

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

VOLUME 12 NO. 01

CHIVALRY MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Congratulations to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association and the hundreds of Volunteers who garnered another award at the 2018 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Special congratulations to Joanne Garcia who submitted the award winning design.

The Sierra Madre Entry, 'Chivalry' won the Fantasy Award for being the Most outstanding display of fantasy and imagination. In keeping with the 2018 TOR theme of Making A Difference, the float depicted a wounded Sierra the Dragon being helped by a young Knight who is wrapping up Sierra's hurt paw!

This year's award is the 12th Award by the Association in the last 13 years. It was one of only six Self-Built floats in the parade.

And, just in case you were wondering, the magnificent float was driven by long-time SMRFA volunteer Kay Sappington. Hidden from public view in a rather 'secret' compartment! Kay drove the float from the Barn in Sierra Madre, along the parade route, back up to the viewing area, stopping by Kersting Court before returning to the barn a few days later. "Never let it be said again that women can't drive", said one admirer.

Attending to both Sierra and the young knight were the Sierra Madre 2018 Rose Princesses Amy Staphenhorst, Emily Verdin, Petra Shair and Emma Allen, (below).



Dismantling of the 2018 Float has already begun. The public may still purchase souvenirs at the Rose Float Barn in Sierra Madre.

Check out the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association on Face Book for more information.
MVNews/Photos by D. Lee

A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018, FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:

Three (3) Members of the City Council (Full Term of four (4) Years)

The nomination period begins on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 8:00 am and will close on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:30 pm.

The polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm.

For more information on the election process or to schedule an appointment during the nomination period, please call Laura Aguilar, Elections Official, Assistant City Clerk, at (626) 355-7135, ext. 202

SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY WINE AND CUISINE TASTING

The annual gourmet Wine and Cuisine Tasting Benefit, a major fund-raising event, is celebrating its 48th Anniversary to support the Sierra Madre Public Library. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to supporting our community Library. All funds received from this event support the Library.

The event will be held on Friday evening, February 16, from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Alverno's historic Villa del Sol d'Oro, located at 200 North Michillinda Avenue, Sierra Madre. This will be an elegant affair featuring more than two dozen vintners providing superb wines, as well as local restaurants offering creative food and desserts.

Tickets to the Premier Event are \$80 and allow early admission at 6:00 p.m. Those attending the Premier Event will enjoy a variety of special wines. Delectable hors d'oeuvres from Sierra Fusion, a restaurant in Sierra Madre, will complement the wines. A chance to win a very unique gift basket will be offered again this year.

Tickets to the Main Event are \$60 and provide admission at 7:00 p.m. Both are on sale now at the Sierra Madre Public Library, The Bottle Shop, Savor the Flavor, and Arnold's Frontier Hardware & Gifts, as well as online at www.eventbrite.com.

Throughout the evening you will enjoy live music and Magic Castle magicians as you stroll about the Villa sampling the wonderful variety of wine and food. A Silent Auction will again be offering lovely artwork, services, tickets to special events, restaurant vouchers and many other tempting items.

The committee would like to thank local artist, Joe Milazzo, for designing and donating this year's art work, an original black and white drawing, that is featured on all flyers, post cards and posters.

Please join us at the Villa on February 16, 2018 for a delightful evening, enjoying fine wines, tasty food, and lively entertainment amidst the company of friends. For additional information go to our website www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org.

SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING "OLDER 'SIERRA MADRE' AMERICAN OF THE YEAR" NOMINATIONS

Sierra Madre, CA – January 3, 2018 - The City of Sierra Madre Community Services Department and the Senior Community Commission are seeking your collaboration to find the next Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year. The honor is a long-standing tradition in Sierra Madre and bestowed upon exceptional individuals, age 60 or older, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community service. The individual selected by you or any organization must live in Sierra Madre.

All submissions are due prior to, or no later than Thursday, March 22, 2018. Recommendations are now being accepted for this recognition and will only be eligible for new candidates who have not been honored in prior years. Forms may be picked up and returned to the Hart Park House Senior Center located at 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.; or please mail and/or walk in to Sierra Madre City Hall, C/o Older American Nomination, Community Services Department, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

The Commission will review nomination

forms and select an honoree at their regularly scheduled meeting, open to the public, in City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, April 5th at 3:00 p.m.

The honoree will also be recognized at a City reception held in their honor on Friday, May 11th, 2018. Further details will follow.

Previous Honorees: Dick Johnson, Joan Crow, Jerry & Nan Carlton, Pat Alcorn, Fran Garbaccio, Ken Anhalt, Eph Konigsberg, Russ Anderson, George Throop, Loyal Camacho, John Grijalva, Joylouis Harte-Smith, James Heasley, Midge Morash, James Tyler, Isabella Paegal, Bonnie Garner, Rose Fafach, Ed Wellman, Celeste McCleary, Dorothy Tillquist, Doris Webster, Elsie Dammeyer, George Mauer, Karl Teigler, Laurie Cooper, Lucille Flanders, Ann Tyler, and Jay Whitcraft (2017). For more information, please contact the Hart Park House Senior Center (626) 355-7394; or the Community Services Department at (626) 355-5278. www.cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/departments/community_services_department/

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Mon:	Rain 60%	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Rain 60%	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Fri:	Ptly Cldy	Hi 60s	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 January 9, 2018
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.



SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
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 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
January 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm January 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Planning Commission January 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm February 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Community Service Commission
January 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Senior Community Commission January 11, 2018 at 3:00 pm
Library Board of Trustees
January 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource Commission
January 17, 2018 at 7:00 pm

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During this time period, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 259 day and night time calls for service.

Monday, December 25 A male was contacted in the 200 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. at about 1:35 a.m. after showing symptoms of intoxication. It was determined the male was unable to care for himself and placed under arrest for public intoxication. The male was transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Tuesday, December 26 At about 1:11 p.m., officers responded to a medical assist in the 500 block of W. Sierra Madre Blvd. The subjects were in a parked vehicle, intoxicated and injured. It was later determined they were involved in a hit and run accident in the City of Pasadena. Both subjects were transported from the scene to a local hospital. The vehicle was stored due to it blocking a public sidewalk.

Unlicensed/Suspended License During this time period citations were issued to 3 individuals that were operating their vehicles without a license or driving with a suspended license. Their vehicles were impounded or turned over to someone with a valid driver's license. Always be aware of the status of your license.

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CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING AND HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Athens Services will once again collect Christmas trees after the holidays for recycling. Trees will be collected on your normal pickup day beginning on January 2, 2018 and until January 12, 2018.

Please remove stands, ornaments, lights and tinsel. Place trees next to your regular trash containers. Trees over 6 feet in length must be cut in half. Trees with flocking or fire retardants are acceptable. If you miss the regular tree collection period, please make arrangements to have Athens collect your tree as part of their bulky item pickup program by calling 888-336-6100.

Residents should also be aware that holiday collection days this year will delay waste collection by the usual single day after Christmas day and New Year's day.



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Sierra Madre Woman's Club

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GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org

[SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)



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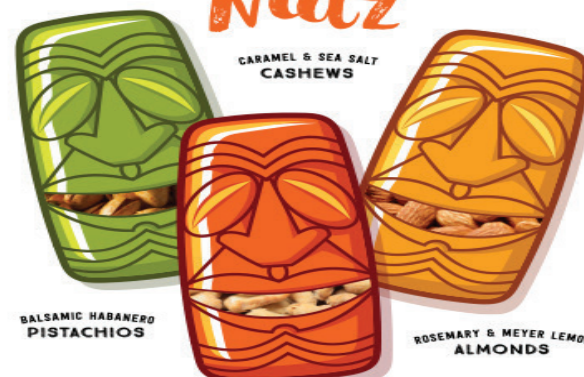
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Walking Sierra Madre...The Social Side

by Deanne Davis



Walking Sierra Madre.....The Social Side
Deanne Davis
January 3, 2018

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity in the finest sense of the word." Goran Persson

Dave Forrester and one of his buddies drive up to the snow every year and bring back huge quantities of that icy stuff and then build the Sierra Madre Frosty. This year I got there right after he was fully decked out in his scarf and got him to smile for me before he started melting. The best part was watching all the people getting pictures with him, laughing and having the best time ever.

