

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

VOLUME 11 NO. 50

## TAKE A PHOTO WITH

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SIERRA MADRE

SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 2017

11am—2 pm



## SIERRA MADRE CANDLELIGHT WALK DECEMBER 17TH 7:00 PM

The season of Christmas reminds us of that glorious child who entered the world.

The Candlelight Walk is held each Christmas season to celebrate the journey Joseph and Mary made to Bethlehem where Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago. With "Mary and Joseph" leading the way, the procession will begin at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Sierra Madre, accompanied by participants holding candles and singing

traditional Christmas carols. The procession will end at Kersting Court in the center of town where the Christmas story will be read from the Scriptures.

The event begins at St. Rita traveling down Baldwin to Kersting Court. It is recommended to arrive at 6:45p.m., as the walk will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

## 'TIS THE SEASON....TO BE SAFE

*Residents Urged To Protect Against Burglaries, Package and Identity Theft This Holiday Season*

At press time, Sierra Madre experienced at least one burglary and one attempted burglary on opposite sides of town. Unfortunately, incidents such as these are occurring far too often, especially during the holidays.

The Sierra Madre Police Department and the departments of all the cities surrounding Sierra Madre, have been admonishing citizens to be alert, to "see something, say something". That becomes even more important in the next few weeks as thieves step up their efforts to violate unsuspecting residents.

There are a number of things that can be done as a deterrent however. The following list is compiled from a variety of Police Departments on how to protect your belongings:

1. Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
2. Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave

the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.

3. Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.

4. Keep your garage door closed and locked.

5. Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.

6. Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.

7. Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary. Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.

8. Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.

9. Don't Tempt a Thief: (CONT. ON PAGE 2)

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## THE FATE OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY



As 2017 comes to an end, there have been a number of changes in Sierra Madre. Several of the city's top management have left us: City Manager Elaine Aguilar, Public Works Director Bruce Inman and a little over a year ago this week, SMPD Chief Larry Giannone. However, with those retirements new leadership came forward, City Manager Gabe Engeland, Public Works Director Chris Cimino and SMPD Chief Joe Ortiz. All have brought in a new era of transparency, all making responding to the concerns of the citizenry their priority. One such effort to reach out to the public currently underway by Engeland... What to do with the Sierra Madre Public Library?

In January, residents will receive in the mail a survey in which they are asked what the fate of the Library should be. According to staff reports, this survey will cost the city approximately \$16,000 and will come from the city's general fund. It is hoped that the results will give the city some direction as to what it should do. There are four courses of action the city could take and they will be presented to the public in the survey.

Currently located on W. Sierra Madre Blvd. since 1955, the current structure does not currently meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, is not earthquake safe, and needs extensive repairs on the roof, windows, electrical and heating/air conditioning. There are other issues confronting the current library. Namely, it is not large enough. There is not adequate space for the storage of valuable archives, nor is it large enough to adequately handle the amount of patron traffic.

Says Library Trustee Barry Ziff, "we need a place that is safe and complies with all State and Federal requirements."

#### What should the city do?

None of the solutions are without expense. They range from moving the library to a new location to doing absolutely nothing. The latter guarantees unpredictable financial emergencies and potential litigation. The choices are below:

1. Move the Library from its current location to the

Sierra Madre Recreation Center on East Sierra Madre Blvd. That would include expanding the current Recreation Center. This option would be funded by selling the current Library building and the back lot with no tax increase to residents.1

2. Keep the Library at its current location and move some services and events/programs to other city venues. Fund repairs by selling the back lot with no extra tax burden on residents.2

3. Enhance and expand the current Library at its existing location, expand services and programming by funding with a property tax increase.3

4. Significantly reduce Library services, limit public access to areas of the Library which are not safe until alternative funding is available and do not sell any city-owned property and do not increase property taxes for Library services.4

The Sierra Madre Library Board of Trustees and The Friends of the Library all recognize the need to come up with a solution that will enable the facility to continue to serve the 6,000+ patrons that use the library every month. They are asking residents to give the choices serious consideration and respond accordingly when the survey arrives after the holidays.

S. Henderson/MVNews

bout the Sierra Madre Public Library:

The Sierra Madre Public Library, begun in 1887, is the fourth oldest city library in Los Angeles County and the tenth oldest in Southern California. The current building of 8,762 square feet houses a collection of about 70,000 cataloged items, a historical archives collection, free Wi-Fi, eBooks and DVDs. The Library Services Department is one of seven departments of the City of Sierra Madre and offers a wide range of library services to adults, teens and children. Services are expanded through participation in the Southern California Library Cooperative, a network of 39 area libraries.

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## Weather Wise

### 6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Sun</b>	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
<b>Tues:</b>	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

### CITY OF SIERRA MADRE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed below are held at City Hall 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca. 626-355-7135

NEXT REGULAR December 12, 2017  
6:30 pm

### 1630 AM EMERGENCY RADIO & Free on-air publicity for local events

Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

Any local non-profit or non-commercial organization can have their event information broadcast to the public on Sierra Madre Community Information Radio. The station covers the city of Sierra Madre, plus surrounding areas of Pasadena, Arcadia, and Monrovia.

Your event must:

- Benefit a non-commercial or non-profit entity
- Be open to the public
- Be of general interest to local citizens

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).



### SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 12, 2017,  
6:30 pm

Can't make it to the meeting, but still want to share your thoughts? You can mail or drop off a written statement to City Hall or email [city@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:city@cityofsierramadre.com) before 30 the night of the meeting and your statement will be delivered to all the Council Members. Sierra Madre City Hall 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024 (626) 355-7135

#### City Council

December 12, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Planning Commission  
December 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Community Service Commission  
December 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Senior Community Commission  
December 7, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Library Board of Trustees  
December 27, 2017 at 7:00 pm - Location TBD

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource Commission  
December 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm

#### BE SAFE - continued from page 1

1. Lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight
2. Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
3. Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
4. Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping."

#### Targeting the Outside:

Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards but can be problematic because of our friendly raccoons and other wildlife.

Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.

Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

#### Alarms:

An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.

If you have a home alarm system, use it! Activate your alarm system — Alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.

#### If Your Home Is Broken Into:

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:  
Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.

Call police.

Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.

Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.  
Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

#### Other precautions you should take:

Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.

Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home — this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.

Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.

Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.

#### Tips on how to avoid car break-ins:

- Do not leave valuables in plain view:  
(GPS devices, lap tops, PDAs, cell phones, MP3's, wallets, purses)
- Do not leave windows or sunroof open.
- Do not leave doors unlocked.
- Do not leave keys in the vehicle.
- Do not leave the garage door opener in plain view.
- Do not leave out items with personal information.
- Do not move valuable items to the trunk while in public view.
- Slow Down and use common sense before you leave your car.

#### Regarding Identity Theft:

Monitor your accounts on a regular basis. Take advantage of your financial institutions monitoring systems. (Most will send you a text when a purchase is approved or unusual activity occurs).

Never write down passwords or security codes, anywhere!

Never give your credit card or account information over the phone to anyone if you are not in a private place.



**See something.  
Say something.**

## Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 2017: 110 Years  
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## Sierra Madre Woman's Club

# Wistaria Thrift Shop

CELEBRATING 60 Years

Retail Shop Hours - September 2017 to June 2018  
Monday, Thursday, Friday - 10am to 3pm  
1st, 3rd & 4th Saturdays - 10am to 3pm

Gladly accepting new, clean, gently used donations  
10am - 1pm Weekdays at our donations drop-off -  
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## Sierra Madre Woman's Club

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## CELEBRATE WITH US!

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Sermon: "When the Last Moment Comes"**  
**Alternative Gift Fair 11 - 1 pm**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sermon: "God of Honey and Locusts"**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sermon: "Home Alone"**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sermon: "Unbelievable Announcement"**  
**Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Sermon: "How Majestic His Name"**

## SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Walking Sierra Madre...The Social Side

by Deanne Davis



"Each princess has a unique story to tell that inspires dreams of fantasy and fairytales, and empowers girls with virtues of integrity, compassion, hope, honor, kindness, discovery and love." Disney Princesses

I had the most wonderful experience last Saturday: I met our Sierra Madre Rose Princesses! And let me tell you, friends and neighbors, that's not the easiest thing in the world to do. These girls are busy! They are also simply splendid... lovely, yes, but so very accomplished already. We met at the Rose Float barn, up there behind the swimming pool park.

Our float, entitled, "Chivalry" is coming along beautifully, by the way, and it's going to be the best ever. The lady dragon is about ready to be flower bedecked and all you people out there who say to yourself, "that might be sort of fun, working on the float," you're absolutely right, it will be fun...so plan to go!

Princess Amy Stapenhorst has worked on the Sierra Madre float the last seven years and put in at least 200 volunteer hours creating one beautiful float after another. In addition to her float decorating activities, Amy is a junior at Westridge and would love to be a Theater Arts major at USC. She's already participated in a number of productions at her school including "Mary Poppins" in the role of Jane Banks, and Shakespeare's "As You Like It" as Celia. And she directs, which impressed me. Being the writer of the book and song lyrics for three musicals, all of which have been presented in various places around the southland, I have had moments when I was called upon to direct... a call which would have been better left unanswered as I'm really impatient and not good at that at all. Amy has my admiration as she has directed "Almost Maine" at the Westridge Black Box Theater with a cast of 18 and will be directing "The Wizard of Oz" in March. Amy serves as the service rep for her grade, where opportunities for service with various non-profits are explored. She was part of a bake sale with proceeds - they raised over \$530.00! - going to help victims of Hurricane Harvey. Amy has been in Advanced Dance and before that, gymnastics for five years. She's in AP History and English classes and has spent her summers in various theater programs.

"A true princess is authentic, courageous, honest, kind, sweet, tenacious and brave."

Princess Emily Verdin is a senior at Alverno High School and she has her eye on Cal State San Francisco, planning to study film and photography. She admires friends who have already followed their passion and produced their own short films. Emily, like Amy, is interested in directing and she has written a film script and is hoping to get it produced. Emily has three older brothers, one in college, one an artist and the third is a musician, a drummer whose group has opened for Smashing Pumpkins and toured Europe with the group. She did hair and makeup for a recent production and is

planning to audition for the Winter Musical. Emily has also played the role of Amber - she's the mean girl - in a production of "Hairspray." Playing the "not so nice" person was a lot of fun, she says, and I expect she'll be looking for more of those roles in the future. Emily loves to travel and she's been all over the place, especially mentioning Barcelona and New York.

Princess Petra Shair is a Junior at Pasadena High School and is thinking college in Oregon or Arizona. She has her eye on the medical field, specifically to graduate as a Physician's Assistant. Petra plays soccer with the PHS team and is in Orchesis Dance. She plays piano and ukulele, being a piano student since she was five years old. She's in the National Honor Society and has participated in Global Leadership Adventures and mentioned time spent in Costa Rica where her team volunteered in little villages and planted coffee plants to give the village residents a new source of income. She also worked on a soccer field there to make it a better, safer place to play. Petra is another traveler, having visited France, Germany and a little closer to home, Oregon and Indiana. Petra has a younger sister and is obviously providing a great example to her.

Our fourth princess, Emma Allen is a senior at Pasadena High School and is planning to spend the next year at PCC while she decides what direction she wants to go. She loves the art of Illustration and is in AP Art at school. She's ventured into graphic arts, too, having created t-shirts for a band and selling them. Emma is also in the National Honors Society and has worked with the Lions Club in their Lions International doing volunteer work. She spent Thanksgiving Day helping the Salvation Army deliver meals to about 50 homes. Emma has participated in the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Seminars both here and in Chicago, coming away from these conferences feeling more confident in herself and more interested in community service involvement. She's another theater lover, having been in "Mary Poppins" and "Bye Bye Birdie" this past year, just for fun. Emma has a younger brother and sister.

Each of our Princesses must be a Sierra Madre resident and have no less than a 3.0 GPA. I'm sure all four of our young women are well above that. Each of these girls is an inspiration to me and meeting them is one of the highlights of my year. I'm looking forward to seeing them riding down Colorado Blvd. on "Chivalry!"

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
"Star of Wonder - A Christmas Story"  
Is available there. This is a wonderful Christmas Love Story...trust me!  
Star of Wonder the CD is now on TuneCore! Take a look!  
Blog: [www.authordeanne.com](http://www.authordeanne.com)  
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## SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!



SMRFA is also looking for VOLUNTEERS! Volunteers are needed to help with a wide variety of tasks including people who can run errands and help with sales.

For more information on how you can help, contact Bonnie Colcher, at volunteers@smrosefloat.org or leave a message at the float barn (626-355-7005) and include your name, phone number and how you would like to get involved.

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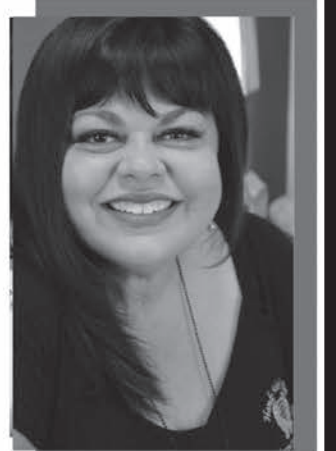
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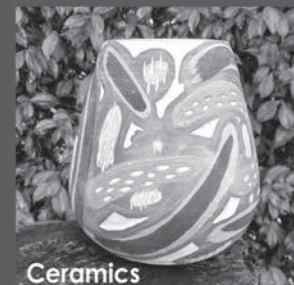
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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## PWP Warns of Recent Scam Attempts

Scammers disguising themselves as Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) employees are attempting to extort money from customers, threatening to shut off service unless a payment is made immediately.

