beat down on the Wolverines. Where was that USC team when they played UCLA? I guess that's the great thing about sports and college sports in particular, that is - emotions enter into the equation.

On any given day the underdog just might win one for the fan that believes this is our year.

Nothing matches the drama and excitement of college sports.

Remember after the Bowls including the Super One, we have March Madness. Go UCLA!

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