Didn't you love the parade? "Making A Difference" – what a great theme and then having Gary Sinise as Grand Marshall was perfect. Looked up his foundation on FaceBook and here's what it said: "Dedicated to honoring and serving our defenders." I was on my way home from Arizona where I'd spent a few days with my Texas family who are contemplating a move there when the parade was actually happening. However, I had planned ahead and recorded it so I didn't miss a moment. The B2 Spirit flyover was awesome with the two F35 Lightning fighter jets. Those two F35s were in honor of Air Force pilot, Major Benjamin Jack Meyer whose donated organs gave new life and hope to five people. They signified giving and receiving life. You probably already knew that, but it touched me deeply and I thought I'd share, just in case you missed it.

Of course you already know that Sierra Madre's float, "Chivalry," won the Fantasy Award and, being totally biased, I thought it was the best float in the parade.

Here we are already into 2018. The first thing I noticed coming back into town is that Petunia's on Baldwin, which was a really nifty shop with clothes, antiques and other eclectic stuff was gone! Daughters Leah and Patti both got Christmas earrings from there. Hoping somebody fabulous is already eyeing that space and the empty spot where Charlotte's Jewelry was and gearing up to bring us new businesses.

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." Helen Keller

Many people like to start their New Year's with black-eyed peas, a Southern tradition for good luck and prosperity, but my family likes to kick off the New Year with Split Pea Soup. Easy to make, do it ahead of time, and if you've planned ahead, you can make enough to keep hungry teen-agers happy all day long. You can double and triple this recipe with great success, if your pot is big enough.

Split Pea Soup

- 1 package split peas (these are found in the market aisle where rice, noodles, beans, etc. are located)
- 4 ham hocks (usually packaged 2 to a package in the meat section) or a ham shank, or the ham bone left over from Christmas.
- 3 medium-size onions – actually there's no such thing as too much onion!
- 6-7 good size carrots (or a package of baby carrots)
- 1 good size bunch of celery
- Salt, Pepper

Split pea soup is an opportunity to creatively express yourself. There are few rules, just a few suggestions:

Get out your really large pot and put the ham hocks or the ham bone in the bottom. Throw the peas on top of that, followed by the onions, carrots and celery which you've washed and cut into big chunks. Cover all this with water, or a combination of water and chicken broth. Say about 8-12 cups of water. Season with salt and pepper and whatever else you like. If you're partial to thyme, put some in there. Or Mrs. Dash.

Cover your pot and put in the oven at about 300 degrees. Leave it in there for about four to six hours, or till the peas have become very tender. Take it out and let the mixture cool to where you can handle it without burning yourself. Remove the ham hocks or ham bone and set them (it) aside.

Assemble your blender and blend your lukewarm soup/veggie mixture into a smooth puree. Put this into a large container with a cover, like your crock pot. When all your soup is pureed, remove whatever meat is on your ham hocks or ham bone, tossing out all fat and other non-meaty parts and put the meat back into your soup. Refrigerate. Let it sit for a day or so to develop flavor, reheat it and stand back so the hungry relatives don't run over you as they rush to grab a bowl of the best split pea soup anywhere. You could make some cornbread or corn muffins to go with your soup and everyone who has some will love you forever, getting your New Year off to a great start!

Happy New Year, dear Walking Sierra Madre friends. Hope to see you out and about in 2018.

Christmas is over.... sort of! My neighbors' wonderful light displays are still up and brightening the night so I figure I can tell you right below here, that you can still listen to Christmas music or give yourself a delightful Christmas story to let that glow linger on a little longer.

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! Featuring this song! Take a look! Blog: www.authordeanne.com

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What Women Need to Know About Cervical Cancer

Maria C.B. de Leon, M.D., is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Surgery, specializing in gynecologic oncology. She practices at City of Hope's Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita and Mission Hills sites.

Dr. de Leon earned her medical degree from University of California Los Angeles. Thereafter, she completed residency training at Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut, where she was honored for her outstanding laparoscopic skills, and a gynecologic/oncology fellowship at Indiana University.

Dr. de Leon holds active memberships with the Society of Gynecologic Oncology, the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists and American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has also authored multiple publications and has been invited to present her work nationally.



Speaker:

Maria C.B. De Leon, M.D.

Assistant Clinical Professor, City of Hope

EVENT DETAILS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018

From: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

at The Kensington

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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Rose Parade Makes the Difference

This year's Rose Parade Monday morning turned out, with a few exceptions, the exact image the world knows it for –lots of sunshine, flowers, horses and music.

Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek (Pictured middle right) road with a smile on his face down Colorado Blvd., along with his family, in a vintage jitney bus. The jitney is also well known to Pasadena's Doo Dah parade.

La Canada-Flintridge self-built float "Panda-Monium, (pictured right top)" won the Bob Hope Humor Award for most whimsical and amusing float. The UPS Store Inc., "Books Bring Dreams to Life, (pictured left middle)" won the Extraordinaire Trophy Award for most extraordinary float. Rose Queen Isabella Marez of Altadena and her court (pictured middle lower left) waved to the crowd in typical fashion.

RFD-TV/Ag PhD's float A "Salute to Farmers" (pictured bottom) was the only float towed through TV corner (Orange Grove and Colorado blvd. The parade stopped for about 10 minutes. Another float, city of Carson, with a large treasure chest and fountain veered from the marker (a red painted line) coming within inches of the crowd. A few other floats, including the Cal Poly Universities Rose Float "Dreams Take Flight" (see float viewing page. 3) reported being damaged by a low hanging wire near the end of the 5.5 mile route.

Tournament of Roses President, Lance Tibbet, and his family, road down the parade in a 1929 Packard Modal 633. Actor and humanitarian Gary Sinise, known for his portrayal of Lt. Dan Taylor in the film Forrest Gump, road, with his family, in a 1919 Dodge Brothers as the parade's Grand Marshal.

Pet of the Week



Gabriela (A448817) is a darling 7-month-old kitten up for adoption. This all gray girl is quite affectionate. She enjoys being petted and will rub her head against your hand. After a few moments of getting to know you, Gabriela will begin to purr. She's quite the playful girl, and she's looking for a new home with lots of kitty toys. Stop by the Neely Cat Center to meet her today.

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 A448817, 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.



VIDA Class is Open for Enrollment for February

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Vital Intervention & Directional Alternatives Academy (VIDA) is currently accepting applications for the spring class. The 16 week academy will start on February 14, 2018 and will graduate June 9, 2018.

The VIDA Academy is designed for "at-risk" youth between the ages of 11 and 17 to learn how to make better life choices and take responsibility for their future. VIDA is designed to redirect "at-risk" youth with issues such as defiance, anger, failing grades, truancy, family discord and substance abuse. VIDA

incorporates physical fitness training, impulse control, life skill training, emotional management techniques, parent-teen and conflict resolution. Participants are referred to VIDA through the Juvenile Courts, schools or by their parents. VIDA is an opportunity for participants to work with law enforcement and other community-based organizations to create positive influences in their lives that will encourage them to succeed.