Customers can request identification, employer name, and a call back number

Call PWP at (626) 744-4005 to verify the legitimacy of the caller or Pasadena Police at (626) 744-4241 to report a fraudulent payment

In the last two weeks, customers have reported two different scams. One of the attempts "spoofing", a technique to falsify the telephone number so it appears as if calls are coming from another source, like PWP. The other uses a non-PWP phone number, but replicates PWP's recorded customer service message so that callers believe they are speaking with a real PWP employee. While spoofing is a common fraud attempt, PWP alerts customers to be especially vigilant of this type of identity theft. Recognize that scammers are becoming more clever and bold.

Customers can protect themselves by becoming familiar with how PWP resolves bill-related issues. Customers with delinquent accounts will always receive a "Final Notice" from PWP by U.S. mail before any phone contact from PWP is made. While bill payments are accepted over the phone, PWP encourages customers to use the secure online payment system or make a payment in person at the City Hall Municipal Services counter.

To learn more about how to avoid potential scams, visit: [PWPweb.com/FraudProtection](http://PWPweb.com/FraudProtection).

## Pet of the Week



Curious Carter (A446939) is a super friendly kitty hoping to pounce into a home before the new year. You'll often find this sweet boy at the front of his kennel seeking attention from shelter visitors. He likes to reach his paw through the kennel bars as if to say, "Take me!" Carter is an energetic young cat who loves to play. He's dreaming of a home with lots of kitty toys.

The adoption fee for cats is \$75. All cats are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated before being adopted.

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at (626) 792-7151 to ask about A446939, or visit at 361 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena. Adoption hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email. Directions and photos of all pets can be found at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org).



## Car Collides with Gold Line Train

An 82-year-old man suffered only minor injuries after his car collided with a Gold Line train Thursday morning near the Del Mar Station. Pasadena fire cut the roof off the car to free the trapped driver.

According to a police report, the man had driven under the railroad crossing arms onto the train tracks around 9:30 a.m. A northbound

train then struck the Toyota Camry.

Pasadena fire Public Information Officer Lisa Derderian said the train was carrying around 30 to 35 passengers at the time. No one on the train was reported hurt. Firefighter escorted the riders off the train.

She said Pasadena police had contacted the Rail Operation Center (ROC) to halt all train services. Delays only lasted 10 to 15 minutes according to Metro officials.

The driver of the vehicle was transported to a local area hospital complaining of pain to his thigh.

*Photo courtesy of Pasadena Fire*

## Sheriff Shares Mail Theft Safety tips

Altadena Sheriff's Station deputies remain on the lookout for package thefts, and offer advice to residents to avoid becoming a victim of the 'porch pirates.'

Altadena Sheriff's Station is taking steps to help prevent package thefts during the holiday season, with patrol deputies increasing patrol checks in neighborhoods and detectives are working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Postmaster to investigate local mail theft.

Altadena Sheriffs are also asking for residents' help to report any incidents of theft or other suspicious behavior. If you see a crime in progress, please use 911 to report. If you have information about mail thefts that have occurred in Altadena area, please contact our Detective Bureau at (626) 798-1131.

The following tips may prevent residents from being victim to mail and package thefts:

Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier. Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. Don't send cash in the mail.

Tell your Post Office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

Report all suspected mail theft to the Sheriff's Station and the Postal Inspector.

Connect with your neighbors on the social network and form a neighborhood watch where you can watch each other's mailboxes (and homes).

Some homeowners use video surveillance cameras to detect motion in front of residence.

If you are expecting a package, use a tracking number to follow your package's status and request that your package delivery requires a recipient signature.

Utilize mail or text notifications regarding the status of your delivery; and consider purchasing a locking parcel delivery box that can be bolted down or otherwise secured.

Consider in-store delivery or have packages delivered to a reputable package pickup location, such as Amazon Locker or other business that accepts package deliveries. Residents could also request that the delivery service leaves your packages at a side door, back door, an enclosed porch or other area where the package will be out of sight.

If permissible, have your packages delivered to your workplace.

## Royal Tea Party at the Library

Future kings, queens, princes and princesses, come dressed in your finery for a very special visit from the 2018 Tournament of Roses Rose Queen and Royal Court. The court will share their favorite princess stories and recent New Year's experiences. Bring a camera and a smile to pose with royalty.

Saturday, Jan. 13 • 2-3:30 p.m. • Hastings Branch 3325 east Orange Grove Boulevard.

## Pasadena Fire Offers Christmas Tree Guidelines

*Fire Department requires regulations for the use of Christmas trees in areas of public assemblage*

Christmas trees are among the most flammable items in homes and businesses at this time of year. A dry tree may literally explode and be consumed by fire in a matter of seconds.

When the trees are placed in any area where the public may gather, the California Code of Regulations requires that they be treated with a flame-retardant solution or process approved by the State Fire Marshal.

The Pasadena Fire Department requires that the following regulations be observed regarding the use of Christmas trees in areas of public assemblage, including schools, institutions, retail stores, public areas in hotels, apartment houses, and office buildings:

- Flame retardant, applied by an operator licensed by the California State Fire Marshal's Office, is required for all holiday trees in public buildings.
- Per the fire code, trees and other decorations cannot block or obstruct any exit way or pedestrian path of travel.

- The tree shall bear a tag approved by the California State Fire Marshal's Office indicating the date, type of retardant, name of the concern that applied the retardant and the license number.
- Candles are prohibited on trees and wreaths.

- Wreaths must be properly treated with a flame retardant



approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office and so tagged.

- The support device that holds the tree is an upright position must be of a type that is stable and of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree and capable of containing enough water to cover at least two inches of the tree stem.

- The bottom of the trunk must be immersed in at least two inches of water at all times. Immediately prior to immersion, the trunk must be cut off at least one inch above the original cut.
- No readily combustible materials may be placed on, under or within four feet of the maximum horizontal projection of any tree, including live specimens.

- No tree or decoration may be displayed in a way that impedes or affects any exit.
- No tree may be displayed for more than 30 days.
- Only use electrical lights that are UL listed for use on indoor trees. The Fire Department recommends that low-heat mini-lights be used for all trees.

For more information call (626) 744-4655.

## Free Christmas Tree Recycling

Make tree recycling a part of your post-holiday tradition. The City offers an easy way for you to "Go Green" with your Christmas tree. Thanks to your help, the City last year collected more than 10,000 trees for recycling, saving valuable landfill space and generating protective landscaping mulch.

Drop off your tree from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday Dec. 26, 2017 until Thursday, Jan. 4 at:

- Easton Blanche Park, 3100 E. Del Mar Blvd., parking lot

## Free Events Roundup at the Pasadena Senior Center

There is something for everyone in December at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St. You do not have to be a member to attend. Some events require advance reservations as noted.

**Stay Connected with Social Media – Tuesdays and Thursdays to Dec. 28, from 9 to 11 a.m.** Learn how to keep in touch with family and friends via the Internet. Choose which application you would like to learn, from Skype to Facebook and other forms of social media. Bring a laptop or use of the onsite computers. If you have an email address, bring it along with your password. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call 626-795-4331 for a 30-minute one-on-session.

**A Toast to the Joys of Music – Tuesdays to Dec. 28, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** Tom Campbell will play guitar and sing songs in the Senior Center Lounge. Stop by and enjoy his covers of traditional country, country rock, blues, folk, gospel and classic rock originally made famous by Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Vince Gill, Elvis Presley, B.B. King,

on Millicent Way

- Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave., parking lot on Morton Street

From Jan. 2-12, 2018, residents can also place trees at curbside for recycling. Christmas trees will be collected on your normal service day.

Remember, all ornaments, lights and stands must be removed. Flocked and fire retardant treated trees are acceptable. For more information, call the Citizen Service Center at (626) 744-7311 or online at [www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks).

Neil Young, The Grateful Dead, The Rolling Stones and many more.

**Scenic Walkers Club – Wednesdays to Dec. 27, at 10 a.m.** Enjoy a series of leisurely walks in the great outdoors at locations throughout the west San Gabriel Valley. Alan Colville will give you a list of items to bring, let you know what to expect, provide detailed itineraries and arrange transportation. For more information or to sign up, email [alancolville@charter.net](mailto:alancolville@charter.net).

**Domino Club – Thursdays, to Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.** New and experienced players will enjoy a rollicking version of Chicken Foot Dominoes that will have everyone cracking up! For more information call Vicki Leigh at 928-478-4654.

**Riding on Public Transportation – Thursday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m.** Learn all there is to know about public transportation in Los Angeles County, including all the fun things to do during the holidays, without the hassle of fighting traffic. Presented by Metro.

GO TO [www.pasadenaseniorecenter.org](http://www.pasadenaseniorecenter.org) or call 626-795-4331.

## ALTADENA POLICE BLOTTER

### Sunday, December 3rd

3:00 AM – A theft from an unlocked vehicle occurred in the 300 block of E. Palm Street. Stolen: San Diego Chargers blue jersey, blue Michael Jordan shoes, and blue/tan Michael Jordan shoes.

6:40 AM – Crawford Torbjorn, 30 years old of Altadena was arrested in the 2700 block of Callecita Drive for battery.

5:00 PM – A theft from an unlocked vehicle occurred in the 1900 block of Pepper Drive. Stolen: blue/black Datrek golf bag and clubs, Garmin GPS, and a laser range finder.

7:00 PM – A vehicle vandalism occurred in the 1500 block of E. Atchison Street. Damage: driver's side rear view mirror and driver's side door.

### Monday, December 4th

5:05 PM – Maria Munoz, 60 years old of Pasadena was arrested in the 700 block of E. Altadena Drive for shoplifting.

### Tuesday, December 5th

1:30 AM – A package theft occurred in the 3500 block of Glenrose Avenue. Stolen: Amazon package containing light bulbs, toy drone and accessories.

11:00 AM – A vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of W. Harriet Street. Vehicle described as a black 2008 Nissan Sentra.

11:45 AM – A vehicle was reported stolen from the 1700 block of N. Allen Avenue.

Vehicle described as a white 2000 Chevrolet Astro Van. Vehicle was recovered by Pasadena PD on 12/5/2017 at 3:00 pm.

12:30 PM – A residential burglary occurred in the 1400 block of La Solana Drive. Suspect(s) entered the residence by shattering the glass door. Stolen: jewelry box, rustic Jade necklace, and leather necklace with pearls.

### Wednesday, December 6th

3:18 PM – A residential burglary occurred in the 2900 block of Zane Grey Terrace. Suspect entered the residence by shattering the glass door. Stolen: unknown.

### Thursday, December 7th

4:32 PM – A package theft occurred in the 1900 block of N. Hill Avenue. Stolen: Amazon package containing Lysol canisters.

### Friday, December 8th

7:50 AM – A vehicle was reported stolen from the 1200 block of Sonoma Drive. Vehicle described as a beige 2011 Jaguar XJL. Vehicle was recovered by LASD Altadena on 12/9/2017.

1:20 PM – A theft from a business occurred in the 2200 block of Lincoln Avenue. Stolen: black Samsung Galaxy Note 8.

10:00 PM – A theft from an unlocked vehicle occurred in the 200 block of Jaxine Drive. Stolen: vehicle registration and black backpack.



# ARCADIA

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## A MOST INFORMATIVE MEETING IN ARCADIA: WHERE WERE MORE RESIDENTS?

By Joan Schmidt

Recently, fellow Town Council Member Linda Sells and I attended a special City meeting at the Arcadia Library; speakers included Mayor Peter Amundson, Police Chief Bob Guthrie, City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto, and Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director, Jason Kruckeberg. This third special meeting was most informative, but why didn't more residents attend?

Before the Meeting, I picked up a Hand-out, "City of Arcadia: Citywide Historic Resources Survey". It had the fourteen "Frequently Asked Questions" and informative answers. Among the questions were "What is a historic resources survey?", "What are the requirements to form a historic district", and "What is the Mills Act Abatement Program". PLEASE visit the City website, go to the Search Engine, type in "Historic Preservation" and click on "Frequently Asked Questions" to view this EXCELLENT source of information.

Mayor Amundson welcomed the attendees, "I am privileged to serve my hometown: I was born at Methodist Hospital and grew up in the City...I want to unite the City and keep Arcadia great...I want to create trust in the City...No one has done more for the City than former Mayor/ Council Member Mickey Segal...It is a great place to raise children...one of the safest places, a great place for Seniors and most recently voted the most "Business Friendly City" in LA County... People come from all over the world to live in Arcadia...December 4, 2011-great windstorm, lost thousands of trees, our pro-active Staff had power restored quickly and the City was cleaned up by Christmas...Arcadia is fiscally responsible, provides great services...Fires Department is CLASS I Rating; Police Department second to none...I meet with the Police Chief every month...Arcadia focuses on education...great school district.

