

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

A DEUXAMIS PUBLICATION
WEEKLY NEWS FOR SIERRA MADRE AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Friday, December 22 - December 28, 2006 Volume 1, No. 13

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE.....



A Painter For All Seasons

By Katina Dunn

"Sierra Madre is my favorite town anywhere," Sonny Salsbury was saying over coffee at Starbucks one morning. Salsbury, 68, is the most original painter of Sierra Madre to date, and he brings out winsome qualities of small town life with his trademark simplicity and affection.

This purity of heart comes from his own innocent outlook. Salsbury has spent most of his life working in youth ministries and backpacking and camping in the wilderness.

With camping comes songs around the campfire - one of his favorite things to do - and he does that so well he is now a candidate for a 2007 Grammy nomination for the CD

"How's About A Boa?" which is a collection of camp songs for "children of all ages."

Born in Los Angeles, Salsbury lived in Pasadena and married Linda Wendell, who says she fell in love with his "kindness." When the couple visited Yakima, Washington, they were taken by the seasons, Salsbury says, "white Christmases, spring and fall" and that is where they live.

Salsbury began painting on an RV tour the couple took, an excursion of singing and speaking at churches throughout the United States. His paintings then sold at Diana Roberts' Lexington Place shop on Mission Street in San Marino and at the Wistaria Festival in Sierra Madre. Roberts was one of Salsbury's early supporters, and she encouraged him to paint scenes of people's houses, which he still does.

Linda's sister, Judy, then opened up the artful florist boutique Leonora Moss in Sierra Madre,

and Salsbury's works became a specialty there. Copies of his works are sold at Leonora Moss, including a 2007 calendar of scenes of Sierra Madre, which owner Judy Brandley helped Salsbury create.

The calendar came about talks he had with Judy about some of their favorite places and events in town including Alegria Street on Halloween, the Mt. Wilson Trail Race, the Elvis Concert in the Park, The Wistaria Festival, The Woman's Club and The Sierra Madre Playhouse.

"I love the winsome little village," said Salsbury. "No stoplights! I hope it stays like that."

To specially commission a Salsbury painting of your home (specially priced), or find a 2007 calendar (\$23) plus giclee (zhee-klay) high quality prints (\$55 to \$60) call Leonora Moss at (626) 355-1180.

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A Gift You Can Give

Sierra Madre Community Nursery School Needs Our Support

By Susan Henderson

For almost 60 years on the far east side of Sierra Madre, a nurturing place for children has resided. The Sierra Madre Community Nursery School is

a parent participation preschool and kindergarten which first opened its doors on April 14, 1947. After serving thousands of children in this community, the school will need to raise \$41,000 by the end of March,

2007 in order to remain at the only home it has known.

According to school officials, in the summer of 2005, the City of Sierra Madre notified the SMCNS of its intent to sell (continued page 3)



Ansel, Joseph, Audrey and Ms. Joan at work



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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 70s	Lows 40s-50s	
Sunday:	Clear	Hi 70s	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

Thursday, December 28
Library Board of Trustees

7 p.m.

Please check with City Hall for changes and/or additional information.
(626) 355-7135

Sierra Madre Christmas Tree Lot
283 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
next to Arnold's Hardware

Friday - Saturday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.
(626) 355-5552

Percentage to Sierra Madre Firefighters Association
Delivery Available

"Guaranteed to be more fun than Home Depot!"

LIBRARY DISPLAYS SEASONS GREETINGS FROM SIERRA MADREANS

During the month of December, the Sierra Madre Public Library's display case features holiday cards sent from the village of Sierra Madre over the years. These include hand made cards, photographic cards, and cards designed by artists Margaret Cash, Alfred James Dewey, Catherine Snell Tuttle, and Marvin Weese. Photographs depicting Sierra Madre holiday traditions such as Santa's visit to City Hall and the Noble Jefferson tree are also displayed for the community to enjoy. The public is welcome during the Library's open hours: Mon-Wed Noon-9 p.m.; Thurs & Friday Noon-6 p.m.; Sat.- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. For further information please visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call the Library at (626) 355-7186.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Call Bonnie Colcher at
(626) 355-7999.

The work is fun, and scheduled for weekends and the week between December 26th & New Year's.



Roy Roams' 91024

Just Chillaxing in The Madre

Cyclist and writer Ron Cooper put it just so and translates its meaning as "Relaxing in the town of Sierra Madre." Cooper says use of the name The Madre has been around for decades. As for the combo of "chill out" and "relax," the www.urbandictionary.com site writes that one usage in particular should be used with care, since it has the power to relax a room full of people - here it is and do try this at home: Chillax to the Max.

Hail to The Chief - On Call

We caught up with Dr. Alan Fisher, the new Chief of Staff at Methodist Hospital in Arcadia.

Fisher, 54, will represent 600 doctors, lead the Medical Executive Committee and serve on the hospital's Board of Directors. Fisher - an ear, nose and throat doctor aka an otolaryngologist - has been with the hospital since 1985.

A graduate of Chicago Medical School with internship and residency at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Fisher went on to study facial plastic and reconstructive surgery in Beverly Hills. He will still maintain his private practice in Arcadia for otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery. He is medical director of Hear MD and Fresh Face Med Spa.

Fisher was involved with the Arcadia Rotary Club for many years, and the Flying Samaritans which provided medical care in Baja, California.

His big plan for the holidays, however, is work.

"I'll be on call New Year's Eve," said Fisher. "They may need coverage in the ER."

Fisher says his new duties are in addition to his old ones - not instead of. During this holiday season, he won't be anywhere that is more than 30 minutes away from the hospital.

His most chillaxing moments come from playing piano, what he calls "the romantic repertoire" of Rachmaninoff, Brahms and Chopin. "I'm a pretty good amateur," said Fisher.

Get Out and Get Active Gets A Major Award

The California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) has given the city an Award of Achievement for its Get Out and Get Active program, which includes holiday treks along the Mt. Wilson Trail and the upcoming Capture The Flag to be held Saturday, December 30 at 9 a.m. at Sierra Vista Park near Heasley Field. Michelle Keith, the Director of Community and Personnel Services wrote that this award "is the highest recognition our agency can receive and our department's award is a credit to the staff and the volunteer commissioners that make things happen."

Mayor Calls for Community Support of New Schools Super

Mayor John Buchanan said he is very optimistic about new PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz.

Buchanan said it is imperative for all of us in the community to support the new head of schools. "Nobody's going to succeed unless we

help him succeed," said Buchanan.

"We heard a lot up in the Gilroy area," Buchanan said of the area along the central coast where Diaz lived and worked.

"The things that came across most clearly about him were impeccable integrity, a collaborative decision making style and a desire to let good data drive decisions. These are important components that are going to serve us well in the future. They're going to, over time, convince people of the educational mission of the PUSD and that will allow him, I hope, to tap into community resources... he's been pretty successful at that up in Gilroy. I'm hoping he can bring that same success to the PUSD, particularly in Sierra Madre where we have a particular emphasis on tapping into public resources to support our schools. Edwin brings that talent with him."

Buchanan says he was struck by a comment he heard from a Gilroy official, that Diaz is "A big person in a big job." What he meant by that was, that whatever personal issues that had ever arisen or past disputes that existed - Edwin was one who still wanted the data and facts to drive decisions and he could put aside other differences and make sure that issues and policy were directed by those things. That is a critical component of making people understand that the educational mission comes first. That statement was particularly useful and I thought that was an excellent synopsis of what we learned about him. I think that will prove valuable in the future."

The Mayor concluded his remarks over the telephone by saying "I see brighter days ahead."