For More visit: vida.la or call the Altadena VIDA coordinator at (661) 753-6293 and ask for Deputy Soukup.

ALTADENA POLICE BLOTTER

Monday, December 25th

6:00 AM – A grand theft from a vehicle occurred in the 4000 block of Chaney Trail. Stolen: black Thule cargo box, black sleeping bag, and gray headrests. 8:15 PM – Michael Robertson, 32 years old of Altadena was arrested in the 2100 block of Fair Oaks Avenue for assault with a deadly weapon.

10:00 PM – A battery occurred in the 1600 block of Homewood Drive. Suspect identified however, not in custody.

Tuesday, December 26th

9:00 PM – A vehicle vandalism occurred in the 2000 block of Galbreth Road. Suspect(s) etched the vehicle. 10:19 PM – A vehicle vandalism occurred in the 2000 block of Galbreth Road. Suspect(s) scratched the vehicle.

Wednesday, December 27th 5:30 AM – A residential burglary occurred in the 2200 block of Midwick Road. Suspect(s) entered the residence by shattering the glass door. Stolen: unknown.

11:28 AM – A domestic battery occurred in the 1200 block of Sonoma Drive. Suspect was taken into custody.

2:29 PM – A residential burglary occurred in the 1000 block of Alta Pine Drive. Suspect(s) entered the residence

by shattering the glass door. Stolen: unknown.

5:50 PM – A vehicle burglary occurred in the 2200 block of Lincoln Avenue. Suspect(s) entered the vehicle via unknown means. Stolen: purple Longchamp tote bag, silver Macbook Air, medication, and green Giorgio Armani prescription glasses.

Friday, December 29th

9:00 AM – A residential burglary occurred in the 2900 block of Casitas Avenue. Suspect(s) entered the residence via the unsecured door. Stolen: documents and currency.

10:08 AM – A vehicle was reported stolen from the 600 block of Pine Street. Vehicle described as a silver 2001 Lexus ES300. Vehicle was recovered by Hawthorne PD on 12/29/17.

Saturday, December 30th

8:45 AM – A vehicle was reported stolen from the 2600 block of Boulder Road. Vehicle described as burgundy 2009 Jeep Wrangler. Vehicle outstanding.

4:40 PM – A petty theft occurred in the 3300 block of Lincoln Avenue. Stolen: gray and red Motorola Z-Droid cellphone.

5:44 PM – Ray Ramirez, 31 years old of Altadena was arrested in the 2200 block of Crary Street for possession of narcotics.

More Than a Parade

Get a behind-the-scenes look at Pasadena's famed Tournament of Roses Parade as the Pasadena Museum of History hosts an evening January 23 with longtime Tournament Volunteer and 2004 President Michael K. Riffey. The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Riffey will share stories from his book about the hard work, drama, and fun that go in to making the Tournament of Roses Parade one of the "gotta see" events on the nation's TV schedule. He will introduce the Royal Court, float designers and builders, equestrian units, band members, and the amazing Tournament of Roses volunteers.

Tickets: Members \$10; General \$15. Tickets include entrance to the Galleries starting at 5:00 pm and a wine and cheese reception. Advanced ticket purchase is recommended. Tickets may be available at the door for an additional \$5 charge.

Pasadena Museum of History is located at 470 W. Walnut Street. For more information visit pasadenahistory.org or call 626.577.1660.

Older Women 3x3 Basketball

Registration is open and all skill levels are invited for the next season of the Pasadena Senior Center 3x3 Basketball League for women ages 40 and older.

Games will be played Sundays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28 and Feb. 4, and 25 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Braun Athletic Center at Caltech. The registration fee is only \$35 per player. Please note time and location subject to change. Please call ahead to confirm.

For more information and to register contact Oma Soto at omaksoto@hotmail.com or call 323-320-0948.

Humane Society Event

Pints for Paws @ Mt. Lowe Brewing Co., Thursday, January 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Join us for our monthly installment of Pints for Paws at Mt. Lowe Brewing Co., to benefit the Pasadena Humane. Enjoy locally-brewed, craft beer for a good cause as a portion of the proceeds will go to support the animals. Bring your friends and dogs because they are allowed to join the party inside! There will be a food truck on-site and staff will be handing out swag.

Rose Parade and Rose Bowl by the Numbers



Pasadena city officials released statistics Thursday on this year's Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game as it relates to the efforts involved by all city departments.

According to city officials during the two-day period, the Pasadena Police Department reported receiving 1,828 calls into its Dispatch Center. Of those calls, 771 resulted in patrol units responding as a "call for service." Many of the remaining calls were either duplicates or information-only from people telling police officials the "See Something, Say Something" public information campaign motivated them to call.

Pasadena Police made nine arrests during the enforcement period. Three alcohol-related misdemeanors and one arrest on an outstanding warrant occurred on the parade route while five additional misdemeanor arrests occurred at the game, attended by more than 92,000 people. The 10 p.m. New Year's Eve closure and barricade deployment for the 5½-mile parade route was successful, with no public safety problems reported.

The Pasadena Fire Department reported treating 38 people at the parade or at related events, including 18 transported to the hospital and 20 who were treated on scene and released. The Red Cross had about 130 people stop at their aid stations for minor assistance. At the football game, nearly 500 medical contacts were made with the public by firefighters and paramedics, including 53 persons needing medical aid, with 18 taken to the hospital and 35 treated and released on scene.

The Pasadena Public Health Department's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program staff worked closely with its health counterparts from the federal, state and county levels to monitor for health risks during the events; none were reported. The Department also inspected and permitted about 120 food vendors for the parade, football game and pre- and post-parade events. The Health Department's "unlicensed vendor" detail deployed with police and found only one unlicensed food vendor who was cited.

Crews from the Public Works Department were also out in force. The Department assisted law enforcement by providing the physical barricades at 21 dedicated cross streets and protective water barriers for an additional 59 streets along the

parade route. In all, the Public Works Department deployed about 6,500 barricades throughout the City; installed 14,500 temporary No Parking signs; placed more than 100 catch basin covers to prevent storm drain contamination; and painted about 10 miles of blue honor lines and six miles of the pink float-driver center route line.

The Public Works Department had 112 workers using eight dump trucks, eight skip loader/backhoes, eight street sweepers and 10 pick-up trucks to collect about 94 tons of trash from the parade, post-parade and outside areas of the Rose Bowl Stadium—a 25 percent increase over 2017. More than 20 tons of clean cardboard and more than 8,500 beverage containers were recycled.

In the days leading up to the events, Public Works also removed 37 traffic signals poles, masts or street lights; temporarily installed 17 others such devices; and placed about 1,500 temporary traffic signs, orange cones and traffic lane delineators. Crews will now spend several more days putting it all back together for normal traffic flows throughout town.

GT-5, the City's new natural gas-fired turbine generator at the Glenarm Power Facility operated by Pasadena Water and Power, was in use for about 34 hours, from noon on Dec. 31 to 10 p.m. Jan. 1, to help ensure all local electric needs were efficiently met.

Crews from the City's departments of Transportation, Information Technology and Water & Power were also on scene to assist in numerous support roles at various locations, monitoring everything from traffic flows and data/Internet needs to plumbing, security cameras and stadium lights.

Pasadena's police and fire departments were assisted in providing comprehensive public safety protection by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Secret Service; the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms; U.S. Customs; the California National Guard; U.S. Coast Guard; California Highway Patrol; Los Angeles Port Police; the Glendale Police Department and many other police departments within the greater law enforcement community of Southern California.

Free January Events at Pasadena Senior Center

There is something for everyone in January 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.