Police Chief Bob Guthrie has been Chief since 2011. He's worked at the Department since he was 18, almost thirty years! He spoke of challenges caused by AB 109 and Props 47 and 57. There was a terrible spike in residential burglaries in 2005-2016-53%! But the Chief told us that the City Council has been VERY SUPPORTIVE and has provided funding when it was requested to

combat this issue. Chief Guthrie also revealed burglaries have been greatly reduced and he attributes that to saturating areas with increased patrols. He has reminded people if you "See something, say something". He mentioned that people who commit the robberies are NOT from Arcadia, but from other cities, even other counties! He also talked of the city subsidy of the "Ring Program" and the great GPS Package Tracking Program and its success.

Assistant City Manager/ Development Services Director Jason Kruckeberg tackled the "Historic Preservation" issue. Among his topics were the City survey, requirements to form a historic district (need 75% of residents to want it), a single designated historic property, and what the Mills Act is, (It allows local governments to enter Mills Act contracts with owners of historic property-they actively restore and maintain their historic property while possibly receiving tax relief. Visit California Office of Historic Preservation website to learn more.) Currently there are 188-189 structures in Arcadia that meet the criteria of Historic Ordinance. Mr. Kruckeberg told us, "There are still a lot of questions/concerns... this going on since 2015... over one hundred attended previous meetings; there have been many concerns; we need more information ...there is fear and confusion... the City is cognizant of this."

City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto reiterated info about Historic Preservation, the Mills Act and Historic Ordinances; he also addressed residents' questions/concerns as did Chief Guthrie, Mr. Kruckeberg and the Mayor.

A few residents were very passionate with heated, not-so-nice comments. But Mayor Amundson answered them directly and explained how and why the City Council voted against the circular drive. The Mayor's goal is for the City to be transparent. He wants residents to be aware of what is going on.

I have limited space, so I must end this. There was A LOT more. Please visit the City websites and attend the next meeting. Several residents were able to speak and tell their concerns. Mayor Amundson, and the other three officials answered all the questions and the Police Chief stayed longer to further discuss an issue with a resident. WELL DONE, Arcadia!

## ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

*For the period of Sunday, December 3rd, through Saturday, December 9th, the Police Department responded to 893 calls for service, of which 125 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.*

### Sunday, December 3:

Shortly before 12:50 a.m., an officer responded to the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding an activation of an Arcadia Police Department GPS tracker. Arcadia PD detectives had previously deployed decoy bicycles with tracking devices to combat the increase in bike thefts throughout the city. An investigation revealed a 26-year-old male from San Fernando was in possession of the stolen bicycle and GPS tracker. Two accomplices, a 27-year-old male from San Fernando and a 26-year-old female from Sylmar, were also arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

At approximately 12:43 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 135 East Santa Clara Street complex regarding a spousal abuse report. The officers discovered the husband had struck his wife, causing visible injuries, and blocked the exit preventing her from leaving. The suspect, a 62-year-old male from Arcadia, was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. The victim declined medical attention.

### Monday, December 4:

Just after 6:27 a.m., officer responded to the 1000 block of West Duarte Road regarding a vehicle burglary report. The officer determined an unknown suspect smashed two windows and fled with the victim's wallet and \$500.00 worth of Nike shoes. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

At approximately 11:00 a.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter regarding a fraud report. The victim stated he has received more than forty pieces of mail containing checks for "market research" and instructions to cash them and wire the money. The investigation is ongoing.

### Tuesday, December 5:

Around 12:18 a.m., an officer responded to the intersection of Holly Avenue and Naomi Avenue regarding a suspiciously occupied vehicle. The witness reported seeing three subjects in the car wearing hooded sweatshirts. An officer contacted the subjects and during a records check, discovered one of the passengers, a 20-year-old male from Los Angeles, had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Just before 9:02 p.m., an officer responded to the area of Duarte Road and Baldwin Avenue regarding an injury traffic collision between two vehicles. Upon contacting the drivers, the officer discovered one of them, a 37-year-old male from Monrovia, was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. The driver of the second vehicle was evaluated by the Arcadia Fire Department. The arrested driver did not sustain any injuries.

### Wednesday, December 6:

Shortly after 12:53 a.m., an officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 1000 block of South Baldwin Avenue for speeding. The driver failed to yield and a pursuit ensued. The driver eventually stopped and fled on foot. A records check revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen from an Arcadia

resident. The suspect was also in possession of burglary tools, narcotics, and drug paraphernalia. The 25-year-old male from Montebello was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

At about 1:39 p.m., officers responded to the 300 block of West Las Flores Avenue regarding a domestic violence report. An investigation revealed six months ago, the husband threw his wife to the floor causing bruising and a permanent scar, and on today's date, the husband kicked his wife. The 25-year-old male from Arcadia was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

### Thursday, December 7:

Before 7:47 a.m., an officer initiated contact with a subject working on a motorcycle near the intersection of Alta Vista Avenue and Short Street. A records check of the vehicle revealed the motorcycle had been reported stolen to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department - Temple Station. During a consensual search of the suspect, the officer located a shaved key used to start the vehicle and the officer discovered the suspect had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. The 26-year-old male from Monrovia was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Around 8:58 p.m., an officer responded to REI, 214 North Santa Anita Avenue, regarding a theft report. The reporting party stated sometime between 8:00 a.m. and 8:45 p.m. on today's date, an unknown suspect cut the cable lock and stole two bicycles from the front of the store. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

1. At about 9:13 p.m., an officer responded to Aurora Beauty, 1432 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a theft report. The victim stated someone stole her wallet from her desk sometime during business hours on today's date. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

### Friday, December 8:

Just before 1:48 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of East Camino Real Avenue regarding an activation of an Arcadia Police Department GPS tracker. Arcadia PD detectives had previously deployed decoy packages containing bait property and tracking devices to combat the increase in package thefts from residential areas. The officer discovered a 19-year-old female from Temple City and a 26-year-old male from El Monte had the stolen package, property, and tracking device in their vehicle. The suspects were arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

### Saturday, December 9:

Shortly after 5:36 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 100 block of East Camino Real Avenue regarding a burglary report. The victim stated sometime during the previous evening, unknown suspect(s) shattered a rear glass door, ransacked his home, and fled empty-handed. The investigation is ongoing.

At approximately 6:57 p.m., an officer responded to the lobby of the Arcadia Police Department regarding a fraud report. The victim stated unknown suspect(s) called her, stated she owed the IRS an outstanding balance of \$8,000.00, and threatened to send her to jail if she did not settle her debt. They demanded she stay on the phone as she went to Best Buy and the Apple Store to purchase gift cards and provide them with the gift card numbers. The investigation is ongoing.

[www.mtnviewsnews.com](http://www.mtnviewsnews.com)

# MONROVIA - DUARTE

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## MONROVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS WITH BRILLIANCE IN COORDINATING THE RESPONSE TO THE NORUMBEGA DRIVE FIRE THIS WEEKEND

PHOTOS COURTESY TERRY MILLER

As you are likely aware by now, at 7:36 p.m. on Saturday, December 9, 2017, the City was notified about a brushfire burning behind the 500 / 600 block of Norumbega Drive. The Monrovia Fire Department responded and immediately assessed the situation as a 3-alarm fire. Firefighting resources from LA County and the US Forest Services were dispatched and crews started working to address the situation immediately. Based on the initial assessment of the situation, a mandatory evacuation order was put into effect for residents living in the 500-1000 block of Norumbega Drive.

In light of all that has happened of late here in Southern California from a fire perspective, our team at the Monrovia Fire Department coordinated a massive regional response to the conflagration. Throughout the year, our personnel spends time developing relationships with our partner agencies in the region, and those relationships certainly aided our efforts last night. Our partner agencies sent resources to assist in battling the blaze, and at the height of the fire response, we had around 250 firefighting personnel on scene! In addition, while we're still working to get exact numbers, we also had somewhere around 30 pieces of firefighting apparatus (fire engines, fire trucks, etc.) on scene during our initial response, along with 4 firefighting helicopters from LA County.

Thanks to the hard work performed by our firefighting personnel, coupled with favorable weather conditions, by 11:23 p.m., the fire was completely contained at around 5 acres in size. Based on that development, the mandatory evacuation order was lifted for residents of the 600-1000 block of Norumbega Drive, but initially remained in effect for the 500 block of Norumbega Drive. Eventually, by Sunday morning, that evacuation order was also lifted. We also wanted to share that you may have heard on the news a report that a water tank in Monrovia was damaged by the fire. However, the water tank was not an in-service facility, and in fact was decommissioned back in the 1950s, so Monrovia's water utility was not impacted by the blaze this past weekend! [Press releases, that the City issued in response to the fire, can be viewed on the City's webpage.](#)

As we move forward, even though the fire is now out, our firefighting crews are still addressing some hot-spot areas and doing additional clean-up work in the Norumbega Drive area. Given that factor, we are still monitoring public access to Norumbega Drive, likely through tomorrow. After that point in time, we'll start with our demobilization efforts.

And speaking of our demobilization efforts, we thought that everyone would be interested to know that we currently have more than 1,000 feet of fire hose laid out in the hillside above Norumbega Drive. That's nearly 1/5 of a mile of fire hose that our firefighting personnel got into the ground to attack the fire! Once we start demobilizing, our team will start working to retract all of that fire hose which was deployed!

Also related to next steps in our fire response, we wanted to let everyone know that we have started an investigation into what caused the fire, and we have deployed both fire investigators and police detectives



to assess the overall situation.

Given everything that happened this weekend, all of us in Monrovia wanted send out our heartfelt thanks to Monrovia Fire & Rescue, the Monrovia Police Department, our CERT Volunteers, and the Pasadena Human Society for their help with displaced animals and evacuees' pets.

In addition, special thanks and kudos to all of our non-sworn City staff who stepped in to help activate both our Emergency Operations Center and the evacuation center at the Monrovia Community Center to ensure evacuees had a safe place to take shelter. In particular, throughout the evening, we saw a number of folks working behind the scenes to make sure everything was well coordinated, and special kudos and thanks goes out to the support team at both facilities, which included:

Jeff Warmuth  
Kerry McQueen  
Israel Razo  
Brittany Mello  
Lauren Vasquez  
Rebecca Sandoval  
Katie Distelrath  
Jamie Bumia  
Sean Sullivan  
Paul Zampello  
Chase Bucklelew

Moving ahead, to stay up to date on the status of emergency situations that occur in Monrovia and receive alerts directly on your phone or via email, we encourage everyone to subscribe to Nixle Alerts by texting 91016 to 888777.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO SIERRA MADRE MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM!!! THEY WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP!!



## CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS – SAN GABRIEL VALLEY DEBUTS ITS FIRST ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL: AN ORIGINAL, STEAMPUNK-INSPIRED PRODUCTION OF “PIPPIN”

*“Pippin” runs Jan. 11-13, 2018 at the Arcadia Performing Arts Center*

Duarte, Calif. – Dec. 12, 2017 – California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley (CSArts-SGV) continues its inaugural year with a charismatic, all-school performance of the esteemed musical “Pippin.” Filled with dance, humor and soaring songs by Stephen Schwartz (“Corner of the Sky,” “Magic to Do” and “Glory”), “Pippin” tells the story of a young person’s journey to find his place in the world. The ensemble cast offers growth and performance opportunities for the school’s many talented young actors, dancers, musicians and singers across the school’s conservatories. This original production is set with a unique and imaginative steampunk aesthetic, offering a relevant edge and visceral quality that will leave the audience questioning what it truly means to be extraordinary. “Pippin” runs Jan. 11-13, 2018, at the 1,163-seat Arcadia Performing Arts Center.

CSArts-SGV brings together its own collaborative team of talented artists to lead the production, including co-directors Jay Wallace, chair of theatre, and Megan Mekjian, English teacher and graduate of sister-school Orange County School of the Arts’ Musical Theatre Conservatory. The team also includes Alison Dambach, chair of dance; Jeffrey de Seriere, director of the Instrumental Music Conservatory; Graham Jackson, Musical Theatre Conservatory teacher; and Kimberly Mitchell, director of the Production & Design Conservatory. Students have the exclusive opportunity to learn from Erik Altemus, an original cast member of the 2013 Tony Award-winning Broadway revival of “Pippin,” during a master class and rehearsals leading up to the show.

Co-director Wallace says “Pippin” was selected as the school’s first musical because it offers a chance for originality, freshness and creative opportunity. “I wanted something with a bit of flare and energy, but that also has an undercurrent of substance and

relevance. To a certain extent, ‘Pippin’ is a blank canvas. This show allows us to craft our own unique impression and perspective of the universal story of the search for one’s voice and purpose in life.” CSArts-SGV frames the musical through the lens of steampunk, which began as a subgenre of science fiction/fantasy that featured 19th century steam-powered technology being used during Victorian times. Set during modern day, the show incorporates core elements of steampunk to conceptualize character and the world of the acting troupe at the center of the show. The play’s exploration continues a year-long study of the steampunk genre, offering artistic opportunities for students in every conservatory. Students were introduced to the genre during a master class by its originators Tim Powers and James Blaylock. In addition to the performers onstage, Visual Arts Conservatory students participate in a steampunk art exhibit in the lobby and Production & Design Conservatory students create the costumes, props, lighting and set design for the show. The program book includes steampunk letters written by Creative Writing Conservatory students.

“The performance reflects the mission of the Musical Theatre Conservatory to be an “ensemble growing together as artists and individuals,” says Wallace. “We are challenging students from all conservatories to experience a distinct level of growth throughout the process, both as performers and leaders. We want to instill and nurture an appreciation of professionalism as well as risk-taking.”