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Friday	December 22	Café 322	Saxophonist Chuck Manning Quartet
Saturday	December 23		Latin Jazz with Bob DeSena
Sunday	December 24		Opera to Broadway Sing-A-Long
Thursday	December 28		Fuzzy Logic Bopset
Friday	December 29		Vocalist Cheryl Barnes
Saturday	December 30		Sax man Gill Bernal
Sunday	December 31		Dinner & Dancing with the DownBeats

322 Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

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

Santa Claus Will Be At Beantown Saturday, December 23 1 - 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 at 7 p.m.

Sierra Madre City Hall
Santa Claus on The Fire Truck
All children will receive a holiday stocking
Courtesy of Sierra Madre Fire Fighters Association

Sunday, December 24 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Church of the Good Shepherd in Arcadia
Children's pageant with costumes and songs
"Unwrapping of the Nativity" at 5 p.m.; a traditional worship at 9 p.m. with choral, orchestral, and harp music, a ritual of candles; and a "midnight service" beginning at 11 p.m. and offering Holy Communion.
A petting zoo in the church courtyard from 6 to 8 p.m.
400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia. For more information, call (626) 447-2181

REMEMBRANCES

BOB PENNY "Father of Temperament" for German Shepherd Dogs



Penny (left) was one of six 50-year members of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America who were honored at the National Specialty show in October.
Photo courtesy of The German Shepherd Dog Review

Bob Penny, 82 passed away last Friday at Methodist Hospital in Arcadia, where he was taken after suffering from a heart attack. All over the United States, dog fanciers from the American Kennel Club and the German Shepherd Dog Club of America mourned his passing.

"He was so respected," said Jack Newton, Vice President of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Los Angeles County. "I've received so many emails and telephone calls. It's an astounding reaction. Hundreds of people are very affected by his death."

Bill Pfeiffer, treasurer of the organization, said via telephone from Raleigh, North Carolina, that Penny "was a star in our midst." He was the person who "really kept the focus on making sure we worked very, very hard to ensure sound temperament. He was the person that drove that idea and that challenge to us breeders for as long as I can remember. You can get mean-spirited genetics in there. Bob worked so hard to help us all, to keep the temperament uppermost in our thought process."

Dr. Carmen Battaglia of Roswell, Georgia, described Penny as "The Father of Temperament." Penny served as Board member of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and remained the Chairman of the Temperament Committee for decades, after developing temperament criteria and consequences for testing dogs; and the Temperament Test Certification. Due to Penny's contributions, the United States surpassed all other countries in temperament training for German Shepherds, he said.

Battaglia, author of "Breeding Better Dogs" and "The Proper Care of German Shepherds," said the breed is unique among all dogs. One of 19 herding breeds, the German Shepherd has a high work ethic, which enables it to be trained as a guide dog, tracking dog, companion dog, therapy dog, rescue dog, police dog and military dog with skills in drug, bomb and mine detection. "A person could get killed if a dog makes a mistake," said Battaglia.

Although herding breeds have "strong prey drive," one of the amazing characteristics of the German Shepherd according to Battaglia, is that "this dog will listen and change direction."

Battaglia said Penny was "a rare gem" and "wonderful spirit" who was also a great

listener. "He was a world class dog handler," said Penny's nephew, George.

Low Bunch, President of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, said Penny was a member for 51 years. "He was just so kind. Kind and caring," said Bunch from Kansas City. "His passion was the German Shepherd dog. He loved training them, he loved showing them. He was emphatic that every dog should have a sound mind and sound body."

Penny is survived by his daughter, Kathy; stepson Gary; his brother Brad and his wife Mary, and several nieces and nephews. A memorial will be held at a later date, in 2007, which will be announced in this newspaper. Readers are encouraged to visit the website www.gsdca.org for more information on the organization.

Last Thursday afternoon at Orange Grove, a German Shepherd wandered along Sierra Madre Boulevard. Cars slowed down or stopped. The dog continued on its way, aimlessly.



Written By Katina Dunn

The Wild West

With Kyle McClure Ecology Update

On Christmas Trees

Do you ever have one of those moments where you are at Target buying a Christmas tree and the sun is shining and the San Gabriels are crystal clear and its like 78 degrees in December and you think, wait a minute, what am I doing with this tree? This is a coniferous evergreen from the Pacific Northwest. It has been trucked hundreds of miles so that I can put it in a plastic stand in my living room and wait for it to turn brown and shed needles that I will continue to find around my house until June. If I don't crawl underneath it every two days with a pitcher full of water (half of which will spill down my arm, while the other half gets poured directly on the floor) to keep it moisturized, it will probably burst into flames in my living room and destroy everything I own.... Do you have these moments?

You may be interested to learn that the reason you are buying that tree (and not that one over there, which is too curved, or that one over there which has a big empty spot with no branches) is that in the 7th century, a monk traveled to what is now Germany and convinced the pagans to stop sacrificing their cows and sheep, to turn their affections away from the hallowed oak, and to worship the one and only true God. As a bonus he threw in the triangular shaped fir tree. He realized that they probably wouldn't go for a religion that didn't allow them to hug any trees at all, so he convinced the pagans that the fir was God's tree. Since it had three corners (apparently those Germanic pagans could only see in two dimensions), the fir tree represented the trinity, and they could hug it all they wanted, if they didn't mind the scratchiness.

By the 12th century, fir trees were being hung upside-down in houses all across central Europe in celebration of Christmas. Yes, upside-down from the ceiling. This, I propose we bring back into effect. There would be many advantages to upside-down-hanging trees. For one thing, you wouldn't need a step-stool or a ladder to affix the star. And, think of all the space you could save; the fat part of the tree would be up on the ceiling, instead of down on the floor. You wouldn't have to reorganize furniture so drastically. Although, watering would continue to be problematic, maybe even more so.

As a Southern Californian, born and (mostly) bred, I sometimes have a hard time taking part enthusiastically in the whole Christmastime winter-fest scene. Snowmen and stockings and cranberry wreaths... they just don't have much to do with us. Am I the only person who thinks that in this part of the country, we all kind of agree to pretend that it's winter for a few weeks so we can buy some new outfits and put up different decorations in the mall? Not that I am complaining. Have you seen what happens in places like Idaho and Wyoming? The temperature drops below 50! You can't wear sandals. Or ride a razor scooter to work. Or find your governor on the first page of a Google search.

If you are like me, and you are kept awake at night by the wrenching guilt of displaying an incongruous Christmas evergreen in your sunny, snow-free, So-Cal house, take heart. There is a place called Phoenix, Arizona. You may have heard about it in the news recently; NASA scientists just found satellite image evidence that



Today's 12th Century Imitation



Or How About Something Solid?

liquid water actually exists there. According to my sources, the residents of this desolate outpost of humanity also display Christmas trees (not decorated cacti) in their living rooms. If they can get away with it, gosh darn it, so can we.

Welcome Edwin Diaz – New Superintendent for the PUSD



By Nancy Suerd

During a special meeting of the Board of Education for the Pasadena Unified School District on Tuesday, December 19, the Board unanimously decided to enter into contract discussions with Edwin Diaz, to become the next superintendent for PUSD.

Over the past week, the Board interviewed seven candidates who best met the profile that was developed after receiving input from the community and staff. After an initial round of interviews three candidates were selected for a second interview.

Following those interviews, Diaz was selected as the top candidate. Board President Peter Soelter, Vice President Scott Phelps, Member Ed Honowitz, and Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, Altadena Town Council Chairman Ken Balder and Sierra Madre Mayor John Buchanan conducted a site visit this past weekend. They spoke with district administrators, parents, principals, teachers and union representatives.