A Toast to the Joys of Music – Tuesdays to Jan. 30, 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, Neil Young, The Grateful Dead, The Rolling Stones and many more.

Scenic Walkers Club – Wednesdays to Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. Join this new group for a series of leisurely walks to enjoy the great outdoors and get some exercise. Alan Colville will give you a list of items to bring, let you know what to expect, provide detailed itineraries and arrange transportation. Destinations this month will include Descanso Gardens, Lower Arroyo Seco, Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden and Eaton Canyon Natural Area. For more information or to sign up, email alancolville@charter.net.

Friday Movie Matinees –

Fridays, Jan. 12 and 19, at 1 p.m. Movies provide a window to a wider world that broadens our perspectives. Jan. 12: "Lost in Paris" (2017, NR) starring Fiona Gordon and Dominique Abel. Fiona visits Paris for the first time to assist her myopic Aunt Martha. Catastrophes ensue, mainly involving Dom, a homeless man who has yet to have an emotion or thought he was afraid of expressing.

Energy Efficient Tips – Thursday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. Learn about energy efficiency tips, ways to save money on your electric bill, common energy misconceptions, and information about rebates for things such as new energy efficiency appliances, retrofitting homes, and many other items. Presented by San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.

For more information visit www.pasadenaseniorcenter.org or call (626) 795-4331.

Founded in 1960, the Pasadena Senior Center is an independent, nonprofit organization that offers recreational, educational, wellness and social services to people ages 50 and older in a welcoming environment. Services are also provided for frail, low-income and homebound seniors.

ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

LET'S TALK KIDNEY STONES

An informative health presentation on kidney stones will take place on Tuesday, January 23 at 1:30pm, Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia. This is a free educational lecture with guest speaker, Dr. Benjamin Yuh, who specializes in Urology and Urologic Oncology at the City of Hope. Dr. Yuh will discuss symptoms, causes, preventions and treatment for kidney stones. The program is for individuals age 50 and over, sponsored by Arcadia Senior Services in partnership with Methodist Hospital. If interested in attending please call Arcadia Senior Service 626.574.5130.

About the City of Arcadia

Nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Arcadia is an 11.38 square mile community with a population of just over 56,000. Located approximately 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, Arcadia is known for combining small-town charm with the conveniences and amenities of a mid-size city. Arcadia is a full-service charter city governed by a five-member City Council, elected at large. Recognized for exceptional education and recreation opportunities and beautiful neighborhoods, Arcadia is also defined as the "Community of Homes" and has twice been designated the "Best City in California in which to Raise Kids" by Business Week Magazine.



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MONROVIA - DUARTE

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MONROVIA HOME SECURITY REBATE PROGRAM LAUNCHED ON JANUARY 2! RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE REBATES OF UP TO \$250 FOR HOME SECURITY PRODUCT OF THEIR CHOICE

On December 5, 2017, the Monrovia City Council established the Home Security Rebate Program as an additional local response to the increase in crime that communities across California have been experiencing over the past few years. Unlike other programs that have been developed in neighboring jurisdictions, Monrovia's Home Security Rebate Program is not limited to one particular home security system, product, or service provider. Instead, residents are eligible for a reimbursement of up to \$250 for the purchase and / or installation of any qualifying home security system.

Over the past few weeks, staff has developed an online application process where residents will be able to apply and upload pictures of their new home security product and receipt for reimbursement. Once the application is submitted, our residents will be able to track their progress and receive emails when the application has been approved and when the rebate check is in the mail.

To submit an application, visit our Home Security Rebate Program webpage and click on Apply Now. Once you're there, follow the simple on-screen prompts to complete your application.

It should take us no more than 2 – 3 weeks to process everything and get you your rebate check! If you have any additional questions, take a look at the program flyer or send us an email at securityrebate@ci.monrovia.ca.us.

On a related note, the Monrovia Home Security Rebate Program is the first City process that we have developed utilizing a new online tool made by a company called CityGrows, which is an open source start-up tech firm focused on helping interested governments improve their processes to simplify and enhance customer interactions and interfaces. The CityGrows' platform helps simplify how transactions take place by collecting information online, showing how many steps there are in any given process, and allowing individuals to track their progress. As we push forward into 2018, the City will gradually be adding more processes to the CityGrows' platform, and one day, we think that it could serve as a one-stop shop for all Monrovia residents, business owners, visitors, and employees who are looking to do business with the City! We will be certain to keep everyone posted about this exciting initiative as we make progress in the new year!

DRAFT CITYWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW AT THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STUDY SESSION ON JANUARY 18, 2018

The Historic Preservation Commission will be holding a Study Session to review the Citywide Historic Context Statement on January 18, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at the Monrovia Community Center (119 West Palm Avenue) in the Monroe Room. The historic context statement will serve as a tool for the evaluation and designation of potential historic landmarks and historic districts that are unique to Monrovia's architectural themes.

A robust historic context is the foundation for identifying, evaluating, and handling historic properties and will help us make important land use decisions. Historic contexts differ from other types of narrative histories, because they identify important themes in history and then show how those themes relate to our existing historic properties. We are looking forward to a very engaging discussion, and hope you can join us!

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE THROUGH JANUARY 7, 2018!

As Christmas wraps up, we wanted to share a quick note to let everyone in Monrovia know that Athens Services will be recycling your Christmas trees through January 7! To participate in the program, simply place your used Christmas tree curbside on your regular trash collection day. Of course, if you could please remove all ornaments, tinsel, plastic

bags, nails, lights, and plastic/metal stands, it would be much appreciated! Also, flocked trees and trees coated with fire retardant will most certainly be accepted! If you have any questions about this program, or if you would like more information, please feel free to contact our Public Works Division at (626) 932-5575, or Athens Services at (888) 336-6100.

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, December 24th, through Saturday, December 30th, the Police Department responded to 860 calls for service, of which 96 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 24:

Shortly before 12:08 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 2800 block of Caroline Way regarding a burglary. The officer determined unidentified suspects entered the residence by smashing a rear sliding glass door but fled emptyhanded, likely because the alarm activated. The suspects forcibly removed the siren from the wall prior to fleeing. The investigation is ongoing.

1. At approximately 9:44 p.m., an officer responded to the Arco Gas Station, 5 West Foothill Boulevard, regarding two suspicious subjects in the parking lot. Upon contacting the male and female subjects, the officer conducted a records check and discovered the 29-year-old male from Monrovia had an outstanding felony warrant. The suspect also admitted to being in possession of drug paraphernalia. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, December 25:

Just after 11:57 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 500 block of West Camino Real Avenue regarding an assault report. An investigation revealed an altercation occurred between a boyfriend and girlfriend resulting in the female suspect hitting the male victim several times and biting him on his hand leaving a visible mark. The 39-year-old female from Arcadia is outstanding at the time of this report.

At approximately 11:43 p.m., an officer responded to the 1100 block of Arcadia Avenue regarding a hit and run traffic collision. A witness reported seeing the driver swerve multiple times before colliding into a garage door. Upon contacting the driver, the officer detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from the driver. Through a series of tests, the officer determined the 38-year-old male from Arcadia was driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Tuesday, December 26:

Around 9:48 a.m., an officer responded to a construction site at 1440 South Baldwin Avenue regarding a commercial burglary report. The officer determined unknown suspects cut a lock box off a security fence, accessed the business, and fled with various tools. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Wednesday, December 27:

Just before 1:59 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 00 block of West Naomi Avenue regarding a burglary report. The officer discovered unknown suspects smashed a rear window, ransacked the home, and fled with an unknown amount of property. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Shortly after 1:04 p.m., an officer responded to the 200 block of West Camino Real Avenue regarding a mail theft report. A witness reported seeing a Hispanic male, approximately 20 to 30-years-old steal mail from a neighbor's mailbox. The investigation is ongoing.