“Pippin” takes place Thursday - Saturday, Jan. 11-13, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Arcadia Performing Arts Center, 88 Campus Dr., Arcadia, CA 91007. Tickets are \$25 online and \$27 at the door. Student tickets are \$18 online and \$20 at the door. To purchase, visit [sgv.csarts.net/boxoffice](http://sgv.csarts.net/boxoffice).

## GOLDENWORDS:

### Dr. Dan’s College Corner

## LEARNING FROM COLE SLAW, OR HOW AND WHY TO LEARN FROM ALL YOUR EXPERIENCES.

I’ll save the Cole Slaw story for the end of this column, and instead first lobby students in high school and college to explore ways to apply real-world experience to the academic theories and skills they build in their studies. Become an integrated learner!

There has been a growing trend in recent decades in education towards melding field experiences, community service and internships into the curriculum. Why? Pretty simple answer—research shows that classes with field components help students master academic knowledges quicker and deeper, and hold onto those knowledges longer. The same can be said for the many non-academic activities that students undertake—sports involvement, participation in and leadership of clubs and organizations, jobs, volunteering and interning to explore careers.

Whether you do things as part of a graded class experience or take them up on your own, a student can extract more meaning and value from any activity if they pose a few questions to themselves in advance: WHY am I undertaking this activity? WHAT KINDS OF LEARNING might I accomplish? HOW WILL I USE this learning as I move forward in my life?

These three questions help to build a reflective framework around most any experience and can make one’s learning more purposeful, deeper. If something’s worth doing (or you’re being required to do it), you’ll get more out of it with reflection activity before, during and afterwards.

In fact, as poet Archibald Macleish once said, “there is only one thing more painful than learning from an experience, and that is NOT learning from an experience.”

Another technique to maximize learning from your experiences is to take what I call a “zonal” approach. Four zonal questions to pose—what am I learning about myself, about the organization, about how this experience might link to my career interests and, when applicable, how the experience connects to my academic learning? You might

keep an experiential journal or blog to track all of this reflecting you’re doing.

OK, so what about the Cole Slaw story, anyhow? My first job in college was doing salad prep. 6 AM would find me washing, cutting, dicing, shredding all manner of vegetables and fruits. I worked alongside an older gentleman with a difficult-to-discern foreign accent, whose knife skills were magnificent (this is pre-food processor era, by the way). He worked with poetical grace and precision, lopping apart many huge cabbages as we prepped pounds and pounds of Cole Slaw, for instance.

He once halved a red cabbage and held it up to show me the intricate folds and layers, exclaiming, “beauty of nature, no?” Turns out this man was a political refugee from Hungary, a surgeon now relegated to a minimum wage job in a college kitchen, finding the beautiful in the mundane reality of vegetables. He was full of pithy phrases about veggies and life, and my time with him taught me knifework, botany, philosophy and more, all in the guise of a campus job. I also now can spot a Hungarian accent, a surprisingly useful skill!

Try to learn from everything, connecting what you learn inside the classroom to your experiences, and achieve what the educational theorists call PRAXIS, the integration of theory and field activities.

Dr. Dan Golden was the founding director of Life Planning at the Vistamar School in El Segundo. He was a professor, program director and Dean for Work & Service-Learning at Wheaton College (MA), and now consults with individuals, schools and educational districts on college access, post-graduate study and career planning issues. He can be reached at [dangolden0@gmail.com](mailto:dangolden0@gmail.com).



Dan Golden, PhD

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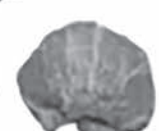
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## LOVE 'EM &amp; LEASH 'EM

As a youngster growing up in a rural town in the deep south, I was blessed to have had lots of farm animals and domestic pets in my life throughout my childhood. I remember enjoying the luxury of allowing my dogs to roam freely, knowing that they would most likely have fun wandering through the woods behind our back yard, or head off to the neighbor's house to play with their dogs and beg for left over scraps, then return home and beg in at the back door just in time for supper!

It was quite a privilege to have had so much freedom as a kid for both myself and my pets, and I imagine there are many Sierra Madre locals who have similar childhood memories of their own. With acres of undeveloped land, plenty of ample space between developments, and a heck of a lot less traffic passing through on our neighborhood streets, the risks were minimal for a pet who wanted to explore the great outdoors. It just seems natural, right?

Well, now it is almost 2018, and the fact is that the open acres and land gaps that existed between our homes back in the day have shrunk dramatically in most parts of America over the past several years. Few & far between are the moments of silence without the noise of a vehicle passing swiftly by on the boulevards and streets where we live.

Lets face it folks, as American citizens, or at least citizens of Los Angeles County, the days of "free-range" pet ownership are far-and-away long-gone. Not only is it extremely risky to allow a dog to run free on the streets these days, it is against the law. Even pet owners in Sierra Madre today hopefully know better than to let their dog roam freely and assume it is safe.

I learned my lesson about leashing several years ago, while living in Hermosa Beach with my dog, "Lady". She was such a friendly pup, so I was never concerned that she might get into a doggie tussle, or get into any other kind of trouble while roaming free and off-leash. I lived 2 blocks from the beach, and I loved to let Lady play on the sand, particularly during the off-season months when I knew there would be less traffic and few tourists touting about in town.

Then one day I let Lady walk along with me on my way to get a coffee at the local breakfast nook and a cop stopped and cited me for having her off-leash. The leash law was new to me, so I was taken very much by surprise when I was told I had to take a day off work to appear in court and pay a fine.

That was the last time I ever allowed my dog to roam free in L.A. Although I admit that it seemed ridiculous at the time, I have since learned to respect the leash laws, and I guess I have become a self-appointed advocate for full compliance, mainly for the sake & safety

of the animals.

While we would all love to assume that our own dog is smarter than most, it is never really a safe assumption because you never know what the "other guy" might do and it only takes one time for a tragic accident to happen. Ultimately, allowing your dog to roam in spite of the law and obvious risks amounts to nothing less than negligence.

A domestic dog is a creature driven more by instinct than taught intelligence or allegiance to it's master, regardless of how much training he has received. In fact, the human's delusion of owning the perfectly obedient dog is an excellent example of how, in some ways the dog is indeed smarter than the human being.

No offense to those responsible owners who have taken the time to properly train and discipline their pets, it's just that humans need to come to grips with the fact that a canine will do what comes natural, and much of the time the instinctual behavior of the canine is not in tune with the behavior of the human, particularly when the human is behind the wheel of a swift moving vehicle.

Even a well-trained, obedient domestic dog will have a tendency to chase a squirrel scrambling up a tree, a bird taking flight, or a cat meandering by on the opposite side of the road, and when that happens, it's instincts are likely to override any obedience training it may have had. Indeed, even a very well trained and well mannered pup is likely to be prompted to cross the street and take chase after whatever it was that caught it's attention.

It only takes one time for a the unwitting driver of a vehicle to pass by in the wrong place at the wrong time, to end the life of a beloved pet. So please set your "pet pride" aside, and take proper precautions. The risks are simply not worth it, and it would be you, not your dog to be blamed if such a tragic accident should happen.

A truly loving, caring pet owner will always protect their pet from harm, and that kind of unconditional love includes educating oneself and forfeiting some of the freedoms that we would all love to enjoy, such as roaming off leash like we did in the good old days. If you truly love them, you will leash them!



## PEEPS &amp; PURRTY!

## Katnip News!



These cuties, just age 3 months, are sibling besties, and are fun-loving and just the sweetest duo! Typical kittens, they will play and wrestle, yet are always up for some cuddles! Peeps, the adorable



tabby, has a cute spotted belly. He is a social little fellow, very playful, with a great sense of humor and who's quick to purr for your love. Purrry, his pretty black sister, is a good "talker," quick to love you and purr by your ear. There isn't a more purr-fect pair of kittens, ready to be adopted together into a family to call their own! Adoption fee is \$100 for both, which includes spay/neuter, microchip, exam & vaccines. A great savings! Our cats are negative FELV/FIV unless

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## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

### THE JOY OF YOGA

#### HOLIDAY YOGA



The holidays can be an intense time with extra parties, errands, and visits with people we don't see often and it can be overwhelming.

Conversely, a lack of these extra events/merriment can bring its own set of emotions. During this time, it's best to figure out how to dial down the intensity and stay centered. So, how about a few essential holiday yoga poses?

For energy, try Utkatasana, or chair pose. On the inhalation, bring the arms in line with the ears. On the exhalation, bend knees and sit in a chair that's not there. Don't go too deep, and try to keep the chin tucked in but eyes lifted up straight ahead. Stay in the pose for just the inhale and exhale, release, unbend knees, come to stand. Try a few more times dynamically and then hold the pose, breathing steadily.

For grounding and balance, try Prasarita Padottanasana. It's a wide-leg forward fold. Step the feet

about 3 1/2 - 4 feet apart and have the feet point straight ahead. On the exhalation, soften knees slightly and fold over between your legs. Take several steady breaths here. Try to draw shoulder blades together on your back to not over-round the back. Release the neck too, then release from the pose entirely after 8 breaths or so.

For centering, try Supta Matsyendrasana, a simple supine twist. Come to lie on your back and draw knees to chest. With knees to chest, roll over completely to one side (fetal position). Then, open up the top arm and look toward the arm that is outstretched. Hold steady for several breaths. Make sure to do both sides. For added centering, add a little abdominal work such as a low boat pose or something similar.

For digestion and to ease tension in the lower back, try Apanasana. Lie on your back and draw knees to chest. Stay for several breaths and feel free to move a little to massage the lower back.

Enjoy these yoga poses and come see us at Yoga Madre! Namaste, Keely Totten

## THE MISSING PAGE

### Real Life Tips from Life's Instruction Manual



Lori A. Harris

It's December, and that means we have nibbled on Halloween candy, gorged at Thanksgiving and now we are rolling into the last holidays of the year. This month frequently destroys all of the progress we have made throughout the year, but it doesn't have to be that way. We could decide to make this season a time of reflection and self-care. We could slow down rather than running around frantically trying to get to the stores, the parties, and all the work obligations. Self-care is more than resting, eating well and exercising. It is the commitment to doing those things and more. Perhaps we could approach those tasks differently. We need to look for the opportunity to recharge our minds and creativity.

Are you a shower person? Then try bathing sensuously. Try a scented bath salt, light some candles, read a book and drink something relaxing. Most importantly, take your time and slow down. Bathing is a lovely way to signal to your body that it's time to rest.

Reduce the amount of time you spend looking at a screen. Remove all electronic devices from your bedroom and make your room a cell phone free zone.

How about reading a real book? Or you could make yourself a proper cup of tea. When you slow down, anything can become a ritual and an elevated experience. Give yourself the gift of care. Prepare something for your consumption with love.

Take a few minutes to reflect and meditate. Don't let

that stress you out, just set aside some time to focus on your breath. Program a timer for 5 minutes. Sit comfortably, close your eyes and notice your breathing in and out. When you get distracted, and you see that your mind has wandered just go back to the breath until the timer goes off. Meditation is simple, and you can't do it wrong. Just think of it as taking a moment to be still.

How about a massage? There are many ways to get an inexpensive massage. You could grab a Groupon discount, go to the nail salon, or even Google self-massage on Youtube. I have a roller that I love to use from my shoulders down to my legs. You can also visit a local day spa. There are many benefits of massage; relaxation is just one.

When was the last time you had fun moving your body? There is more than one way to recharge your battery, especially here in Los Angeles County it is easy to experience a new environment within an hour. You could go to the mountains, go to the beach or even to the desert. Take your body out for a walk or hike; your mind will thank you for that.

Lori is a lawyer and coach. You can learn more about her at [LoriAHarris.com](http://LoriAHarris.com) and sign up to attend one of her live chats

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## TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills thechefknows@yahoo.com

### EL PORTAL IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

It seems that every week I get this question, Peter, who has the best Mexican Food in Pasadena? That is not an easy question to answer; as you may as well ask me which child I love the most. I absolutely love Mexican food; in fact, living in Southern California we have the best Mexican cuisine in the entire country, and dare I say, the world.

Recently I had the honor to dine with Abel Ramirez owner of the El Portal Restaurant on Colorado in Pasadena. I was invited to a tasting of Patron Tequila, not that I haven't had Patron before, but this was special Tequila pairing with food. On this night, I got to know Abel a little better and I soon discovered that his story is fascinating. He was beaming as he told me, that years ago, Hank Yost, owner of countless restaurants in the area, including the Peppermill and Shakers, hired Abel as a dishwasher. Abel started his career at the bottom and worked his way up. It seemed to me that El Portal has been around for years, but in actuality, it opened in 1995. Abel is a proud member of the community, you may have seen him at numerous charity events, and come December, he dons the white jacket for the Tournament of Roses. His son Armando helps run El Portal, now. Armando tells me, "His dad is semi-retired, but I still see him here fifty hours a week." That is not the Peter Dills idea of retirement!

El Portal, in Spanish, means gateway or Big Door. Abel wanted a restaurant that all of his extended family could dine at. I mentioned Mexican Food, I did, but El Portal showcase many dishes that you would find ensconced in The Yucatan Peninsula. On the night of the Tequila Tasting, I enjoyed Steak and Chicken. This is not steakhouse, or is it, but either way, I do think it is every bite as good as the top steak places in town.