Mayor Bogaard, Chairman Balder, and Mayor Buchanan all expressed their positive impression of the candidate, and their belief that he had the strength and characteristics that would be important for his success in PUSD. Among other things, they were impressed by his integrity, his collaborative decision-making style, his work ethic and his successes.

Diaz has been the superintendent for Gilroy Unified School, a district of 10,000 students located in central California, for six years. During that time, he has been credited with leading an aggressive district wide improvement effort that has resulted in improved instructional programs to meet the diverse needs of Gilroy's student population, implementing an accountability system, and significantly improving the quality of school facilities.

"We are very pleased that this outstanding superintendent is considering joining our district," said PUSD Board President Peter Soelter. "His previous successes in improving student achievement, closing the achievement gap, engaging the community in building a strong public education system, and working (continued page 5)

Rose Float Passes Tech Inspection

By Katina Dunn
Photos By Steve Meier

Exhausted from working all night, volunteers for the Sierra Madre Rose Float met with Tournament officials early Saturday to run through the float's mechanical paces.

The professional demeanor of the volunteers – from their white jumpsuits to their attention to detail – could place them anywhere from NASCAR to NASA.

"These guys are really into it," said Tournament Inspector Norm Haley, a realtor who was a machinist in the U.S. Navy. "This is a great camaraderie and a great group over here."

The float was driven by Jeanne Mills, who will be the first grandmother to drive it. The Rose Parade Princesses Anna Losorelli, Caitlin Van Luyk, Katie Merrill and Kasey Johnson were strapped in their seats for the test run, practicing their Queen Waves.

Mills drove the float to Sierra Madre Boulevard, drove a few



blocks, then turned it around. Typical parade speed is 2.5 miles per hour. The waterfalls worked, so did the mechanical tree limbs and the sound system. "We're not interested in them going up," said Haley. "We're interested in how they go down – for that freeway bridge near Sierra Madre Boulevard."

The fire drill went smoothly with everybody getting off the float in seconds, including the driver.

"We just make sure the float is built expertly and it is safe," said Tournament Liaison Official Sindee Riboli.

Help is still needed for the finishing touches. Work with a friendly crew! If you cannot help out, consider donating funds or meals or snacks for those volunteering 'round the clock. Call Bonnie Colcher at (626) 355-7999.



GIFT (continued from Page 1)
the approximately one acre of land that has been the site of the school since its inception. Further, the City informed the school that the existing lease agreement of \$550 per year could not continue.

The City did, however, offer to carry the note on the land if the school could raise \$200,000 by March 31, 2007 and purchase the property. Immediately, the school launched a fundraising campaign, appropriately named "Pathway To The Future."

To date, the campaign has raised approximately \$159,000, leaving \$41,000 more to be raised by March, 2007.

That is the gift that needs to be given and we as a community should help. Let me tell you why:

Aside from the obvious, that is, we need to invest in our children, the Sierra Madre Community Nursery School is an absolutely amazing place. When you walk through the door you realize that this is a place where everything was designed to make a small child feel special. It is an environment of enthusiastic teaching and learning. From the tiny little chairs to the teachers and volunteers, the center has the sanctity of a very special world.

The school is led by Beverly Slocum, a parent in 1978, who became Director in 1991. She is responsible for the 200+ children currently enrolled. She is also responsible for Sly the snake, 7 Rabbits, 5 Guinea Pigs, 2 Chubby Frogs and an unknown quantity of goldfish.

In addition to Ms. Slocum, the school is staffed with a cadre of caring teachers and volunteers, all of whom are or have been parents of children in the school. In fact, The Mt. Wilson Observer was recently contacted by a former parent, Lori Cooper, whose daughter attended the school 50 years ago.

The ages of the participants range from 2 ½ through Kindergarten. Each child attends for 5 half days. There is also a very special Toddler-Parent Program for parents and children younger than 2 and ½ years.

So you see, this is something we need to protect. It is an asset to our community. It educates and nourishes our children. And, as we all know, investing in our children at an early age is truly "The Pathway To The Future."

For more information regarding the school and its fundraising efforts, contact Beverly Slocum at 626-355-7730 or you may email her at: slocopasa@aol.com

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In addition to your weekly home delivery, Friends will receive:

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You can also join online by going to: www.mtwilsonobserver.com

Your support keeps our newspaper strong.



Charlie, Declan and Sawyer take a break

During this holiday season, let us remember those who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Forest Service Fire Fighters Remembered

By Caroline Brown

I was a Visitor Information Service Officer for the US Forest Service 25 years ago and worked with many firefighters stationed at Chilao and Chanry Flat Ranger Stations in the Angeles National Forest. I observed their stamina, dedication and sheer joy for the work they did in the forest.

I have been a volunteer with the Fire Lookout Towers for the Angeles National Forest. Although fire lookout towers are a part of forest fire fighting's past, there is a lasting connection between the old days and now, between volunteers and the professional men and women who fight wildfire in our National Forests.

I attended the memorial for the five Forest Service Fire Fighters killed while fighting the Esperanza Fire in the Banning Pass foothills last October. I sat with other forest service volunteers. We watched the slow procession of families take their seats in front of the photos of these gallant men: Mark Loutzenhiser, Jess McLean, Jason McKay, Daniel Hoover, Najera and Pablo Cerdá.

We were moved by the eulogies describing their lives, their spirit and their love for the land they fought to protect. Two speakers, Rangers from the San Bernardino National Forest, reminded us of the good results of our volunteer efforts, when they thanked Fire Safe Councils for making the work of the firefighters safer.

I was proud of these five men and the company

surrounding me that day. The ceremony ended with a flyover of airplanes and helicopters that we see in the news every time a fire breaks out. It is the missing man formation that we grieve to see as we did that day.

The enormous generosity of the American public was recognized when more than a million dollars was collected for their families. In our own City Hall a Forest Service work boot was placed for collecting contributions. The US Congress made an emergency change in the law so the money collected could be given to the families, tax free.

This past year was not so fierce as others when the enormity of property and forested lands lost to wild fire is considered. The enormity of the loss of the lives of these five dedicate Forest Service Fire Fighters, whose valor we will remember, as the forest and woodlands recover and revive must never be forgotten.



NOTICE: IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, December 27th, at 6:30 P.M.

Mira Monte Reservoir and Booster Station Construction Project Public Information Meeting

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a City meeting, please contact the Director of Public Works at (626) 355-7135 at least three working days before the meeting.

This notification will help City staff in making reasonable arrangements to provide you with access to the meeting.

On January 2nd, the City will embark on construction of the single largest Public Works project in its history. The project will involve the replacement of the two existing reservoirs and the existing pumping station located adjacent to Mt. Wilson Trail Park on East Mira Monte Avenue. This project has been in development for almost ten years, and is funded jointly with grant funds from the Federal government, Grant and loan funds from San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and City water

revenue. The project will greatly increase the seismic reliability of this critical segment of the City's water infrastructure.

Phase 1: The removal and the replacement of the existing steel reservoir located behind Mt. Wilson Trail Park.

Phase 2 and 3: The removal and replacement of the existing reservoir located on the northwest corner of Mira Monte and Mt. Wilson Trail, and the removal and replacement of the existing booster pump station at the same location. Portions of these two phases will occur simultaneously.

In order to minimize the construction-related impacts on local residents, Mt. Wilson Trail Park will be closed to the public for the duration of the project and used for construction staging and parking. However, the Trail and restrooms will be open for use, and the Historic Buildings will be open on weekends only.