At about 7:17 p.m., an officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Longden Avenue and Holly Avenue during a burglary suppression detail. A records check of the occupants revealed a 23-year-old male from Los Angeles had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant, and a 27-year-old

male from Los Angeles had provided the officer with false identifying information and was on felony parole. During a consensual search of the subjects, the officer located burglary tools. The two previously mentioned suspects and a 22-year-old male from Los Angeles and a 23-year-old male from Bakersfield were all arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. One of the suspects may be linked to a residential burglary that occurred in the City of Arcadia on November 24th. The investigation is ongoing.

Thursday, December 28:

Before 10:32 a.m., an officer responded to the 200 block of West Lemon Avenue regarding the 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 19-year-old male from El Monte was in possession of the stolen bicycle and GPS tracker. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Around 6:39 p.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle in the area of Warren Way and Holly Avenue for having a broken brake light. A records check of all four occupants revealed a 21-year-old male from Los Angeles had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. During a consensual search of the vehicle, the officer located police scanners, stolen property, and other burglary tools. The three remaining suspects, a 19-year-old male from Los Angeles, and two 20-year-old males from Los Angeles were arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. The investigation is ongoing.

At about 9:15 p.m., an officer responded to AMF Bowling, 1020 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a subject causing a disturbance. Upon contacting the 24-year-old male from Altadena, the officer noticed symptoms of alcohol intoxication and determined the suspect was unable to care for himself. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Friday, December 29:

Just before 4:52 a.m., an officer responded to a business in the 11600 block of Clark Street regarding a burglary report. Surveillance footage revealed two suspects forcibly created an opening in a roll up door, possibly with their vehicle, and fled emptyhanded.

The suspects are described as two Hispanic males between 20 and 30-years-old driving a black sedan and a minivan. The investigation is ongoing.

Shortly after 1:01 p.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter regarding a fraud report. An investigation revealed the victim transferred nearly \$5,000.00 for the security deposit and first-month's rent for a house in the 400 block of North First Avenue before realizing the suspect did not actually own the residence and the incident was a scam. The investigation is ongoing.

Saturday, December 30:

At approximately 1:34 p.m., an officer responded to the area of 100 East Huntington Drive regarding a possible robbery report. The officer determined the suspect approached the victim, demanded his skateboard, money, and bicycle as he threatened to hit the victim with a wrench. An officer located the suspect at 7-Eleven, 2 East Duarte Road, and the 45-year-old male from Los Angeles was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. A records check revealed the suspect had two outstanding misdemeanor warrants.

MONROVIA POLICE BLOTTER

Following are the weekend's highlighted issues and events. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to the City of Monrovia website and click on the crime mapping link. Sign up to follow us on Twitter for police notifications.

Robbery – Suspect Arrested December 21 at 1:15 p.m., loss prevention at a business in the 100 block of W. Foothill called police regarding a male subject who took miscellaneous items out of the store without paying. As they tried to detain him, the subject became combative. Officers arrived and contacted the subject. He was arrested for robbery and found to have two outstanding warrants, which were added to his charges.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered December 21 at 8:06 p.m., a resident of an apartment complex in the 200 block of E. Maple called police to report a vehicle that was parked illegally in his parking stall. A computer check revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. An officer was dispatched and the vehicle was recovered.

Fraud December 22 at 1:54 p.m., a fraud incident was reported at a business in the 700 block of W. Huntington. An unknown male suspect went into the store and attempted to purchase merchandise with a fraudulent check. He fled the location after the check was refused. The investigation is continuing.

Grand Theft December 22 at 3:32 p.m., a grand theft was reported at a home in the 300 block of E. Hillcrest. The victim reported that FedEx delivered three computers on her side porch on December 21 at 2:20 p.m. Sometime after that, someone stole the computers from the porch. The investigation is continuing.

No-Bail Warrant – Suspect Arrested December 22 at 6:12 p.m., officers on patrol stopped a vehicle at Foothill and Alta Vista for driving without lights during hours of darkness. The passenger was a known gang member. A computer check revealed a no-bail probation warrant out of San Bernardino County. The passenger was arrested for the warrant and taken into custody.

Shoplifting December 22 at 7:32 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 1600 block of S. Mountain regarding a theft of electric wire and power tools. The suspect put the merchandise into a shopping cart and fled the location. The investigation is ongoing.

Residential Burglary December 23 at 11:01 a.m., a residential burglary was reported in the 300 block of S. Alta Vista. The victim had been out of town and when he returned home, he discovered someone had broken into his house. The suspect removed a window screen and gained entry through a side window. An iPhone and some U.S. currency was taken. The investigation is continuing.

Traffic Collision December 23 at 5:26 p.m., a traffic collision was reported at California and Duarte. A vehicle was stopped at a red light heading west on Duarte, when another vehicle rear-ended it. The driver who caused the collision claimed his brakes did not work properly. One of the drivers complained of pain.

Domestic Violence – Suspect Arrested December 24 at 10:58 a.m., officers responded to a residence in the 800 block of Bonita regarding an armed male suspect involved in a domestic dispute. The victim and suspect are married and were visiting the victim's mother in Monrovia the

day before. They became involved in a dispute which resulted in pushing and shoving, and the victim sustaining bruises. The suspect was asked to leave the location and he left. The next day, the victim received a phone call from the suspect's mother, warning her that her son was on his way and that he was very upset and was armed. The victim and her family fled the home and contacted police. When the officers arrived at the residence, they found the suspect in the backyard of the home. He was armed with a handgun, numerous knives and extra magazines loaded with ammunition. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody.

Battery / Warrant – Suspect Arrested December 24 at 10:59 p.m., officers were dispatched to a business in the 1500 block of S. Myrtle on the report of several subjects fighting. They arrived and detained three male adults and one female adult. One male was visibly battered, but refused to prosecute. The female was found to have a warrant for her arrest. She was arrested and taken into custody.

Attempted Residential Burglary December 25 at 4:10 a.m., an attempted residential burglary was reported in the 100 block of E. Foothill. The victim stated that while he was gone during the day, someone climbed over his back fence, grabbed a bird bath and threw it through his back sliding glass door. The door has double pane glass and only one pane broke, so the suspect was not able to gain entry. The investigation is continuing.

Assault With a Deadly Weapon – Suspect Arrested December 25 at 7:07 a.m., police dispatch received a call from a hospital reporting they had a victim of a stabbing in their emergency room. Officers responded to the hospital to interview the victim. The victim told officers that his brother was up all night drinking alcohol with his cousin's husband, the suspect, in the family garage. At approximately 5:00 a.m., the victim heard his brother yelling outside. He went outside to see what his brother was yelling about, and the intoxicated suspect punched him and they both fell to the ground. While they were struggling on the ground, the suspect stabbed the victim in the chin and chest with a small pair of garden shears. The wounds were non-life-threatening. Officers went to the victim's residence, where they collected evidence and arrested the suspect without incident.

Grand Theft December 26 at 6:57 a.m., a grand theft was reported at a business in the 700 block of E. Huntington. The reporting party said he left on Friday at 10:00 a.m. and all the storage containers were intact and the gated area was secured with a padlock. When he returned on Tuesday, he found the area open and four storage containers had been forcibly opened. Numerous tools and other equipment was taken. The investigation is continuing.

Stolen Vehicle December 26 at 6:58 a.m., a vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of Lincoln. The victim parked her vehicle in an assigned parking stall on the property on December 23 and left on vacation. When she returned on December 26, she found her vehicle was missing. The vehicle is a white, two-door, 2011 Honda Accord. The investigation is continuing.