Well, to make the review complete this restaurant critic is firm in not giving two thumbs up unless the Margaritas match the great food, and at El Portal they do. The Margaritas are great,

if you are tequila fan, El Portal serves 90 different types, and they range from (\$7 to \$30) a shot, have you ever had a (\$30) shot of tequila? I haven't! But I have a feeling I could break a piñata on the first swing after I do. And after two, I may start singing with the mariachis.

But, let's get back to the food, sure they have the




traditional Mexican entrees, but I want you to try some of the Yucatan dishes as well. The Mexican fare is delightful, but El Portal offers some dishes that are unique to the Pasadena dining scene. Let's start with my favorite dish, The Cochinita Pibil, flavorful and tender pork, marinated in achiote spice and lime juice wrapped in banana leaves. Abel tells me it is slowly roasted in the oven. Man it is good! Panuchos, small corn tortillas filled with grilled chicken, black beans and avocado. If you can't make up your mind, then I recommend the Yucatan Trio. It is a portion of the cochinita Pibil, ayucatan tamale and grilled poc-chuc. These dishes are so good, my stomach is racing as I writing about them..

El Portal Restaurant 695 E. Green St. Pasadena (626) 795-8553. Open seven days a week, lunch on Mondays only. [www.elportalrestaurant.com](http://www.elportalrestaurant.com) for additional info

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## RECOGNIZING AND TREATING DEPRESSION IN RETIREMENT

*Dear Savvy Senior,*  
Since retiring a few years ago, my husband has become increasingly irritable and apathetic. I'm concerned that he's depressed, even though he may not admit it. Where can we turn to get help with this, and what, if anything, does Medicare pay for?

Concerned Spouse

Dear Concerned,  
Depression is unfortunately a widespread problem among older Americans, affecting approximately 15 percent of the 65-and-older population. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources for screening and treatments, and how Medicare covers it.

### Identifying Depression

Everyone feels sad or gets the blues now and then, but when these feelings linger more than a few weeks, it may be depression. Depression is a real illness that affects mood, feelings, behavior and physical health, and contrary to what many people believe, it's not a normal part of aging or a personal weakness, but it is very treatable.

It's also important to know that depression is not just sadness. In many seniors it can manifest as apathy, irritability, or problems with memory or concentration without the depressed mood.

To help you get a handle on the seriousness of your husband's problem, a good first step is for him to take an online depression-screening test.

He can do this for free at Mental Health America, a national nonprofit organization that offers a variety of online mental health screening tools at [MentalHealthAmerica.net](http://MentalHealthAmerica.net) – click on "Take a Screen" in the menu bar. Or at [HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org](http://HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org), which is offered by Screening for Mental Health, Inc.

Both of these tests are anonymous and confidential, they take less than 10 minutes to complete, and they can help you determine the severity of your husband's problem.

### Get Help

If you find that he is suffering from depressive symptoms, he needs to see his doctor for a medical evaluation to rule out possible medical causes. Some medications, for example, can produce side effects that mimic depressive symptoms – pain and sleeping meds are common culprits. It's also important to distinguish between depression and dementia, which can share some of the same



symptoms.

If he's diagnosed with depression, there are a variety of treatment options including talk therapy, antidepressant medications or a combination of both.

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is a particularly effective type of talk therapy, which helps patients recognize and change destructive thinking patterns that leads to negative feelings.

For help finding a therapist who's trained in CBT, ask your doctor for a referral, check your local yellow pages under "counseling" or "psychologists," or check with the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies ([FindCBT.org](http://FindCBT.org)), or the Academy of Cognitive Therapy ([AcademyofCT.org](http://AcademyofCT.org)).

And to search for therapists that accept Medicare, use Medicare's Physician Compare tool. Go to [Medicare.gov/physiciancompare](http://Medicare.gov/physiciancompare) and type in your zip code, or city and state, then type in the type of profession you want locate, like "psychiatry" or "clinical psychologist" in the "What are you searching for?" box.

### Medicare Coverage

You'll be happy to know that original Medicare currently covers 100 percent for annual depression screenings that are done in a doctor's office or other primary care clinic. They also pay 80 percent of its approved amount for outpatient mental health services like counseling and therapy services, and will cover almost all medications used to treat depression under the Part D prescription drug benefit.

If you and your husband get your Medicare benefits through a private Medicare Advantage plan, they too must cover the same services as original Medicare but they will likely require him to see an in-network provider. You'll need to contact your plan directly for the details.

*Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.*

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\* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required but you must be over 60.



**ACTIVITIES:** Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Park House (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

Hawaiian & Polynesian Dance Class: Every Tuesday morning from 10a.m. to 11a.m. Join instructor Barbara Dempsey as she leads you in the art of Hula.

Bingo Time: Every Tuesday beginning at 1:00p.m. Cards are only \$0.25 each! Everyone is welcome to join. Activity may be canceled if less than five people.

Free Blood Pressure Testing: 2nd Tuesdays of the month from 11a.m. to 12p.m. No appt. is necessary.

Brain Games - \*New Activity\*: Join us on Thursday November 16th, at 10:30a.m. to 11:30a.m. for

Scattergories. A creative thinking game by naming objects within a set of categories. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is needed. What a great way to strengthen your brain and make new friends. Activities are facilitated by Senior Volunteers.

Free Legal Consultation: Wednesday, November 15th from 10:30a.m. to Noon. Attorney Lem Makupson is available for legal consultation. Specializing in Family Law, Wills, Trusts, Estates, and Injury. Appointments are required by calling 626-355-7394.

Senior Club: Meets every Saturday at the Hart Park House Senior Center. Brown Bag Lunch at 11:30a.m.

Chair Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays from 11:00a.m. to 11:45a.m. with Paul Hagen. Classes

include yoga and balance exercises. All ability levels are encouraged and welcomed!\* A voluntary donation of \$5.00 per week is suggested but not required.

Birthday Celebrations: Every 2nd Thursday monthly at the Hart Park House, share some free birthday cake provided by the Sierra Madre Civic Club.

Game Day: Every Thursday starting at 12:00p.m. Come join this group of Seniors in their poker game. Other games are offered to all.

Free Strength Training Class: Fridays from 12:45p.m. to 1:30p.m. with Lisa Brandley. This energetic class utilizes light weights, low impact resistance and training conditioning. Class equipment is provided.

### UPCOMING EXCURSIONS:



### THE MISSION INN & FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS (Riverside)

Date: Friday, December 15, 2017

Time: 2:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Hart Park House Senior Center

Cost: \$20 (Does not include dinner)

The day begins with a 75-minute late afternoon guided tour on the art, architecture, and history of the Mission Inn. Guests will have time for dinner, shopping, and the annual Festival of Lights with the nice Christmas Tree decor in the hotel lobby.

Due to the historic nature and character of the Mission Inn, tours involve significant amounts of walking and standing; you may encounter areas of uneven ground, side-walks and flooring; stairways, steps and slopes. You will be asked to sign a waiver and release of liability by the Mission Inn. Dinner will be on your own and there are many dining options along Main Street or at the Mission Inn Hotel.

Participants should bring money for dinner and souvenirs. Level of Walking: High. Please call the Hart Park House 626-355-7394.



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Looking Up  
with Bob Eklund

## NEW SPACE POLICY DIRECTIVE CALLS FOR HUMAN EXPANSION ACROSS THE SOLAR SYSTEM

President Donald Trump is sending astronauts back to the Moon.

On March 11, the president signed White House Space Policy Directive 1, a change in national space policy that provides for a U.S.-led, integrated program with private sector partners for a human return to the Moon, followed by missions to Mars and beyond.

The policy calls for the NASA administrator to “lead an innovative and sustainable program of exploration with commercial and international partners to enable human expansion across the solar system and to bring back to Earth new knowledge and opportunities.” The effort will more effectively organize government, private industry, and international efforts toward returning humans on the Moon, and will lay the foundation that will eventually enable human exploration of Mars.

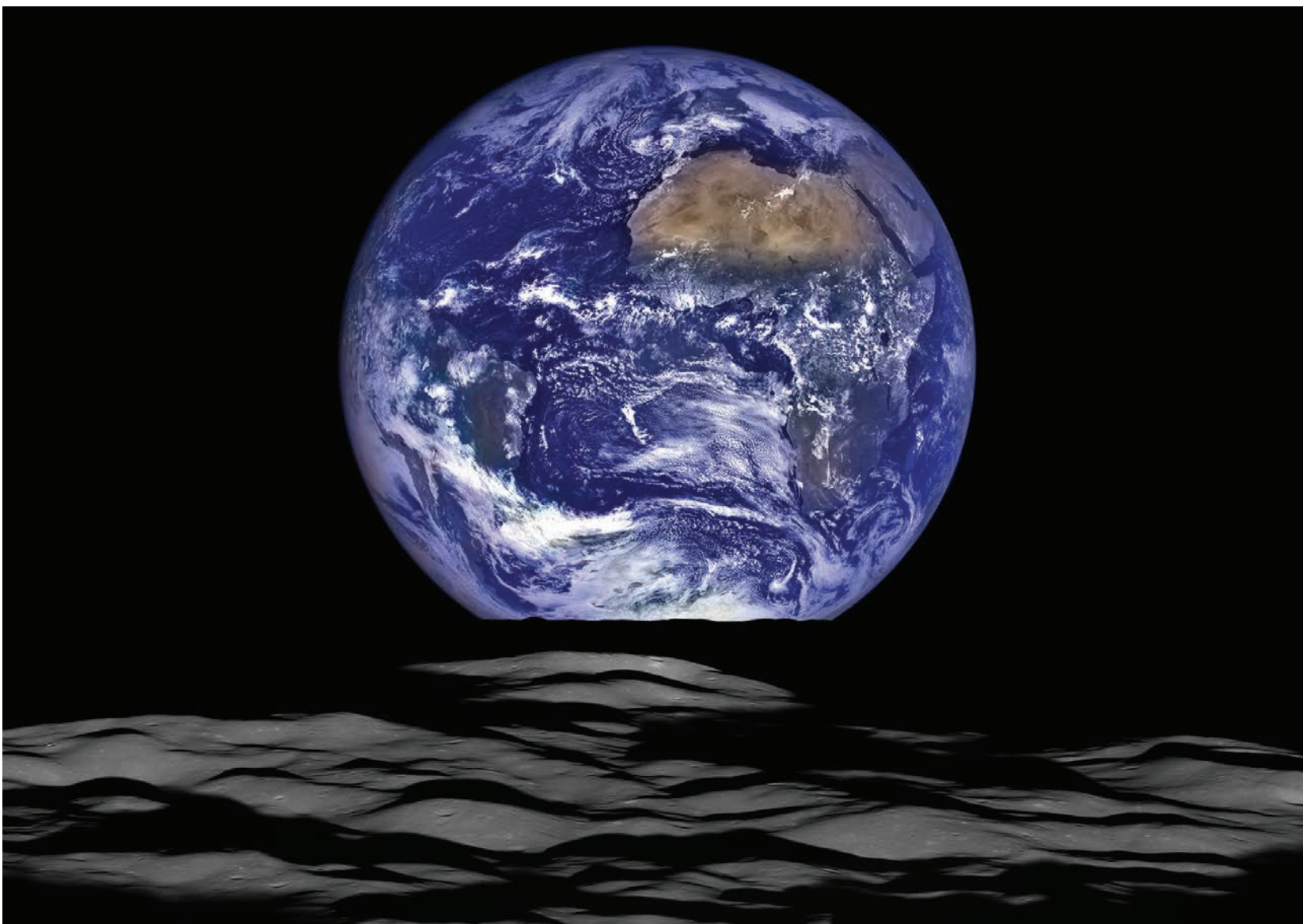
“The directive I am signing today will refocus America’s space program on human exploration and discovery,” said President Trump. “It marks a first step in returning American astronauts to the Moon for the first time since 1972, for long-term exploration and use. This time, we will not only plant our flag and leave our footprints—we will establish a foundation for an eventual mission to Mars, and perhaps someday, to many worlds beyond.”

The policy grew from a unanimous recommendation by the new National Space Council, chaired by Vice President Mike Pence, after its first meeting Oct. 5. In addition to the direction to plan for human return to the Moon, the policy also ends NASA’s existing effort to send humans to an asteroid. The president revived the National Space Council in July to advise and help implement his space policy with exploration as a national priority.

Among other dignitaries on hand for the signing, were NASA astronauts Sen. Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, Buzz Aldrin, Peggy Whitson, and Christina Koch. Schmitt landed on the moon 45 years to the minute before the signing of the new directive, as part of NASA’s Apollo 17 mission, and is the most recent living person to have set foot on our lunar neighbor. Aldrin was the second person to walk on the Moon during the Apollo 11 mission. Whitson spoke to the president from space in April aboard the International Space Station and while flying back home after breaking the record for most time in space by a U.S. astronaut in September. Koch is a member of NASA’s astronaut class of 2013.

Work toward the new directive will be reflected in NASA’s Fiscal Year 2019 budget request next year.

“NASA looks forward to supporting the president’s directive strategically aligning our work to return humans to the Moon, travel to Mars and opening the deeper solar system beyond,” said acting NASA Administrator Robert



Lightfoot. “This work represents a national effort on many fronts, with America leading the way. We will engage the best and brightest across government and private industry and our partners across the world to reach new milestones in human achievement.”