The project will occur during the daytime hours only, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

What this means to Sierra Madre residents and visitors:

Limited or restricted traffic flow and parking around construction areas during certain stages of the project. On these days, residents will be encouraged to use alternate routes when exiting or entering your neighborhood and to find alternate parking arrangements. Additionally, noise and dust may be prevalent, depending on the distance from your home to the construction site where construction activities are occurring. This disruption will be real but temporary and the impacts will be mitigated to the fullest degree. Your patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated during the construction period.

ALL PROJECT INFORMATION, UPDATES AND ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON CITY'S WEBSITE BY JANUARY 2, 2007.

If you have questions regarding this project, please feel free to our Program Manager

C. Stephen Bucknam, Jr. at (949) 363-6461 or the Director of Public Works, Bruce Inman at (626) 355-7135.

Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown



The most recent brush fire that we experienced in the Southland was in the wild lands around the community of Moorepark in Ventura County. It began, on December 3rd at 2:30 A.M., along Shekell Road. Within 24 hours the Shekell Complex Fire burned 10,000 acres.

It was easy to arrive at the quick assumption that it was an arsonist at work - road-side start, middle of the night, rural area. The TV news was forecasting high winds for the foothills and canyons.

In Sierra Madre we had little wind throughout that period, but in Ventura County it was very windy, 20-40 mph, with gusts up to 70 mph. It was the wind that caused the fire - arcing high tension wires that caused sparks that blew into the surrounding flashy fuels.

Sierra Madre residents living in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones will know that this weather condition calls for "Red Flag Alert" awareness and extra neighborhood vigilance during the wind storms.

The next Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council meeting is January 8, 2007, at 7 P. M. in the City Council Chambers. The meetings are open to all residents in Sierra Madre and the surrounding foothill communities. We are networking with Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange County Fire Safe Councils to bring fire safety to our Southland communities.

For information: 355-9350 or 355-1182.

Email us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com and visit the website: www.firesafecouncil.org

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At
Law

For Legal Advice
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Downey, CA 90242
(562) 861-3335

Los Angeles Police Department Community Alert Notification

Gift Cards Warning

The crooks have found a way to rob you of your gift card balance. If you buy Gift Cards from a display rack that has various store cards you may become a victim of theft. Crooks are now jotting down the card numbers in the store and then wait a few days and call to see how much of a balance THEY have on the card.

Once the card is "activated" they go online and start shopping.

You may want to purchase your card from a customer service person, or on-line, where they do not have Gift Cards viewable to the public.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, December 10th, to Saturday December 16th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 256 calls for service.

Sunday, December 10th:

9:14 AM - Stolen vehicle, 100 block East Montecito Ave. A resident reported his blue 2007 Chrysler PT Cruiser was stolen from in front of his home. The car was last seen Saturday, 12/9 at 10:30 PM and discovered missing this morning, Sunday 12/10 at 9:10 AM.

Tuesday, December 12th:

2:21 PM - Vandalism, 100 block East Grandview Ave. A resident reported the wires to her outdoor Christmas lights cut. A male youth was reported leaving the front yard of the home. The youth was found in the area hiding between cars and admitted to the damage. The youth was counseled and released to his parent.

Friday, December 15th:

12:23 AM - Traffic collision, 500 block West Laurel Ave. Officers responded to the report of a traffic collision. A car was reported hitting the wall at the end of the street. The driver was transported to the hospital and arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Saturday, December 16th

2:50 AM - Driving Under the Influence, Foothill Blvd and Sierra Madre Villa. Officer Amos reported a van traveling east on Foothill Blvd with sparks coming from the van's front under carriage. Officer Amos conducted a vehicle stop and damage was matched to a collision with a city sign hit earlier on Sturtevant Dr. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and misdemeanor hit and run.



Healthy Family Fun

Saturday, December 30, 2006
9:00 am

Grab your sneakers, family, & friends

Capture the Flag

& come to Sierra Vista Park for a energizing Capture the Flag game.



Get Out and Get Active!



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

A Feast and Gifts for Children in Need



Story and Photo by John Blackstock

Dozens of children and their parents from Hillside and Bienvenidos enjoyed the La Salle Christmas party last Saturday. Santa Claus arrived early for 18 families with Bienvenidos and nearly 40 foster children from Hillside.

The entire La Salle community participated in this 10th annual Adopt-a-Family Christmas Party. Ann

Gallagher, Service Project coordinator, with the assistance of the Student Life team, orchestrated the efforts of La Salle students, faculty, staff and parents. Countless hours of preparation went into the party that culminated in a family dinner, a visit from Santa, bingo and other games for children.

"For the past ten years the entire La Salle community has enthusiastically embraced the Adopt-a-Family program," said Mrs. Gallagher. "Student participation on the event days was truly outstanding."

Alverno Celebrates New National Honor Society Members

By Candace Seigel

At a school-wide ceremony, eighteen students from Alverno High School were inducted into the National Honor Society, one of the oldest and



most prestigious national organizations for high school students.

New members are selected by a faculty council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Students with qualifying grades must also complete a detailed application. The new NHS members: Madeleine Aguilar, Ashley Almanza, Carolyn Bickel, Natalina Capra, Amanda Casalegno, Emillie Casalegno, Gayaneh Davoodian, Rebecca Garcia, Gail Gutierrez, Lauren Hogue, Lauryn Hykes, Natasha Larssen, Jinky Lim,

Ellen O'Connor, Dena Rayess, Zeldia Vasser, and Fahreen Wahid

A National Honor Society members are chosen for and then expected to continue their exemplary contributions to school and community.

Chapter advisor Sandy Bogan, who also placed the group for its most recent service project. Current NHS members volunteered at the Masquerade Ball in Pasadena, to benefit the Aids Service Center. The girls helped to set up for the bash, served as greeters, worked check-in, food service, and helped with cleanup. "I've worked with the ASC since 2004, so I was more than happy to recruit the girls to volunteer for an event that I knew, firsthand, would be a lot of fun and would still benefit the community," says Bianca Paraguya, NHS President.

Congratulations to all these young women for the contributions they are making to our world. Alverno is a Catholic, college-prep high school for girls. Located on 13 park-like acres in Sierra Madre, the school is known for its leadership and service programs.

DIAZ (continued from page 3)

collaboratively with staff, are For the past six years, Edwin Diaz has served as Superintendent of the Gilroy Unified School District (GUSD), a district of 10,000 students in Central California. During his tenure, he has turned the district into a collaborative environment where teachers meet in data teams, and an emphasis is placed on improvement planning for all schools.

Diaz is a highly motivated and results oriented instructional leader with over 30 years of experience in California public schools.

"While Edwin has many strengths, I believe his ability to create a vision and to unshakably focus everyone on the goals were the most critical to his moving the District back to respectability," said Bob Kraemer, a Past President and member of the Gilroy Board of Education. "As California faced significant budget cuts, Edwin proactively avoided budget crises that plagued many districts by ensuring reductions were made where they least impacted the students and were implemented early on."

Prior to his role as superintendent of GUSD, Diaz served as an Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at the Oak Grove Elementary School District. In this capacity, he was responsible for the District's Visioning Process, implementing the Closing the Achievement Gap Plan, staff development and support for new teachers.

In 1998, he was selected Human Resources Administrator of the Year, Region 8, by the Association of California School Administrators.

Diaz has also been the Executive Director of Human Resources and Secondary Education for GUSD and the

principal for the Mt. Madonna Continuation High School where he restructured the academic program and developed comprehensive student support services. The school was recognized as a California State Model Continuation High School during his tenure.

Diaz began his academic career as a Social Science Teacher, Social Science Department Chair and Head Varsity Football Coach. He also served as an Assistant Principal.