Traffic Collision December 26 at 11:38 p.m., a traffic collision was reported at Magnolia and Evergreen. A driver failed to stop for the stop sign at the intersection and collided with another vehicle. The driver that caused the collision did not have a valid driver's license. He was cited and his vehicle was stored. The driver of the other vehicle complained of pain, but refused treatment.

GOLDENWORDS:

Dr. Dan's College Corner

LEADERSHIP MATTERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

What is "leadership" and why do Student Activities Directors, Deans and other institutional leaders and employers always seem to be emphasizing this term?

Your journey to adulthood through your education is giving you a special "toolkit" for leadership in the ways you are being trained as a student to examine complex and often colliding issues, research for authentic evidence, and build your case based on that evidence and logical reasoning.

Turns out, these educational skills are essential to all varieties of leadership, and the very nature of leadership is evolving into models unheard of as recently as 20 years ago. The old authoritarian and hierarchical model of top-down, "do what I tell you to do" leadership isn't fully obsolete--in certain military, medical and natural disaster situations we still often must rely on the decisiveness and vision (and valor, sometimes) of that person at the top of the chain of command.

Many students begin their definition of leadership with this hierarchical model and the ambitious among you seek out these positional leadership roles in clubs, on teams, and in society in general. They associate bossing people around and delegating duties with the higher goals of being a positional leader, which is to move forward a group, a company, a nation itself.

The many emerging alternative versions of leadership are directly connected to innovations in your schooling at all levels. With more emphasis on collaborative learning and team projects in most academic disciplines, students are beginning to understand that all of us can lead in different ways. This is a good thing, because employers often complain about new college grads they hire as selfish and self-focused (two slightly different things), who can't give themselves over to the goals of their team and the organization itself, whether corporate or not-for-profit in nature.

Small wonder that a student's history of success in clubs or on athletic teams is one pulse-point that hiring organizations seek out in evaluating candidates. In ice hockey, for instance, one yardstick of leadership is one's "Plus/Minus" rating. Whether titular leader or regular player, you get plus points for being on the ice when your team scores, regardless of your role in the winning play; conversely, even if you're not to blame, you get minus points for being on the ice when the opposition scores. This statistical tool is trying to assess something elusive and essential to a winning team--your ineffable role in making something good happen for your group.

In a similar vein, consider the invisible indispensability of certain soccer players at the highest levels of professional play. The great defensive midfielder from

Barcelona, Sergio Busquets, makes good things happen when he is on the field. As Ray Hudson, the legendary Scotsman who does color commentary for the Spanish La Liga games has rightly noted: "If you watch the game, you never see Busquets; if you watch Busquets, you see the whole game."

So, there are ways for you to discover and cultivate your own leadership style both inside the classroom and everywhere else. Can you persuade others of your point of view while being respectful of their perspective, or are you dismissive, disdainful, insulting? Can you rise to eloquence in small dorm hallway conversations or in front of formal audiences? If you have a gift for being a charismatic speaker or presenter, that's great. So were Hitler and cult religious leader Jim Jones! Your charisma should emerge from the ways you link your own passion and conviction with that of your audience, always tempered and guided by your sense of what's best for the public good.

You can lead in relational contexts every time you are kind or compassionate or supportive to friends or co-workers, and if nobody notices your actions but you, that's all the better! As the great Jewish philosopher Maimonides noted almost 1000 years ago, the highest form of service or charity is that which is performed anonymously.

In a future column, I'll talk more about intercultural leadership styles, which are fast-emerging as our society welcomes more perspectives from women and the many representatives of different ethnic groups in our schools, universities and workplaces. There is a lot to learn from many sources about leadership.

After all, the inflexible and highly 'vertical' leadership of the great Roman Empire was defeated by what seemed a primitive, unwashed band of Germanic tribes. But the leaders of those tribes led by example, and ruled by persuasion--exactly the change model that worked best at that moment of history. What's in your leadership wallet?

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.



Dr. Dan Golden, PhD

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BOSCO TECH'S ADMISSIONS INFORMATION NIGHT IS JAN 18

ROSEMEAD, CA. – January 4, 2017 - Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) will host an admissions information night for prospective students and their families on Thursday, January 18, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Interested middle and elementary school students are invited to tour the school's extensive engineering and applied science labs and classrooms, and meet instructors and current students during the event. Information about shadow visits and tuition assistance will be available.

"Bosco Tech offers a unique and well-rounded college-readiness, STEM-focused curriculum," said Principal Xavier Jimenez. "This informational evening is a great opportunity to learn more about what our students are accomplishing and to hear

from them about the Tech."

For information about the event or about the school, contact Director of Admissions John Garcia at jgarcia@boscotech.edu or 626-940-2009.

Bosco Tech is an all-male Catholic high school that combines a rigorous college-preparatory program with a technology-focused education. The innovative curriculum allows students to exceed university admissions requirements while completing extensive integrated coursework in one of several applied science and engineering fields. The school boasts a four-year college acceptance rate of 100 percent and approximately 75 percent of Bosco Tech graduates have careers in STEM-related fields. Visit www.boscotech.edu or call 626-940-2000 for more information.

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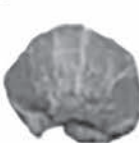
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SMILE FOR THE CANINE

I spend a lot of time hanging out with animals. I've always enjoyed (perhaps even preferred) the company of my furry and feathered friends, and I kind of like to think they enjoy spending time with me. While I do appreciate the presence of all animals, I have to admit the dog has become my favorite. Dogs make such great friends. They can make me laugh out loud, and at times they can make me cry, but regardless of what the mood of the moment may be, they are always there for me emotionally.

I used to have a dog named Lady. She was unique, in that she would smile when you looked at her. I don't mean the kind of smile that only shows through the eyes from inside, I mean she smiled the same way we humans smile.

Well, maybe Lady's smile looked a little different because of her long snout and pointy teeth, but as far as the way our lips curve back and curl upward, and our eyes get squinty during a smile, Lady actually smiled, like we humans do. I had to explain it to folks we'd meet along the way, so they'd know she was just happy to see them, not baring her teeth as a warning that she may bite. No, that girl was sporting a big grin - she was happy!

I smile at dogs all the time. I'm pretty sure I have always smiled at dogs, but I suppose it's possible that it could be a relatively new habit for me. One that I've developed over the years from spending so much time with canines.

Lately I often find myself smiling at dogs I don't even know, like ones riding in the back seats of cars looking out at me through the window. I smile and wave, as if I'm trying to engage a small child to smile and wave back. I don't even care if people see me doing it. It just seems like the natural thing to do. Besides Lady, I've only met one other dog who smiles like a human when he's happy. That's Bogie...a beautiful big furry four-footed friend of mine.

Now I have a dog named Molly. She's a very attentive and somewhat sensitive pup. She uses facial expressions all the time, to tell me what she's thinking. I'm sure of this, because she is consistent in repeating the same expressions in response to what is going on at the time.

For example, if I reach for my keys and head for the front door, Molly follows me, plops down on the floor in front of the door and stares at me with her hopeful look...the one that says, "You're taking me with you, right?" It's the same look she gives me when I am sitting eating a meal, only the latter look is one of hope for a nibble of what's on my plate, versus a walk around the block. Still, it's the same facial expression.

It wasn't until recently that I realized how much attention Molly pays to my facial expressions. I don't have to say a word. I can be sitting across the room from her. I suddenly give her a real silly look. I open my eyes wide, lift my eyebrows into tall arches, twist my mouth sideways and look up at the ceiling.