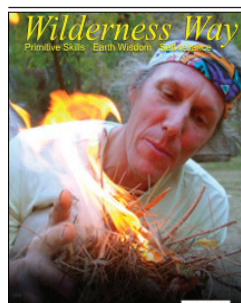
A piece of Moon rock was brought to the White House

as a reminder of the exploration history and American successes at the Moon on which the new policy will build. Lunar Sample 70215 was retrieved from the Moon’s surface and returned by Schmitt’s Apollo 17 crew. Apollo 17 was the last Apollo mission to land astronauts on the Moon and returned with the greatest amount of rock and soil samples

for investigation.

The sample is a basaltic lava rock similar to lava found in Hawaii. It crystallized 3.84 billion years ago when lava flowed from the Camelot Crater.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: [b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com).

CHRISTOPHER Nyerges  
SEARCHING FOR THE REAL  
MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

[Nyerges is the author of several books, including “Whose Child Is This?” (about the meaning of the symbols of Christmas). He can be reached at [www.ChristopherNyerges.com](http://www.ChristopherNyerges.com) or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041.]

Many years ago, I was asked to conduct a Christmas event for the non-profit I’d been a part of. My job: “Find the real meaning of Christmas.” Even after I agreed to do this, I wondered: How can I do that? How can I be sure that I’ve really got the “real” meaning? How will I know whether or not I’m right?

I was told by Ms. Hall, the then-president of the non-profit WTI, to make a plan, and that I should write out the overall reasons and purposes for the event. I was to start collecting all the facts I’d need for my study into the meaning of Christmas. Sounded good, so far. I needed to discover what all the symbols of Christmas meant, symbolically, to each of us.

“So you need to focus your thinking on all the important details that pertain to Christmas. Your job is to find, and then to convey, that real meaning to the others at the event,” I was told. OK. I felt even more overwhelmed. I was not sure I could actually do this and get meaningful results. So, I did the best that I was able to.

Finally, the Christmas Eve event took place. It was half the day of music, movies, and delicious food. Once it was underway, everyone seemed to fill their role rather professionally. And then there was my presentation on the meaning of Christmas. I had toiled over my research notes, and done considerable “thinking-into” the subject. Still, even as I stood there in front of 20 or so people, I had my doubts about whether or not I knew what I was talking about.

I explained how I grew up in a Catholic family, and was taught that Jesus was born on December 25, which is obviously why we celebrate his birthday on that date. But by age 14, I began reading literature from non-Catholic, and non-Christian sources, that pointed out that most of the Christian Holy Days – including Christmas – were pre-Christian, as hard as that was to believe. Those first revelations had the effect of making me even more depressed at Christmastime, since not only did I perceive it as time when the merchants induced us all to buy, it now appeared that Christmas had so-called “pagan” roots.

I had a few encyclopedias with me, and read passages from them as appropriate. I also had *The Golden Bough*, and Manly Hall’s *Secret Teachings of All Ages*. I told the small group that was gathered there that day that I was amazed to discover that Jesus was not the only god or savior of world history who birth was commemorated on December 25, or a few days earlier on the solstice. Mithra, for example, was born of a virgin mother in a cave. His birthday was commemorated on December 25. Mithraism was the dominant religion of the Roman Empire during the time of Jesus. Nimrod from Babylon was also said to be born on December 25, as was Osiris, Quetzalcoatl, and others.

“I was very influenced in my early teens by certain religious groups who taught that we should not observe Christmas because it is pagan,” I told the small group. I explained that it was not until the 4th Century when

Constantine was attempting to unite his empire that he made Christianity the official religion, and he “Christianized” all the so-called pagan commemorations. As a result, the birth of the Sun that was already commemorated by the Mithra-followers was now going to commemorate the Birth of the Son.

It turned out that nearly all of the Christmas symbols pre-dated Christianity, and were called “pagan” by some.

“But what is a pagan?” I asked the group. “It turned out that the pagani originally referred to anyone who lived in the countryside. Only later did the term take on the somewhat derogatory “non-Christian” meaning, since it was harder to convert the people who did not live close to the cities of the day.”

During the next 45 minutes, I discussed the meanings of the wreath, evergreens, lights and candles, the giving of gifts, the virgin birth, and birth in a stable. I pointed out that the winter solstice, that darkest day when the day’s light increases, has been used ceremonial to commemorate the birth of saviors for four or five millennia. We know Jesus wasn’t born then, but we today use that day to commemorate the possibility of a new beginning.

Timothy, who was a guest that night, described the importance of the winter solstice to ancient people. “That’s why there are so many stone structures and shadows and drawings that tell people when it’s the day of least light. Not only did the farmers want to know when the days would get longer, but it was also highly symbolic. There in the deep of winter, when the days were darkest, suddenly the days started to get longer. That’s where the birth of the sun idea came from. It’s highly symbolic, as you’ve been saying, and just about everyone throughout time has taken note of it.”

When it was over, I felt that I – and the guests – had come just a bit closer to finding this real, inner meaning to this special day. But I knew this was not a matter of just collecting facts, like some college research project. Can I even say that today I know the “real meaning”?

I’ve concluded that, despite all the outward signs and parties and food, the “real meaning” of Christmas is that we should take the time to allow a “new birth” to occur within our own mind and soul. Yes, that’s not easy, and it’s hard work, though very rewarding. This real, inner meaning of this time of the year, is something that anyone of any culture can choose to experience.



## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

BEHOLD, THE CHRISTMAS  
GRINCH COMETH

I never have to look at the calendar to know when the Christmas holiday season is approaching. As soon as I lay down my fork on Thanksgiving Day, the battle drums begin to roll. Somebody, who apparently does not have much of a life, takes a pot shot at the Christmas holiday. You would think, from some of their comments, the Christmas holiday was the greatest conspiracy in all of human history.

According to these protesters, the very word “Christmas,” offends them to no degree. They forbid people to say cheerfully, “Merry Christmas,” as if those words in and of themselves would create the ultimate damage to the person hearing them.

To placate these values-challenged patrons, some businesses have chosen not to put the word “Christmas,” anywhere near their business, replacing that offensive word with the words, “Happy Holiday.” Even employees are prohibited wishing customers a Merry Christmas, but rather a “Happy Holiday.” This, according to the all-wise Christmas Grinch, is more acceptable than simply saying, “Merry Christmas.”

Of course, anybody who is as smart as a fifth-grader knows that the word “holiday,” according to Webster’s dictionary, means, “A religious feast day; a holy day.” So instead of saying “Merry Christmas,” they want us to say, “Have a happy holy feast day,” which seems more religious to me.

I am thinking of starting a grassroots movement of people who are offended by people who are offended by the word “Christmas.” The only problem with this, I would have a hard time finding people as nasty, venomous and as gray-matter-challenged as those offended by the word “Christmas.” People who believe in Christmas and the Christmas spirit are rather good, loving and generous people.

Part of our agenda would go something like this. People offended by the word “Christmas” and by celebrating the Christmas season should not be allowed to take Christmas day off with pay. I do not hear any of these people complaining that they have Christmas day off with pay. If they really were offended by the Christmas season they would refuse

taking any time off and getting paid for it.

Along with this, all those objecting to Christmas would not be eligible for any kind of Christmas gift or Christmas bonus. All of these “offensive goodies,” would go to those who love and appreciate the Christmas season.

All government offices would be opened on Christmas day and staffed by all those people who find the Christmas season so very offensive. Why isn’t the post office open on Christmas day? Moreover, why don’t I get my Christmas Cards delivered to me on Christmas day?

To further our agenda, all those offended by Christmas should not be permitted to shop at Christmas time to purchase “Christmas gifts.” Nor should they accept any Christmas gifts. If they are honestly offended by the Christmas season this should be anathema to them.

Any business person with a store should not have a Christmas sale. If they are really offended by Christmas, why do they insist on benefiting from those who delight in Christmas?

While I am on the subject, why are all of these people who want to take God out of government, our school system and businesses still greedily accepting American dollars that have clearly printed on it, “In God we trust?” If they were really true to their beliefs, they would never touch another American dollar in their life.

This would be another part of our grassroots agenda. Those desiring to take God out of all of these things, if they are honest people, should surrender all their money to people who believe in God. After all, if you do not believe in God, why accept money that boasts in believing in God?

Throughout the rest of the year, prayer in school offends these Grinches. This has always “wondered me.” They do not believe in Christmas or God and yet when either is mentioned they go into a convulsive seizure as though their very life is being threatened.

If I did not believe in something as radical as these people say they do not believe in God or Christmas, it would not threaten me. I might smile at people who believed in it, but it sure would not bother me and I would not be upset to the point where I would forbid others celebrating it. After all, I do not believe in Halloween, but I have not started a movement to ban it from our country. I think it rather silly for people to get all dressed up in scary costumes, pretending to be something they are not and begging for candy. As of today, I have not started a movement to ban them from running for political office.

I allow those who do not believe in Christmas or in God to celebrate their holidays: Halloween and April 1. Just let me celebrate my holidays.

I celebrate Christmas because of what the Bible says. “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:4-6).

Christmas means that God provided redemption for all humanity. Jesus is the real reason for the season.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail [jamesnsnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnsnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).

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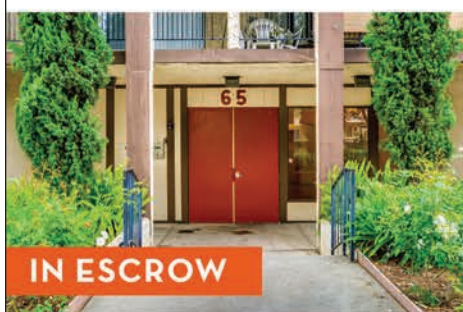
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**SECTION B**

## AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

**DONATIONS SOUGHT TO HELP THOSE IMPACTED BY SAN LUIS REY DOWNS TRAINING CENTER FIRE; 'GO FUND ME' ACCOUNT CREATED AND MUCH-NEEDED CLOTHING FOR DISPLACED WORKERS TO BE COLLECTED AT SANTA ANITA**



ARCADIA, Calif. (Dec. 8, 2017)—The Stronach Group (TSG), in conjunction with Santa Anita Park and The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, has established a GoFundMe account page to help pay for hospital and rehabilitative costs incurred by those injured in yesterday's devastating Lilac Fire, which engulfed San Luis Rey Downs Training Center in northern San Diego County. Additionally, Santa Anita is now in the process of collecting clothing items for the dozens of stable workers who were forced to flee yesterday's flames. The fire, fueled by fierce Santa Ana winds, was first reported at approximately 11:30 a.m. PT near Interstate 15 and state Route 76, to the east of San Luis Rey Downs. The resulting conflagration at the training center, which housed nearly 500 Thoroughbreds, has resulted in numerous injuries, equine and human, as well as an undetermined number of equine deaths.

Due to the heroic efforts of workers and first responders, all remaining horses have now been evacuated from San Luis Rey Downs, with the majority now stabled at Del Mar, which is 35 miles to the south.

Clothing items, as well as bedding and blankets for displaced workers, can be left at Santa Anita's Association Gate, accessible via Gate 8 off of Baldwin Ave.

For those wishing to donate to TSG's GoFundMe account to benefit those impacted by yesterday's fire at San Luis Rey Downs Training Center, please

visit [santaanita.com](http://santaanita.com) and click on the pop-up or visit the donation site at <http://stronachgroup.bmetrack.com/c/?u=77175D6&e=C1CF8B&c=3AF7A&t=0&l=1476BD&email=15tiCKNtW2aXVptw98yYM40idxoJajj5fMGPOVnZMIE%3D&seq=1> <https://www.gofundme.com/thoroughbredcare>.

### About Us

Santa Anita Park is a Stronach Group company, North America's leading Thoroughbred racetrack owner/operator. The Stronach Group racetracks include Santa Anita Park, Gulfstream Park & Casino, Golden Gate Fields, Portland Meadows, Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, home of the world-famous Preakness. The company owns and operates the Palm Meadows Training Center in Florida, and is one of North America's top race horse breeders through its award-winning Adena Springs operation. The Stronach Group is one of the world's largest suppliers of pari-mutuel wagering systems, technologies and services. Its companies include AmTote, a global leader in wagering technology; Xpressbet, an Internet and telephone account wagering service; and Monarch Content Management, which acts as a simulcast purchase and sales agent of horseracing content for numerous North American racetracks and wagering outlets. The Stronach Group is North America's premier supplier of virtual online horseracing games, as well as a leading producer of social media content for the horseracing industry.

**UNION STATION HOMELESS SERVICES TO FEED HUNDREDS IN NEED AT SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY AT THE STATION**

In a show of compassion and holiday spirit, hundreds of volunteers of all ages will gather together on Christmas Day to serve meals and cheer at Union Station Homeless Services' second annual Holiday at the Station.