He has had extensive leadership training, including attending the American Leadership Forum-Silicon Valley, the Sentium Leadership Institute and the Stupski Foundation "Leaders As Learners" Academy.

Diaz received his Master of Arts degree from San Jose State University and his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Chico State University.

A Gilroy native, Diaz is married and has two daughters. One is a teacher in the Oak Grove system and the other is a student at Bethany College in West Virginia.

"For the last couple of years there have been rumors, and (Edwin) certainly is a valuable commodity," said outgoing Board Member Jim Rogers in the Gilroy Dispatch newspaper. "Edwin's in prime time. He's in his early 50's he's had some success, and he's certainly known all over California...I endorse his work and I obviously think it's going to be big shoes to fill."

Nancy Suerd is a communications writer for the Pasadena Unified School District.

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

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

Pete Siberell says - GET READY FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BALL!

Sierra Madre Little League Baseball Try-outs
(all at Heasley Field in Sierra Vista Park,
611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.)

11 & 12 Year-olds Wednesday, January 3
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

11 & 12 Year-olds Saturday, January 6
(Make-up)
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

7 - 10 Year-olds Saturday, January 6
9:00 a.m. - Noon

7 - 10 Year-olds Tuesday, January 9
(Make-up)
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

5-6 Year-olds do not have to try out.

Sierra Madre Little League Baseball Season

Saturday, February 24 to Saturday, June 2

For more information, go to www.sml.org or call Pete Siberell, President of SMLL at 626-355-6746.

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

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Astronomy Meets Art in Antarctica

Yesterday, December 21, was the Winter Solstice—the shortest day of the year, and the beginning of winter. Except in the Southern Hemisphere, that is. There, the seasons are reversed, and it's the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer. It's a curious date, no matter how you look at it. In the far north, above the Arctic Circle, it's a time of 24-hour darkness, while in Antarctica you have 24 hours of continuous sunlight. Lita Albuquerque, a Santa Monica-based artist who has achieved a world-class reputation for her "earthworks"—outdoor art creations, usually on a huge scale—has chosen this date to present "Stellar Axis: Antarctica," an array of 99 blue spheres laid out on the Antarctic ice to form a mirror image of the exact positions of the stars overhead. Albuquerque left Los Angeles for Antarctica's McMurdo Station on December 2 with a team that included an astronomer, a documentary filmmaker, and photographers. During their 3-week stay in the McMurdo area, the astronomer, Dr. Simon Balm (who teaches at Santa Monica College) will help Albuquerque lay out the globes on the ice so as to be an exact reflection of the positions of the 99 brightest stars in the sky above that location as of the Solstice. The stars will not be visible to the eye from Antarctica because

there will be 24-hour daylight at that time, but the use of a satellite-based global positioning system (GPS) will enable the team to create an accurate representation of the stars' coordinates on an 800-foot-diameter area of ice. "I am interested in creating a mental image of the patterns aligning," Albuquerque said. "In a way, it is like taking a snapshot of a moment in time when the stars are aligned to the pattern on the ground, so that the picture is an accurate picture of not just a planet floating in space, but a planet surrounded by a vast circulatory system of stars of which we are a part." She points out that her work could be considered a modern-art version of ancient astronomical sites such as Stonehenge. Like a symphonic performance, "Stellar Axis: Antarctica" is for a moment in time, not for eternity. After about a week (during which the display will be photographed and filmed from a helicopter overhead), the blue globes will be gathered up and flown back to the United States, to be sold to raise funds for a documentary video and book. Just in case you were thinking of giving a truly unique gift this Christmas (to someone who has everything), how about a star from this exhibit? Prices range from \$5,000 for a 10-inch globe (representing the relatively dim, 2.54-magnitude star Alnair in the constellation Centaurus the Centaur) to \$60,000 for a 48-inch globe (representing the brightest of all stars, Sirius in Canis Major, the Greater Dog). Best of all, your starry gift is tax-deductible. For more, see Albuquerque's web site, www.stellaraxis.com

iHolidays
Consume, consume, consume.

WorkForce with Madeline

Direct your questions to Madeline at comptype2@aol.com or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

Q: I'm a chef. I recently interviewed for a job at an informal chain restaurant. The interviewer said my résumé was well written, but my cover letter needs some additions. He said I should have mentioned why I enjoy eating at his restaurant. I'm really not so sure this is important. What do you think?

A: It's not necessary to include praises of his restaurant. The interviewing process is about you not the restaurant. This is meaningless clutter and just a futile attempt to get on the good side of the hiring manager.

Occasionally, it's worth including something specific to a potential place of employment. For example, an environmental lawyer might say she is particularly interested in working on the firm's Red River Project. A special education teacher might say that the school district's mainstreaming policy regarding integrating challenged students into every aspect of the curriculum is in line with his educational philosophy. Or, as a chef, you might mention that you have researched that restaurant's menu and are skilled in preparing some of the same entrées served such as Eggplant Parmesan and Chicken Marsala. These examples illustrate concrete evidence that you have done your homework.

Friday has recently become dress-down day at work. I enjoy wearing a suit and tie and am not so eager to change. Do you think it would be okay to continue wearing a suit?

It's fine if you want to be considered an oddball. I say go with the flow. Take a gentle approach and do it gradually. Too much at one time might cause you undue stress.

The first week wear a sport jacket, dress shirt, and tie. The next week give up the tie. The next week give up the jacket, and so on. You'll get used to it. You might even start to enjoy dress-down day.



"For the rest of my list, please visit my Web site."

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OPINION

A good conscience is a continual Christmas.

Benjamin Franklin

Congrats, Good Work Now for the Big Game

By Stefan Bund



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

To be honest with you, residents of this town may have succeeded in pushing back on the DSP and big development downtown in a major way. Pushing 2-30-13 to the April ballot, and putting a moratorium on new development until then may be the equivalent of running a touchdown with fifteen seconds to play. It may have put this game on ice.

But I fear that we could become complacent. And complacency is what got this city into the DSP debacle - neon signs, uproar in City Hall, and attack websites (which make people more furious than parking lot shouting matches).

Somehow the gorgeous environs of this town can lull us into a sense that God has smiled on us once and for all; and this, my friends, is just not how things proceed, in the garden. The fact that a small handful of property owners have controlled this town, for so long, is evidence to new-comers like me, that residents here have a tendency to fall asleep at the wheel.

I also learned that even if the citizens take control over development downtown with 2-30-13, that an even

larger threat to this city's way of life hangs over us.

Enter the Community Redevelopment Association, or the CRA. The CRA was founded to take over the revitalization of blighted communities, where the construction of libraries, recreation centers, parks, and city halls could stimulate local economics. Such an application was filed in Sierra Madre in the 1970's, which resulted in the City Hall being constructed. This is the reason why we make checks out to the CRA each City Council meeting.

By giving us these buildings, it acquires the exclusive right to build affordable housing. But whether the city 'needs' affordable housing can be determined by a formula that determines if the city indeed provides enough housing for middle and lower income people.

If the group who brought you the DSP isn't brought into line with 2-30-13, they will return with the help of the CRA. The CRA will determine if this city needs to be sued in order to have more affordable housing. The arrival of the Democrats on the federal scene will probably intensify the drive toward affordable housing. And Sierra Madre will have to defend itself.

I personally have on tape City Attorney Michael Colantuono advising the City that we likely fulfill the number of units necessary to prove that we provide affordable housing here; he stated this during the first DSP Study Session.

So long as we build out condos for yuppies, we will be required, by the CRA, to build more affordable housing downtown.