That's when Molly jumps up, runs to her basket and picks out a toy for us to play with. She knows I am teasing her, inciting her to play. If I frown and look down, she walks slowly and tentatively towards me, with a somewhat anxious look on her own face. A



by Chris Leclerc

look that asks, "Are you okay?" How in the world does that dog know something's up just from looking at my face?

Over the past 10+ years, much focus has been placed on studying the canine's capacity to recognize human emotion through facial expression, in the scientific research field. The results of a 2014 study conducted by researchers at the Messerli Research Institute of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna in Austria indicate that dogs are indeed able to discriminate emotional expressions in human faces. Meaning, not only can a canine tell the difference between a sad or happy human face, a dog can also interpret the inner emotions that human facial expressions represent... sadness or happiness. (Source: www.cell.com/current-biology)

What made the 2014 Messerli study and it's results unique to several others before it, is that there were no ulterior cues used to encourage the dogs' responses, as had been typically used in other studies. "Here, we show that dogs use the emotion of a heterospecific (organism of another species - in this case a human face) as a discriminative cue."

In this study, the scientists used only picture pairs showing parts of human faces (some only the mouth, some only the eyes, and some only a half-face) with either an angry or happy expression, as cues for the canines' responses. Interestingly enough, all of the subject dogs in the study were more than willing to approach and touch the pictures showing happy expressions, while consistently resisting the images showing angry or sad expressions. Smart dogs! The researchers involved attribute their results mainly to the amount of time people now spend with their canines, which makes total sense to me.

Regardless of how or why dogs "get" our moods just from looking at our faces, I think it is awesome that my Molly can tell by looking at me, how I am feeling. I know some humans who would rather run the other way than stay, if they see a sad look on my face.

I also know that Molly doesn't like to see me sad either, but I have yet to see her turn around and run the other way when I've expressed myself in a sad way. My experience has been quite the opposite. She'll approach, perhaps slower than if I were happy, but approach she will, and the give me a little lick on the cheek, or a pat with her paw as if to say, "I love you ma, cheer up!"



HAPPY MEW YEAR!

Katnip News!



Meet young JOEY, adorable gray tabby, age 2. He gets along well with others, and will make a good buddy to another friendly cat in your home. Like to laugh? Joey will be

happy to oblige by his funny antics! Joey is such a handsome boy, with white under his chin. He is so comfortable that you can rub him anywhere. No area is too sensitive. Joey gets along well with other cats, too. Highly adoptable. Adoption fee is \$100, which includes neuter, microchip, & vaccines. Our cats are negative FELV/FIV unless otherwise indicated. We know our cats very well to find the right match for you. See more pictures,



videos, adoption info & application on our website, www.lifelineforpets.org. Call 626-676-9505 for a Meet & Greet. Can't adopt? Visit our website for our easy Sponsor A Kitty campaign.

GOOD NEWS: Buddy & Violet have been adopted!

BEST FRIEND

Nicoleleo is a gorgeous 5-year-old brown ticked tabby who loves to lie in beds that surround her like a fur collar. She's a gentle and calm girl who likes her velvety coat stroked. Her play style is bat and pat, not bite and pounce. Feathery toys get her attention. When she feels the need for a little aerobics, she will chase the laser dot, but won't compete for it if her roommates get to it first. Nicoleleo's beauty will compliment any home decor and her serene nature will soothe the human soul that gives her a forever home. Nicoleleo lives in the shelter's Meow Manor and gets along with her roommates, so she will do well in a multi-family home, and will also thrive as an only cat. Her adoption fee is \$99 which includes spay surgery, vaccinations, microchip and a free wellness exam at a participating veterinarian. Feel free to call us at (626) 286-1159 for more information on Nicoleleo. She currently resides at the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society located at 851 E. Grand Avenue in



San Gabriel which is located off San Gabriel Blvd, north of Mission and south of Las Tunas Drive. To arrange a 'Meet and Greet', please stop by any time from 10:30am to 4:30pm Tuesday through Sunday. Website: www.sgvhumane.org.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Yogic Wisdom for Everyday Life VISION



Happy New Year! Time to explore possibilities and get oriented with fresh intentions. What are

you looking forward to experiencing this year? This could be the 'year of you' - taking care of yourself in a new way, uncovering more of the real you.

It's time to get those goals, ideas and priorities down on paper and into the universe. All together they become a vision for the near future and the long-term.

This process of identifying and naming what we want to transpire has tremendous power. Somehow the words in print or expressed creatively on a vision collage come alive. It sets the intention. Get creative in this process; create a visual guide with color and pictures or drawings of what you want and hope for in your life. This will help open your mind and build Shakti (power) around what you are seeking. Naming your goals doesn't have to take a long time. A simple list will work too. A vision collage that takes 15 minutes is just fine. There's no perfection in this. It is helpful to get still and tune into your breath and heart for a few minutes just prior to doing this work. When setting an intention, follow up actions need to take place. Taking action and stepping in the direction of what

we want can be challenging. We're used to the old way. To generate motivation, do yoga! Yoga will help keep your body healthy and aid in keeping the mind calm, leaving energy clear and free-flowing.

Gathering power and a sense of knowing is important too. Give your intellect a rest by finding a spiritual practice such as meditation. Time is needed to tune into intuition and divinity. The universe also becomes a guide as intellect only can be limiting. This is a phenomenon I love about yoga and meditation. We are each a single practitioner but part of the greater whole. What exists outside is also inside. An ocean of consciousness connected in many ways. Therefore, when we make a change, a shift occurs within us and ripples out in the world around us. Suddenly there's expansion and opportunity when there were none before. It's miraculous.

Please enjoy creating your vision for the new year! Let better health, yoga, meditation, and self-love be on the list. Contact me to learn more about how to bring yoga and meditation into your life: keely@keelytotten.com.

Namaste,

Keely Totten, E-RYT 500, Teacher, Mentor, Dreamer, Plan Maker

THE MISSING PAGE

Real Life Tips from Life's Instruction Manual

JUST ONE THING

As we start the new year, many of us are setting our intentions and contemplating what we can do to improve our lives and relationships. When was the last time that you gave the gift of your undivided attention? The capacity to harness your attention and direct your mind is a powerful transformational tool.

Many of us pride ourselves in our ability to multitask. However, we are more likely to be task switching than actually accomplishing multiple tasks simultaneously. Distracted driving is a cause of many auto accidents. Drivers are operating their vehicles while talking, texting, eating, applying make-up, shaving, and dictating into recording devices. Distracted driving can sometimes be as dangerous as drunk driving because the driver is not focused on driving the vehicle.

Doctors and social scientists are concerned about new mothers that hold and ignore their infants because they are distracted by smartphones, tablets, and other electronic devices. It is unclear if this behavior will have lasting effects on infant attachment or development in general.

Practice doing just one thing and pay attention to that one thing while you are doing it. Work to avoid mindlessly

going through your day. For example, if you are peeling an orange, put all of your attention on the orange. Try not to peel the orange while mentally creating or reviewing a to-do list.

Try keeping your phone out of sight while you are driving or while you are eating a meal. Limit the amount of time you are on the phone while you are with your family. Consider drafting family rules together to establish guidelines around cell phone use at home. (i.e., no phones at the dining room table). Turn everything off while the family is riding in the car together and listen well to what your family has to say.

If you need to practice doing one thing at a time, yoga is an excellent moving meditation that requires your undivided attention. You will learn skills on the yoga mat that will serve you well in life. New year goals need not be monumental to be significant. Giving your full attention is a challenge that reaps a high reward.

Lori is a lawyer and coach. Learn more about her at her website LoriAHarris.com or her app *Gratitude Train* which available for free in Google Play and the App Store.