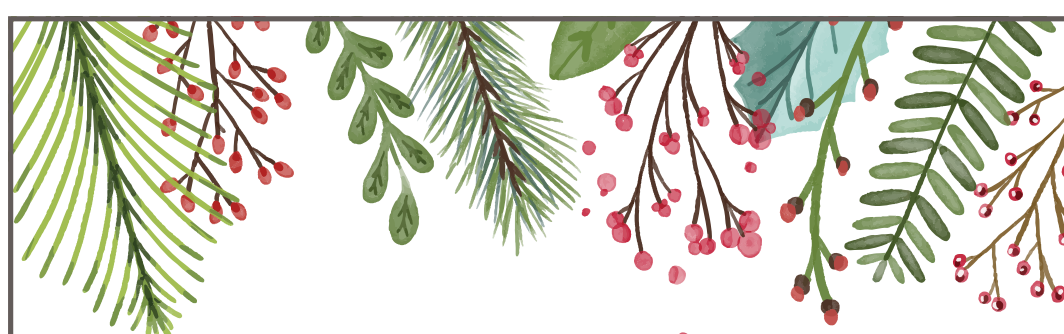
Union Station expects to serve over 500 plates of food on December 25th. Meal recipients will include individuals and families experiencing homelessness or poverty, senior citizens, and those who are alone for Christmas or unable to afford a holiday meal.

Traditionally, this Christmas Meal has been held in Pasadena's Central Park, but in following last year's success of Holiday at the Station, Union Station will once again be hosting the festivities at the Adult Center on Raymond Avenue, a 56-bed emergency shelter for men and women. Volunteers will help prepare and serve meals—including Christmas ham, macaroni and cheese, corn, green beans, dinner rolls and pie—to all who are hungry at Union Station's Adult Center on Christmas Day.

Volunteer registration for this event is still open and community members are invited to help Union Station collect the ingredients and kitchen supplies needed to prepare a great Christmas meal! The wish list of much-needed items is available online. Donors may drop off these supplies in the indicated sizes at the Adult Center, 412 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm)



PLEASE NOTE: Due to Health Department regulations, Union Station Homeless Services cannot accept cooked turkey, ham, or other prepared food donations at the event. To volunteer or to donate food, please visit: [www.unionstationhs.org/has](http://www.unionstationhs.org/has)



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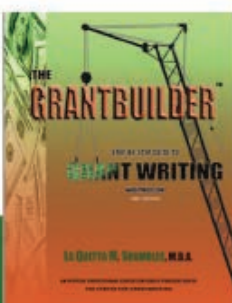
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# Jeff's Book Pics

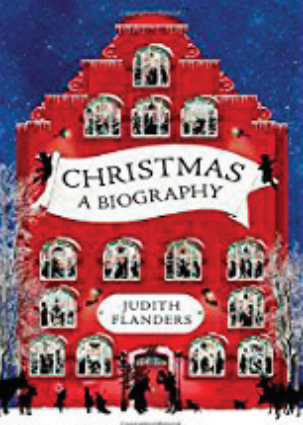
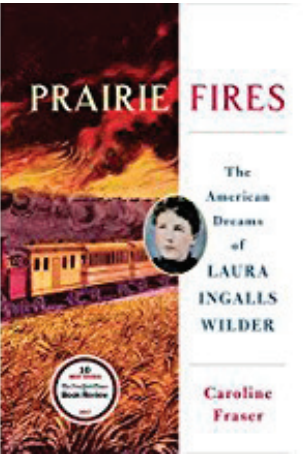
By Jeff Brown

**Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder** by Caroline Fraser

The first comprehensive historical biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the beloved author of the Little House on the Prairie books. Millions of readers of Little House on the Prairie believe they know Laura Ingalls the pioneer girl who survived blizzards and near-starvation on the Great Plains, and the woman who wrote the famous autobiographical books. But the true saga of her life has never been fully told. Now, drawing on unpublished manuscripts, letters, diaries, and land and financial records, Caroline Fraser the editor of the Library of America edition of the Little House series masterfully fills in the gaps in Wilder's biography. Revealing the grown-up story behind the most influential childhood epic of pioneer life, she also chronicles Wilder's tumultuous relationship with her journalist daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, setting the record straight regarding charges of ghostwriting that have swirled around the books. The Little House books, for all the hardships they describe, are paeans to the pioneer spirit, portraying it as triumphant against all odds. But Wilder's real life was harder and grittier than that, a story of relentless struggle, rootlessness, and poverty. It was only in her sixties, after losing nearly everything in the Great Depression, that she turned to children's books, recasting her hardscrabble childhood as a celebratory vision of homesteading and achieving fame and fortune in the process, in one of the most astonishing rags-to-riches episodes in American letters. Spanning nearly a century of epochal change, from the Indian Wars to the Dust Bowl, Wilder's dramatic life provides a unique perspective on American history and our national mythology of self-reliance. With fresh insights and new discoveries, Prairie Fires reveals the complex woman whose classic stories grip us to this day.

**Christmas: A Biography** by Judith Flanders

A critically acclaimed New York Times bestselling author explores the Christmas holiday, from the original festival through present day traditions. Christmas has always been a magical time. Or has it? Thirty years after the first recorded Christmas, the Pope was already warning that too many people were spending the day, not in worship, but in partying and eating to excess. By 1616, the playwright Ben Jonson was nostalgically remembering Christmas in the old days, certain that it had been better then. Other elements of Christmas are much newer – who



would have thought gift-wrap is a novelty of the twentieth century? That the first holiday parade was neither at Macy's, nor even in the USA? Some things, however, never change. The first known gag holiday gift book, The Boghouse Miscellany, was advertised in the 1760s 'for gay Gallants, and good companions', while in 1805, the leaders of the Lewis and Clark expedition exchanged – what else? – presents of underwear and socks. Christmas is all things to all people: a religious festival, a family celebration, a period of eating and drinking. In Christmas: A Biography, bestselling author and acclaimed social historian Judith Flanders casts a sharp eye on myths, legends and history, deftly moving from the origins of the holiday in the Roman empire, through Christmas trees in central Europe, to what might be the first appearance of Santa Claus – in Switzerland – to draw a picture of the season as it has never been seen before.

**Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow** by Jessica Townsend

A breathtaking, enchanting new series by debut author Jessica Townsend, about a cursed girl who escapes death and finds herself in a magical world--but is then tested beyond her wildest imagination. Morrigan Crow is cursed. Having been born on Eventide, the unluckiest day for any child to be born, she's blamed for all local misfortunes, from hailstorms to heart attacks--and, worst of all, the curse means that Morrigan is doomed to die at midnight on her eleventh birthday. But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. Chased by black-smoke hounds and shadowy hunters on horseback, he whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor. It's then that Morrigan discovers Jupiter has chosen her to contend for a place in the city's most prestigious organization: the Wondrous Society. In order to join, she must compete in four difficult and dangerous trials against hundreds of other children, each boasting an extraordinary talent that sets them apart--an extraordinary talent that Morrigan insists she does not have. To stay in the safety of Nevermoor for good, Morrigan will need to find a way to pass the tests--or she'll have to leave the city to confront her deadly fate. Perfect for fans of the Harry Potter series and Neil Gaiman, this fast-paced plot and imaginative world has a fresh new take on magic that will appeal to a new generation of readers.

# All Things

By Jeff Brown

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing by Edmund Burke.

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead by Oscar Wilde

This above all: to thine own self be true by William Shakespeare

Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain by Joseph Campbell

We must not allow other people's limited perceptions to define us by Virginia Satir

Don't look for society to give you permission to be yourself by Steve Maraboli

Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are. Chinese Proverb

We are the open, empty, allowing presence of Awareness, in which the objects of the body, mind and world appear and disappear, with which they are known and, ultimately, out of which they are made. Just notice that and be that, knowingly by Rupert Spira

Our self – luminous, empty Awareness – knows no resistance and is, therefore, Peace itself; it seeks nothing and is, thus, happiness itself; it is intimately one with all appearances and is, as such, pure love by Rupert Spira

# FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



## THERE'S NEVER A BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER

The idea of getting your financial and legal house in order is likely the last thing on your mind during the busy holiday season. But, getting started is actually much easier than you might think. In fact, the end of the year is a great time to reflect upon the year that has passed and focus on your aspirations for the future. Don't hold this task off for later! Some careful thought and a little bit of work now can go a long way to help you feel 100% confident about moving forward in the new year.

In preparation for the upcoming tax season, you may have already begun gathering paperwork, like your property tax bill, year-end mortgage statement, or final pay stubs. Although filing your income taxes is different than putting your affairs in order, you're already in paperwork "mode", so now is the perfect time to reassess your legal and financial situation to create a new plan or update an existing one that no longer suits your circumstances.

**Basic Estate Planning**

All you need to do is start with a general list of everything you own. You don't have to complete a comprehensive inventory. Think instead about categories of assets, like bank accounts, life insurance, real estate, vehicles, etc.

Then, draw out your family tree and think about who you would like to receive what you've spent your lifetime building. If you don't put your wishes in writing, your estate – everything you've worked so hard to build – may be liquidated, and will certainly be distributed, according to the government's plan, known as intestacy.

The foundation of all estate plans are wills and trusts. Which one is the best for you depends on your individual circumstances.

A will is a written legal declaration of your intentions on how you want your property disposed of upon death. This document is not legally enforceable until after your passing and, therefore, it can be changed at any time before you die or lose your mental capacity. A will allows you very basic control of what happens after you are gone.

A trust, on the other hand, is a legal arrangement where a trustee manages property for the beneficiaries. There are many kinds of trusts, ranging from living trusts to complex dynasty trusts. Each type of trust has its own benefits and drawbacks, so talk with your trusted advisor about which one is the best fit for your circumstances.

Although there are many types of trusts, the one most people need is a living trust. It's a great alternative to a will, because it can be changed during your life, can provide financial protection should you become incapacitated, and yet is often easier and less expensive for your family to handle upon your death. Another common type of trust is a testamentary trust, which is one that is contained within the provisions of the will. But just like a will, a testamentary trust is not operative until your death, making them a little less flexible and more limited in function.

**Benefits of Estate Planning**

Estate planning can help provide financial stability for loved ones, designate a guardian for minor children or disabled family members, distribute property to chosen charitable organizations, reduce tax liabilities, and achieve other personal and family goals. Organizing your financial and legal affairs is your opportunity to make impactful decisions on your assets, money, and healthcare and solidify the legacy you will leave after you are gone.

Planning your estate may feel like a daunting task, but don't let that be what stops you. We're here to help. You don't have to do this alone. Contact us today to discuss your options and to get started organizing your future.

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MARC

*A local attorney and father, Marc Garlett is on a mission to help parents protect what they love most. His office is located at 49 S. Baldwin Ave., Ste. G, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Schedule an appointment to sit down and talk about ensuring a legacy of love and financial security for your family by calling 626.587.3058 or visit [www.GarlettLaw.com](http://www.GarlettLaw.com) for more information.*

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By La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA

## BUSINESS TODAY

The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

## WINNING WITH COLLABORATIVE COMPETITION

If you're in a major city and see the infamous golden arches in the distance letting you know that a Big Mac or other familiar options await you at McDonald's, you can guarantee that you will find at least one or more of their major competitors in very close proximity. Jack In The Box, Carl's Jr's or the healthier Subway option are certain to be among your choices. The big guys understand and embrace the benefits of a collaborative competition, of sorts.

Modern day malls and shopping centers are nothing more than a contemporary adaptation of the age-old concept of the marketplace dating back to ancient times. These marketplaces were sometimes permanent fixtures in townships, an in other instances, operated similar to weekly farmers' markets and community festivals. Each month across America, a robust schedule of traveling trunk shows, crafts fair and other specialty events appeal to millions with interests in everything from jewelry making to collecting antique firearms.

All of these examples point to the power and profitability of collaborative competition. Entrepreneurs who understand this concept are better able to identify and develop opportunities otherwise hidden to those who can view competition only as threat. The opportunity for more individuals and families to own businesses increased as we made the transition from small clusters of townships, separated by vast rural areas where the majority of American lived prior to the Industrial Revolution of the early 1800's. Today's major urban centers evolved out of this economic boom as waves of people moved to benefit from job opportunities.

With the temporary dismantling of the traditional, one-stop country store and the cursory one store per major merchandise category that dictated one-blacksmith, or one-seamstress, or one-café per town, the reality of supply and demand made it feasible for competitors to come together to create the modern

day marketplaces. As the population density increased, so did the need for more businesses selling goods and services in the same categories.

There was a time in small town USA when opening a similar business close to a competitor would have been considered an insult, a frontal assault. We're almost three generations beyond the era when the successful strategy for retail and food businesses was to maintain a healthy physical distance from one's direct competition. Clusters of vendors hocking their crafts and wares at community festivals and similar venues were the exception and one of the few places where this practice would have been viewed as acceptable.

Take a stroll into the food court area of any regional mall to see the benefits of collaborative competition. There was a time when the choice of food outlets in these venues was very limited, and it would have been thought quite outrageous for them to have been located in adjacent spaces. A brief observation will reveal that all of the competitors in this situation benefit as hungry shoppers, who are undecided when they step into this area, gaze across the choice of eateries. Repeated hundreds of times daily, think of this process as the lottery that results in wins for every competitor in the food court area over time.

Likewise, small businesses have opportunity to develop collaborative competition models to their benefit within specific industry categories or geographic categories. Regions where cities are clustered near major urban centers and accessible transportation are ripe for establishing shopping districts and travel associations. This can create opportunities for small businesses to benefit from shared marketing and promotional efforts. Thoughtful and well-planned models for collaborative competition can contribute to a significant increase in business at a more favorable cost for all of the small businesses involved.