To borrow from the football pun, in order to play defense in 2007, we have to get a hold of the CRA's playbook.

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.

DEAR SANTA:

What I Really Want and Need

By Susan Henderson

want (v): to have a strong desire for;
need (n): a condition requiring supply or relief

Remember when I sang that song to you, All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth? The first time I was too little to know that the grammar was incorrect. The last time, well, we don't need to talk about that do we? I will say however, that these last two front teeth are really pretty flexible. They pop right in and out. Thanks a million!

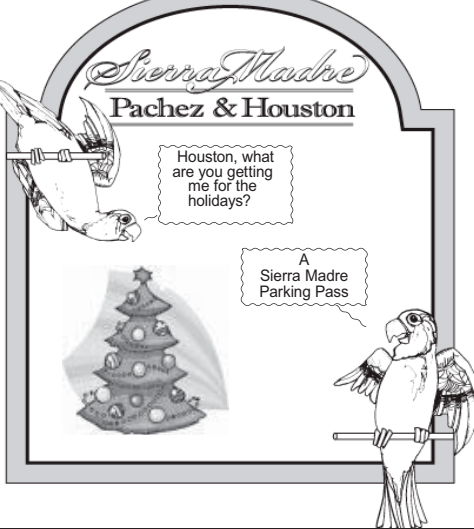
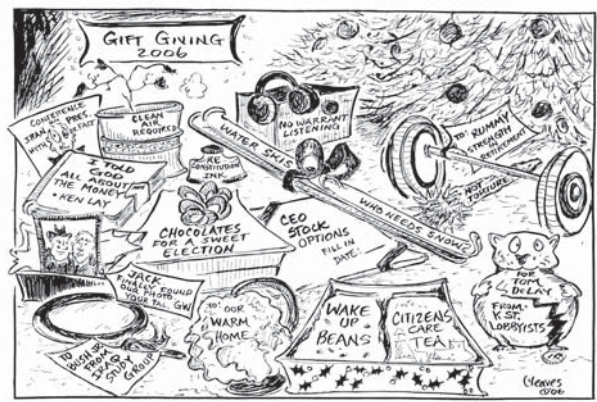
Now that the teeth are permanent I'd like to talk about the things I really want. Here's my list.

1. You gotta work on this greed thing. People fight over what someone else has. It doesn't matter whether it's land or money. Be careful that you don't burn a hole in your sack, but please take all of this hatred away. Why do we have to just look at someone and decide that they are not worthy of our respect because they are different?
2. While you are at it, how about silencing all the wicked voices for a while. Can you give our ears a rest? Can you fix it so that if you don't say something nice, no sound would come out? That would be great. Then maybe we could hear the wonderful sounds of nature again.
3. Speaking of nature, can you talk to someone so that the earth just swallows up those that abuse it? Or would that be another form of pollution?
4. Bring plenty of peace with you. Peace as in not war, but most importantly, peace of mind. We have so many troubled people all around us. I should probably say, can you do something about all these people with issues? There, now you understand what I am saying.
5. And last, but certainly not least - can you bring a double dose of love?

That's my list. Just six things. Now please Santa, don't go through this list and try to find out one thing I really want. Just give me everything. Trust me, it's needed.

Merry Christmas to you Santa and to all my friends.

P.S. - Here's a question I've been wanting to ask you for a really long time. How's your stomach doing? I used to leave you beer and cookies and you always ate them. BEER and Cookies? Yuck!



"Whoever said 'It's the thought that counts' was obviously three bulbs short of a Christmas tree."

Peace and Love To You and Yours

from the Publishers and Staff of
The Mt. Wilson Observer

The Beauty Intelligencer

Sierra Madre is home to a number of expert spa and beauty treatment practitioners. Each place has its own special qualities, resources and feeling about it, just like the clients it attracts. Definitely, one never has to leave town to get the finest *au courant* look and receive the very best in care. There is no excuse not to look and feel your best, with all the expert talent available here. The following businesses also offer gift certificates and beneficial products from different beauty lines.

For good looks on the inside out, try **Footsmarts Reflexology** with **Despina Arzouman**. Reflexology is an ancient practice predicated on the assumption that the ears, hands and feet correlate to different parts of the body. The technique is similar to massage of the ears, hands and feet and the resulting feeling at the end of the session is also similar to that of massage. It's a definite, relaxing change for the better overall and this is attested by clients who return frequently for regular sessions. Arzouman is certified by the American Academy of Reflexology and a member of the practice's professional organizations. Visit www.footsmarts-reflexology.com Telephone (626) 355-3414.

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Knowledge of the back is one of **Jean Galbraith's** talents as a therapeutic masseuse. Galbraith is a retired nurse who runs **Harmony Skin Care and Day Spa**. She still works at a hospital part of the week doing therapeutic massage on patients.

Galbraith created her spa to be a relaxing experience. "Once you walk through the front door you begin to immediately de-stress yourself," she said. Water fountains, soft music and scented rooms create a peaceful mood. "I want to help people put sane-ness back into their lives," said Galbraith. Another aspect of Harmony is that Galbraith wanted to maintain her services at an affordable level. Galbraith has a full service spa for men and women featuring skin care, facials, waxing, scrubs, wraps and massages. Makeup custom blended to your skin tone is \$45 per ounce. Galbraith also sells Pureology hair products. Galbraith celebrates ten years in business. From December 25, 2006 to January 1, 2007, subtract \$15 for each service as a thank you. Visit www.harmonyspa.com 31 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Telephone (626) 836-1061

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Yvonne Fata and Tanya Edmonds are the nurturing team behind **Center for Wellbeing** and now they are involved in creating Home Spa Parties - complete with décor and spa services for bridal groups, couples and birthday parties. A party for eight 13 year-old girls is one of their latest bookings.

The Center for Wellbeing

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The Center for Wellbeing offers massage, facials, pomegranate peels, waxing, Balinese foot baths, eyebrow sculpting and makeup consultation.

The types of massage include Swedish, Shiatsu, Heated Stone, Thai Massage which utilizes acupressure and yoga positions, Sports Massage with deep tissue work and stretching techniques and gentle Peri-Natal massage for expectant mothers. They sell the Jan Marini line of medical-grade skincare which includes the very popular eyelash extensions at \$160 for a tube which will last six to nine months. The success of the lash lengthener is so great that Fata said she had to cut her long eyelashes.

This product is on order again, although it is now found on eBay for twice the price. It works for eyebrows and raises immediate questions on a future formula for baldness. Senior discounts are available for those 65 years and older. www.centerwellbeing.com 20 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 355-2443.

Annaliese and Albert Vergara of **Lunch Salon** specialize in "all hair all the time." Ten stylists work out of the homey salon on Baldwin, one of the most comfy spots to disappear in and come out transformed. Younger stylists do the "wilder" looks for teens and the older stylists cater to adult clientele - men and women. The specialty of the shop is color, and for winter, Annaliese said they are deepening color from mocha browns to coppery blondes and burgundy reds. Hot rollers give hair a soft look for evenings, and Lunch also offers a special treatment for extra shine.

For holiday gifts or everyday care, Lunch sells a complete line of Aveda products, including make-up, hair treatments such as rosemary mint shampoo and a men's shaving line, Aveda's "Pure Abundance" hair thickener powder (\$22) is hard to keep in stock. Makeup products include shimmer accents for cheeks and décolletage (\$18); cheek and lip crème (\$15.16), and silky eye accent (\$15.16). Boar bristle hairbrushes are also good stocking stuffers (\$14 to \$30). Lunch is open Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.lunchsalon.com 65 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 355-1481

CAPELLI COURT
Salon

31 NORTH BALDWIN AVENUE
SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024

626-836-1242

There is a generosity of spirit throughout **Capelli Court**. It could be the world beat music playing in the background that is the happy obsession of stylist **David Pietrangolo**. Or the vibe of the place in general, which includes its friendly receptionist, **Rita**. This is a full service salon offering cuts and color by many stylists, including owners **Ester Goren** and **Marinella Pollo**; manicures and pedicures by **Kristy** and facials and waxing by **Nancy**. Also owned by **Karen Williams**, the Capelli Court Salon generously extended space to The Hair Upstairs after that shop was damaged by fire and water.

It offers unique lines of beauty products, including Woody's for boys and young men. Named after the classic surfer's station wagon, Woody's makes styling gel, shampoo, soap, shaving cream and beeswax hair pomade. Capelli Court also offers products from Pureology, Alterna, I.C.O.N. hydrating line, Catwalk, Bedhead and Redken; the medicated Nioxin line for psoriasis, thinning hair, and other scalp challenges; high tech T3 Tourmaline flatirons and blow dryers; and candles by Archipelago Botanicals for \$19 to \$21 in scents such as orange/cinnamon/spice and lemon verbena/lavender/thyme. 51 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 836-1242

"Rethink the ordinary.
Be extraordinary.
Come home to Lunch."

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(626) 355-1481
Visit: lunchsalon.com

Karin's offers hair color from the exclusive Goldwell line, Japanese hair straightening, hair extensions, and special occasion up-do's. A former ballerina, **Karin Mortellaro** followed in her grandmother Ethel's footsteps - not only was **Ethel Guilfoyle** a dancer, but she had her hair done in the very same spot Karin is at now, only then it was called Les Girls Coiffures. Her mother, **Glenda**, sometimes works at the salon, when she is not dancing in the Palm Springs Follies. Karin's salon is very entertainment oriented in clientele, serving lots of TV people and other business professionals. She has worked with the Goldwell color line for 25 years. Salons are usually public places, so Karin offers rooms in the back for quieter, more contemplative clientele. A back wall displays a peaceful mural of palm trees, painted by her sister, Stacy. Karin says her shop "feels like family." The complete Pureology line is sold here, as well as tubs of moisturizing Mediterranean Spa "Body Butter" made from cocoa butter and other ingredients for \$25 for more than 15 ounces. Each month, four demonstrations. If you are interested in participating in these demonstrations, please call 626-355-0521

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There's Still Time to..... SHOP OUR TOWN

All Photos by Jacqueline Truong

Visit E. Waldo Ward Ranch

By Rebecca S. Nesler

E. WALDO RANCH, located at 273 E. Highland Ave. Sierra Madre, is ready for the holiday season. According to Jeff Ward; their 10 to 15 employees make and package 200 to 300 dozen boxes of jam a day, among other goods which are shipped to private companies and restaurants as well as larger chains such as Bristol Farms. The ranch itself is historically significant. It was built in 1902 by Jeff Ward's great grandfather



Edwin Waldo Ward and continues to be a family run business. A few of its citrus trees are a hundred years old, the fruit of which is still being used in their marmalade says Ward, adding that the average life span of a citrus tree is fifty years. The property now hosts a small museum dedicated to the ranch and jam and marmalade making.

It contains antique label presses and advertisements for the Ranch along with the original marmalade jars and other relics.

For more information visit:
www.waldoworld.com

Once Upon A Time

By Susan Henderson

This is the story of a perfect place, especially for Grandmoms, Grandpops, Aunts, Uncles, Moms and Dads. In downtown Sierra Madre, there is a shop full of children's clothes and toys named "Once Upon A Time."

Bob and Cassa Bernardini, the owners, specialize in clothing for children from infancy through pre-teen. They also feature wardrobes for "the coordinated family" which is styles of the same theme for different ages. Take poodles, for example. They'll be on overalls for a toddler and then on pants and sweaters for older siblings. "Accessories are important too," says Mrs. Bernardini. "We are well stocked in shoes and other items that make for a perfect, 'Kodak moment.' We have a lot of different fashion flavors, from the fashion forward to the playful."

Much of the merchandise is from well known designer lines such as Roxy,

school clothes, play clothes and dress up clothes. "You had to change before you went out," he remembers. "And you pretty much wore what your parents



told you." There is more variety in children's clothes today than there used to be, and many children choose what they want to wear, as a sign of maturity. Some things will always remain the same, though - a child's delight in the zig zag sound of corduroy pants or pride in new running shoes.

This writer can attest to Once Upon A Time's wonderful value. It has kept me in very good graces over the years with



Little Mass, Petunia Picklebottom, Le Top, Cash Cash, Baby Lulu and Biscotti.

There are socks by Trumpett which look like shoes - comfy! - called Little Johnny's, Little Jenny's, and Mary Janes for newborns and infants up to 12 months.

The store also carries toys such as Thomas the Tank Engine, development toys from Lamaz and scores of Beanie Babies.

Bob Bernardini remembers the plaid lumberjack shirts he wore when he was a child. In those days, kids had different sets of clothing for occasions



my grandchildren.

Once Upon A Time is open 7 days a week, Monday through Friday, Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, telephone (626) 836-6556. Once Upon A Time is located at 14 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, Ca.

Possum Cards "Hasty Notes"

By Katrelya

To order call
(626) 355-7837

or visit Iris Intrigue Boutique, 49 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Charlotte's Fine Jewelry

Charlotte is so busy it is hard to find five minutes to chat with her about her secret Holiday Wish List. Charlotte Waddingham keeps a list - similar to a bridal registry - for the holidays. Women come in and pick out what they like. Then their boyfriends or husbands come in to acquire their choices. "The closer we get to Christmas, the more men are here," said Charlotte, who has handled this sort of thing for 36 years.



The counters are filled with antiques and the handmade creations made by Charlotte herself, who has worked with gems since she was 20 years old.

Charlotte is working lately with organic, fluid looking lines found in nature, such as a tree necklace that has a wood nymph hidden within its golden folds.

If you cannot find something to your taste, Charlotte will make what you desire. Generations of families buy her custom made wedding bands and crest rings. She'll reset heirloom stones, sculpt your dog's face on a gold ring, and only works with "the real thing." No costume jewelry is found at Charlotte's.

We wanted to ask her more questions, but more men came in requiring her undivided attention. "My wife was in here and she saw..." said one, looking at a Celtic cross.

Don't be intimidated by the real thing, though. Prices for her handmade creations begin at \$90. Gabe the Jeweler is also there to offer expert assistance in creating, repairing and cleaning.

Visit Charlotte, forewarned she can be dangerous. After December 12, Charlotte's Fine Jewelry is open every day from noon to 6 p.m.

40 N. Baldwin
Telephone (626) 355-2828 or visit
www.charlottesfinejewelry.com

Jewelry by Jill K. Liston

Original and charming jewelry is made by artisan Jill Liston, who blends leather and freshwater pearls with charms of all kinds and interesting collectibles such as watch fobs.

Liston collects vintage charms and amulets to make fascinating, one-of-a-kind jewelry.

This is jewelry that means something - whether it's a pair of camel earrings for the holidays; earrings with the Cannes city seal and a tiny airplane for an actress; or a forest charm bracelet for a child which includes fairies, mushrooms and trees.

Liston has vast collections of charms and interesting pieces, so every piece she makes is unique. Liston can be reached at (626) 975-5779. She also sells at Coquette in Sierra Madre, Yoga Madre in Arcadia



and Fred Segal in Santa Monica. Liston's jewelry is also sold in Italy, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Michigan, Illinois and Oregon - and no piece looks alike. Prices range from \$20 to \$5,000.