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Mountain Views News has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case number GS004724: for the City of Sierra Madre; in Court Case GS005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. GS006989 and is published every Saturday at 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., No. 327, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the Mountain Views News and may be published in part or whole.

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The traditions of community newspapers and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. 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.



**RAGING MODERATE**  
by **WILL DURST**

**TOP 10 COMEDIC NEWS STORIES OF 2017**

- Put down the nog. Let in the dog. Delay your spouse's jog. Buy a mask for the smog. Alert the press in Prague. Because the eagerly awaited list of Top Ten Comedic News Stories of the Year has finally arrived. It truly is... the most wonderful time of the year.
- But first, a word of caution: these stories are not be confused with the Top Ten Legitimate News Stories of 2017. No. No. No. They are as dissimilar as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and strip poker. Like aluminum snow shovels and chocolate lava cakes. Oxblood wing-tips and tufted wrestling mats.
- These are the events that most lent themselves to jocularly. The ones with a comedic angle. You will find no mention of snipers, Nazis, hurricanes, wildfires, terrorism, Democrats or sexual assaults. Those may have been major occurrences during the past year, but in terms of mockability, not a match. So, here they are: The Top Ten Comedic News Stories of 2017.
10. SEAN SPICER. Donald Trump's proxy punching bag. I kept waiting for him to show up at a press briefing with his tie around his forehead and a knife clenched in his teeth sputtering "Who wants a piece of me?" He resigned in order to spend more time lying to his family.
  9. SECRETARY OF STATE REX TILLERSON. He refuses to deny he called the president a moron, becoming the new hero of millions. Afterwards the president challenged him to an IQ test even though it is not a slam dunk he could spell IQ if you spotted him the I.
  8. INAUGURATION. The 45th president called it the most well-attended inaugural in the history of ever, despite photographic evidence to the extreme contrary. I'm still amazed he put his hand on the Bible and it didn't burst into flames.
  7. PRESIDENT FEUDS WITH NORTH KOREA. Imminent nuclear warfare is usually not that amusing. Hopefully this schoolyard tussle between two grown adolescents with weird hair and daddy issues is not the beginning of the sequel to Dr. Strangelove. Every day without a mushroom cloud has to be counted as a victory.
  6. ANTHONY SCARAMUCCI. For 10 wonderful days, this train wreck with the name of a 16th commedia dell'arte villain spun out of control like a gyroscope through four magnetic fields on its path to a black hole.
  5. RUSSIAN PROBES. Attorney General Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III says the reason he keeps giving different answers to Congressional Committees is because he remembers more whenever he learns there is evidence.
  4. DONALD TRUMP JR. The Fredo of the Trump Crime Family. He's going to make us an offer we can't understand.
  3. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR. Robert Mueller was appointed in middle of May, which means in four short months, Donald Trump went from zero to Nixon.
  2. PRESIDENT FEUDS WITH NFL. Tweeted 24 times about players not standing for national anthem and not once about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico. That's leadership like two bottles of Jagermeister are dinner.
  1. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. The man has single handedly done for political comedy what legalized marijuana did for Cheetos. George W Bush may have been a Wheel of Fortune president in a Jeopardy world, but Donald Trump looks to be more of a Chutes & Ladders kind of a guy.

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**DICK POLMAN**



**KUDOS TO OUR SAVIORS IN ALABAMA**

I agree with Roy Moore. There really is a God. But I'm talking about a sane compassionate God - not the bigoted, homophobic, hate-filled God that Moore sought to impose on Alabama and this benighted nation. I'm talking about a God whose spirit burned bright in the hundreds of thousands of citizens who pulled us back from the amoral abyss Tuesday night. I'm talking about the people who saved us from the most repugnant manifestations of Trumpism.

Trump and Moore made quite a team: a lying serial sexual harasser and a mall-trawling serial teen harasser. Moore functioned as Trump's mini-me, attacking female accusers and spewing the usual tinpot tripe about "fake news." And Trump assumed he had political muscle in a state that he won last year by 28 points. Instead, the two credibly accused perverts - along with Trump's dirtbag doppelganger, Steve Bannon - suffered an ignominious defeat.

Did Trump have muscle in Alabama? Nope. According to the exit polls, 51 percent of voters said his repeated endorsements of Moore wasn't a factor, and among those 56 percent voted for his opponent, Doug Jones. That was the ballgame right there.

By the way, Trump won 62 percent of the presidential vote in 2016, but his Alabama approval rating has dropped to 48 percent. Even in Alabama, he's bleeding badly. Combine that with everything else we know - his national approval rating in the latest Pew poll is 32 percent; his party lost the gubernatorial races last month in Virginia and New Jersey; his party trails by roughly 10 points in the generic midterm election balloting - and it's possible that Alabama is his dead canary in the coal mine.

So much for the losers (including Alabama's white evangelicals, who betrayed their morals by giving Moore 81 percent of their votes). Let's put our hands together for the winners:

African-Americans. By turning out in numbers that far exceeded expectations (29 percent of last night's electorate, with 96 percent of their votes going to Jones), they pulled Alabama into the 21st century. Apparently it didn't sit well with these black citizens that Moore was openly pining for the good old days of slavery and musing that America would be better off without the constitutional amendment that guarantees equal protection of the law. Nor did it probably sit well that Trump came to Alabama and denounced kneeling black athletes as SOB's.

Women. There's no way of knowing whether they were turned off by Moore's cruising of teens, or his stated belief that America would be better off without the constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote, or his belief that Muslims shouldn't serve in government, or his belief that America is evil because it allows gay marriage, or his alliance with a "president" who's accused of harassment by at least 16 women. Whatever the mix, the numbers tell the tale: They favored Jones over Moore by a whopping 16 points, 57 to 41.

Moore's female accusers. By a 20-point margin, women voters said the allegations about Moore were true. Indeed, among mothers with children under 18, Jones won by 34 points, 66 to 32.

Richard Shelby. Last weekend, Alabama's senior Republican senator put country above party, urging his constituents to write in a "distinguished" Republican. He thus defied Trump, Bannon, the Republican National Committee (which sent Moore \$150,000), and his own state GOP. Though Shelby's influence is hard to measure, he deserves some of the credit for arresting our race to the bottom. Which brings us to...

Senate Republicans. They're winners too, inadvertently so. A Moore victory would've made their lives hell. A Moore defeat frees them from conducting an ethics investigation and contemplating expulsion. A Moore defeat spares them from having to answer press questions every time Moore opened his yap. They get enough grief as it is from Trump's moronic tweets.

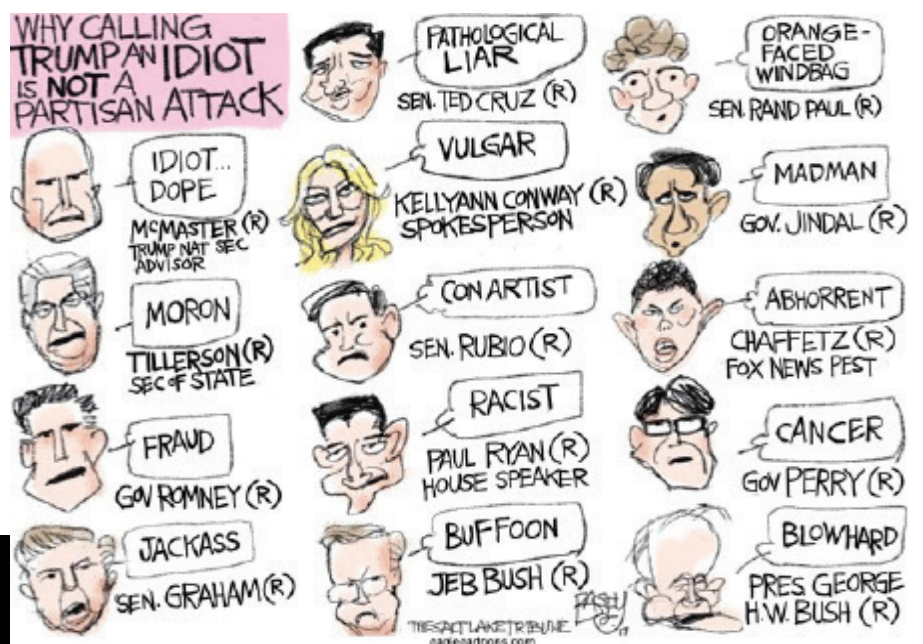
On the other hand, Jones' ascent to the Senate narrows the Republican majority to 51-49, which means the GOP has even less margin for error as it labors to deliver legislative wins for Trump in 2018. The party still seems determined to enact a tax "reform" bill that screws the working- and middle-class voters, a bill most Americans strongly oppose, and Jones won't be sworn in until after it's passed. But there's hope for 2018 that at least a few Republican senators will read the Alabama tea leaves and act in the national interest.

As conservative columnist Jennifer Rubin says, "If pure, undistilled Trumpism is a dud in a deep-red state, perhaps Republicans will conclude it is a failed political philosophy for the country at large."

If so, then there truly is a God.

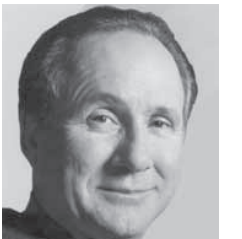
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**MAKING SENSE** by **MICHAEL REAGAN**

**ALABAMA STUPIDITY**



Democrats can dream all they want. They and their soulmates in the liberal media can celebrate the victory by Doug Jones in Alabama's U.S. Senate race until next fall.

They can continue to fool themselves into thinking that Republican candidate Ray Moore's narrow defeat was a sign from above that the Democratic Party will regain control of Congress in 2018.

And that Moore's defeat will prove to be the beginning of the end for President Trump. But what happened on Tuesday in the reddest state in America - the state Donald Trump won by a landslide - was not a harbinger of the death of the GOP. The Moore-Jones contest was a bizarre one-off - a controversial, nationally publicized, expensive, hard-fought special election featuring a horrible Republican candidate that will go down as one of the most embarrassing races in modern electoral history.

Jones, the Democrats and Trump-hating media have good reason to high-five each other over their victory - in the short run. But the biggest loser on Tuesday was not President Trump, who publicly supported Moore in the final days.

It wasn't even the incompetent GOP, whose meddling national leadership made Jones' seemingly impossible win possible.

The biggest loser by far was Steve Bannon, Roy Moore's chief cheerleader and future puppet-master.

Moore was his "flawed" candidate, as I've heard some people in the GOP call him. "Flawed"?

I'm not an establishment Republican. But I know stupid when I see stupid. MOORE WAS ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MOLESTATION! AND HE WAS NOT ABLE TO CONVINCINGLY DEFEND HIMSELF!

That's why Moore lost.

That's why so many Republican women stayed home.

That's why so many Republicans would not put their party's political interest above a candidate who had been credibly accused of molesting teenagers decades ago.

That's why 22,780 Alabamans cast write-in votes - 2,000 more than Jones' margin of victory.

Moore and his backward brand of Christian "conservatism" were an embarrassment to Republicans long before he was accused of molesting teenagers half his age.

No matter how important it was to preserve the GOP's slim majority in the Senate, President Trump and the Republican National Committee never should have jumped back in the game and backed Moore.

Now the Moore loss is hung around their necks - and they've given the Democrats a great campaign ad for the 2018 elections:

"Hello voters. We don't support child molesters. Republicans do."

Nevertheless, all this happy talk in the liberal media about the Moore-Jones race being a referendum on Trump is simply not true.

It was a referendum on Moore and Bannon. That's all.

In fact, President Trump actually dodged a bullet when Moore was not elected.

Moore would not only have been an ongoing GOP embarrassment. He would have been a Bannon puppet in the Senate, not a Trump puppet or a Mitch McConnell puppet.

What Republicans have to do now to keep control of the Senate is what President Trump said - find better candidates.

That's not going to be easy.

Anyone running for office today has to be willing to have anything bad they did in their entire life plastered on the front page of the local paper.

Everyone, including me, did something wrong or stupid in their life they don't want to see made public.

So President Trump may want the GOP to find better candidates, but good luck on that. Jesus died on the cross a long time ago.

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Copyright 2017 Michael Reagan. Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service [reagan.com](http://reagan.com) and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at [www.reagan.com](http://www.reagan.com) and [www.michaelereagan.com](http://www.michaelereagan.com). Send comments to [Reagan@caglecartoons.com](mailto:Reagan@caglecartoons.com). Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

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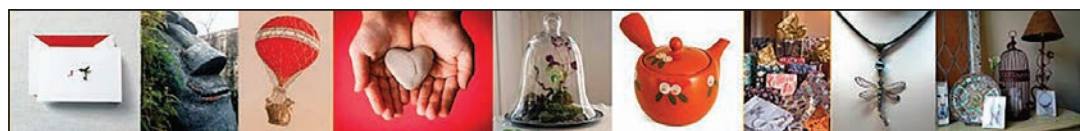
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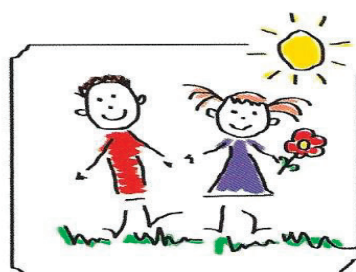
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