Baldwin Jewelers

Berj is a girl's best friend according to the song Marilyn Monroe made famous, and he comes certified from the Gemological Institute of America. An expert in diamonds, Berj is consulted throughout the area for his expert eye in clarity, quality and cut.

Baldwin Jewelers is having a promotional sale now until December 30th. There is a varied collection of silver, turquoise, antique pocket watches, antique wrist watches, amber jewelry and fun cuckoo clocks for kids who have a difficult time waking up.

Baldwin Jewelers
15 Kersting Court
(626) 355-5771

Baldwin Jewelers is open on the 23rd from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. They will be closed Sunday, Christmas Eve.



Berj - Award Winning Master Jeweler and Diamonds Graduate/GIA

BIRD'S EYE VIEW Santa vs. Scrooge

By Pat Birdsall

Boy, the frost is on the pumpkin...if you pardon the expression. It has been so cold (one can almost hear Ed McMahon say, "How cold was it?") that it literally is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas.

My son Chris is spending Christmas in Philadelphia with his two-year old son Tully. That is the only Christmas present he wanted, and the best one that he could receive. My Christmas will be belated, but much worth the wait. In two weeks my son is bringing his Christmas present back with him for a visit with Grandma.

I must be frank... because my son wasn't going to be here for Christmas, I secretly hoped that the weather in Philadelphia would be miserable. OK, "Mother of the Year" I'm not. Another mother, as in, Mother Nature, agreed. The weather in Philadelphia is rather warm, and well, ours isn't. As I write this, we even have a cold wind thrown into the mix.

Totally switching gears, which I do ad nauseum...The wind actually became an ally of mine today. I have what people who are being kind refer to as "fine hair." Translation: It is almost non-hair. Anyway, while the wind was blowing fiercely, I went outside and let it just whip my hair all over the place. I just turned in place a few times to get the full effect. It didn't look as good as I had hoped, but then, I had an excuse for it not to... "Boy, that wind just destroyed my do."

Because of the wind and the chill in the air, I can honestly say that I have never seen our hillsides look so beautiful! We are truly blessed at this juncture to enjoy the breath-taking vistas that we are afforded. It would be "A Wonderful Life" if they remain unscathed...I guess that would involve a Scrooge vs. Santa scenario... I certainly hope they didn't lie to little Virginia...

Merry Christmas everybody...

SPORTS

John Shear: Guardian of the Track

By Larry Bortstein

John Shear will celebrate the day after Christmas by leaping out of bed at his Sierra Madre condominium and driving five minutes to Santa Anita for the first day of the track's 71st season of thoroughbred racing.

The traditional Dec. 26 opening at Santa Anita is one of the landmark days in Southern California sports. But no one has looked forward to it more than Shear.

"Though he'll celebrate his 86th birthday on January 17th, he's going back to work. He expects to be at his customary station each of the meet's 85 days, through April 22nd.

A guard in the paddock at both Santa Anita and Hollywood Park since 1962, he hasn't been on the job since July 7th. That Friday night at Hollywood Park, he broke his right femur in three places when a heavy wooden rail outside the Winners' Circle landed on his leg. A pony - a horse that accompanies a racehorse onto or off the track - backed into it and knocked it over after the second race.

"I wasn't even supposed to be there, but someone else who normally works in the Winners' Circle had the night off," Shear said.

"I might have been killed if the rail had landed on my head. But I was able to twist and turn a little, so it hit me in the leg. It was unbelievably painful. When they carried me off, my right leg was crossed over the left and they had to sedate me so they could work on the leg that was broken."

Surgery and months of physical therapy have restored

Shear to full mobility. He virtually ran all the way to Santa Anita on Dec. 14th to deliver a medical clearance letter from his doctor to Richard Price, the track's operations director.

Retirement was never an option, Shear said. "I've worked since I was 14 years old," said the British-born, 5-foot-4, 115-pound one-time jockey, trainer and exercise rider. "I'll never retire. I'm physically fit. I don't put on weight. Sometimes I drive Diane (his wife of 41 years) crazy because I climb up on ladders and do things around the house. But I can't be idle."

Shear, who supervises eight other people, has met and befriended many of the famous racing people who have streamed into the paddock over the past 4 1/2 decades.

He also had an association with one of the most infamous.

When he was an assistant to trainer Gordon Bowsher in the mid-1960s, Shear got a visit at his barn from a small young man who was looking for work, any work.

"He didn't know anything about horses, but he said he was willing to learn and to help out in any way he could," Shear recalled.

"We put him to work walking 'hots' (horses who have just returned from their morning exercise at the track), but he put in a lot of time doing lots of other jobs for no extra pay. He was a very good worker."

Diane Shear, John's wife, had another opinion of the young man, who was from Palestine and who was called "Sol."

"She didn't think he could be trusted," Shear recalled. "There was something about him that didn't seem

right"

One morning at the barn, a co-worker was reading aloud a newspaper account of Bobby Kennedy recommending the allocation of arms to Israel.

"Sol just went crazy," Shear remembered. "He was normally very quiet, but he just went into a rage when he heard the story."

The young Palestinian soon left for employment at a Chino ranch and Shear didn't see him again until he ran into him in the stable cafeteria at Hollywood Park early in the 1968 meet there.

"He was pretty well-dressed and was sitting with a couple of rough-looking guys," Shear said.

A week later, Shear again saw Sol. "His face was on TV with the question, 'Does anybody know this man?'" Shear knew the face.

Sol was Sirhan Sirhan, Bobby Kennedy's murderer.



Photos Courtesy Benoit Photo John Shear with Colonel Mack, 1956



John Shear working the 'hots' at Santa Anita



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

SPORTSMANSHIP?

Two incidents this past week caused me to wonder what has happened to sportsmanship in the games that are played on a professional level. The two occurrences created a very poor showing for professional sports. The players that were involved in these egregious incidents were anything but professional.

From the Nuggets and the Knicks street brawl, to T.O. of the Cowboys spitting on another player, the behavior demonstrated the worst that sports has to offer. What has happened to good sportsmanship? Further, am I the only person that questions the wisdom of a fine for T.O.'s actions? The National Football League response to the antics of T.O. was to fine him \$35,000. This punishment was not enough. It should have been more severe.

I understand that T.O. called the player on the Falcons and expressed an apology along with the explanation

that he did not intend to spit on the player. Excuse me the unintentional spit. I am not a doctor nor do I hold a degree in physiology, but I do hold the act of spitting requires a lot of muscles and a conscious intention to spit. T.O. did exactly what he intended to do and the league response was less than adequate. Once again an athlete has been allowed to do something on the field of play that would have been a criminal action away from the game. Why?

Every kid on the playground knows that to spit on someone is an automatic fight.

Your mother taught you better by the time you were three. So what gets into the pro athlete where he feels such actions will be tolerated? It is a sense of entitlement - I can do anything that I want to do because I can run faster, throw harder, catch better than most others. Therefore my actions are beyond scrutiny.

If the street brawl of the Nuggets and the Knicks required suspension of fifteen games for the league's leading scorer, Carmelo Anthony, along with a hefty fine, then certainly the action against T.O. should have brought some time away from the field of play.

To spit on someone can evoke a strong reaction, much more so than hitting him or her. There is a psychological response to being spit on that a punch would not cause.

The Commissioner must take stronger actions. Earlier in the season one player stomped another and got away with it. It is my opinion that these actions will not cease until some player is benched for the season.

Just my opinion while sitting on the couch waiting for the college bowl games to start. Both USC and UCLA will be playing so good luck to both.

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