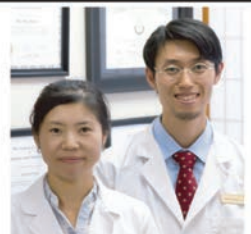


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TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills thechefknows@yahoo.com

Happy New Year to each and every one of you wine drinkers! I hope in the past year I have given you some wine knowledge, and that you have enjoyed some of the wines I've written about. Reader Steve

in Whittier asks, "How exactly are the wines chosen?" Many ways, really - discoveries through PR pitches, invitations to wine tasting events, and sometimes I just like the way the bottle looks on the store shelf. I will only review wines and share them with you if I feel that they are a good value and easily obtainable for the readers. I recently was turned on to a wonderful sparkling wine from the Limoux region of France. It was a solid wine for under \$25, but as my excitement grew I found one problem, I couldn't find it anywhere except online and at a wine shop in Costa Mesa, so... you won't hear about it here.

Anyway, I want to start the New Year off getting back to blends, this time Decoy. For those who are even casual wine drinkers I am sure you are familiar with the name "Duckhorn", the pride of the Napa Valley for the past thirty-five or so years. Fine restaurants and gourmet shops have been my to-go places for Duckhorn, and now along comes Decoy (yes, there is a duck on the bottle). The price is about half what you'd pay for Duckhorn. How and why? The grapes are sourced through the Napa region. Owner Dan Duckhorn found a need for wines that were lower priced and still a great quality, so the past few years has seen an upswing in the production of Decoy and it's popularity. The

2012 vintage is smooth, with perfect levels of fruit and tannins, and a finish that you'd expect from a higher priced blend. A mix of cabernet and merlot, it goes well with steak, pizza, and soft cheese. Picnic



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"Before Six"
Wine Commentary at 5:45 pm
"The Wine Guy" Le Roy Guilford

wine? No, this a little more upscale than others in the price range. Bring it as a gift and tell them the story of how you found it.
Closure: Corked

Each week I will give you my Dills Score. Starting with a base of 50 points, I have added 8 points for color, 7 points for aroma or "nose", 9 points for taste, 8 points for finish, and 8 points for my overall impression, which includes my value rating.

Total Score 90, retail \$27 on sale; around \$18 at most area supermarkets

Tune into Dining w/Dills Saturday KRLA AM 870 - Show time 4:30
Find my food blog www.peterdills.tumblr.com

Jumpstart Your Creativity in the New Year Winter Session Begins January 15!

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HELP WITH HOME-CARE BILLS

Dear Savvy Senior,
Do you know of any resources that can help with my mother's home-care bills? Mom is recovering from a stroke and needs in-home care, but I understand Medicare doesn't cover it, and she doesn't have long-term care insurance.
Stressed-Out Daughter

Dear Stressed-Out,
Depending on your mom's circumstances, there are a number of government and not-for-profit programs that can that either subsidize or pay for your mom's home care or offer aid in other ways. Here's where to look for help.

Medicare Coverage

If your mom is recovering from a stroke, the first thing you need to know is that Medicare does cover a variety of in-home health care services. To be eligible your mom must be "homebound," and her doctor will need to approve a "plan of care" confirming that she needs skilled-nursing care or skilled-therapy services from a physical or speech therapist. Her doctor can also request the services of an occupational therapist and a non-medical home aide to assist with activities of daily living like bathing, dressing and using the bathroom.

But, be aware that Medicare will not pay for non-medical home aide services alone, if your mom does not need skilled-nursing or skilled-therapy services too. Homemaker services, such as shopping, meal preparation and cleaning are not covered either.

For more information on how this works, call 1-800-MEDICARE or see Medicare.gov/coverage/home-health-services.html.

Medicaid Options

If your mom's income is low enough, she may qualify for Medicaid, which offers different programs that can pay for non-medical home care, home health care and other in-home support services. These programs, often referred to as Home and Community Based Services, are state-specific and their eligibility and benefits will vary. To find out if your mom is eligible, contact her state Medicaid agency (see Medicaid.gov).

State Programs

If your mom doesn't qualify for the Medicare or Medicaid options, check to see if her state offers any state-funded home-care programs. These programs may provide caregivers or vouchers that can help pay for care. To find out about these services, call the Area Agency on Aging near your mom – see ElderCare.gov or call 800-677-1116 for contact information.



Also investigate PACE, which stands for "Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly." PACE, which is currently available in 31 states – though not in every community – provides in-home care, including help with activities of daily living, such as meals, dental and medical care, prescriptions, and chaperoned transportation, among other benefits.

Medicaid-eligible patients get PACE for free, but if your mom is not eligible for Medicaid, she may be charged a monthly premium, though far less than she would pay a private service. To see if PACE is available in your mom's area, see NPAonline.org.

Veterans Benefits

If your mom is a veteran, or a surviving spouse of a veteran, the VA also offers some benefits that can help pay her in-home care.

One is "Aid and Attendance or Housebound Allowances," which are supplemental monthly benefits for veterans already receiving a monthly VA pension and requiring healthcare. Veterans and surviving spouses qualify if they have certain disabilities or need help with activities such as dressing, bathing, and feeding, among other criteria. Go to Vets.gov/pension for more information.

Another option is the "Veteran-Directed Care" program. This program, available through VA medical centers in 38 states, as well as in Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, provides as much as \$2,000 a month that can be used to pay a professional or family member or friend for home care. The program is open to any veteran who meets the criteria, including requiring help with three or more activities of daily living. Visit the "Home and Community Based Services" section at VA.gov/geriatrics for information.

To look for additional programs in your area that can help pay your mom's home care, go to PayingForSeniorCare.com and use their Eldercare Financial Assistance Locator tool.

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

KATIE TseThis and That

AN UNUSUAL SITUATION...



What was the most embarrassing thing that happened to you in elementary school? Did spaghetti come out of your nose when you laughed too hard at lunch? Did you get car sick on a field trip and throw up on the bus? Did you experience a loud episode of flatulence in the library?

Even if the embarrassing thing didn't happen to you, there's still the collective horror of just witnessing someone else getting mortified before your eyes. It's kind of like watching a friend sing badly onstage. You wince at every sour note and unconsciously grip the edge of your seat. Throwing up is bad. Farting is bad. But without a doubt, wetting your pants has to be up there with the most embarrassing things that could happen to you at school.

So, you'll understand my mom's shock when a friend of hers who teaches second grade shared that she has an entire class of habitual pee-ers! I had to scoop my chin off the floor when I hear this the first time. Roughly 20 students, who are all about eight years old, are all cool and fine with each other urinating in the classroom. And they won't be shamed into holding it until they get to the bathroom. One kid even had the audacity to scoot his bottom to the side of his chair to pee on the floor! So, they must know this is wrong, but figure that they have strength in numbers. To make matters worse, the classroom is carpeted! That nasty sanitary sand the custodians use to soak up vomit is now being employed for an entirely different purpose.

"How did this happen?" I asked incredulously. Of course my mom didn't know. She reconnects with this friend when they (current and retired teachers) get together for dinner once a month. I

suppose if you're in a crowded restaurant it's okay to say that most of your students pee on the floor, but going into graphic detail would put your friends off their food.

But I couldn't just let this go. Obviously the kids didn't just start doing this in second grade! They must've been doing this in first and kindergarten, too! Isn't potty training an early developmental milestone? These kids are reading at grade level, but haven't mastered their bladders! What does the first grade teacher say? Goodness, what do their

parents say? I could only imagine how the parent conferences went.

"Johnny is doing well in math and reading. Have you considered talking with his pediatrician about toileting?" "Suzy has great speaking and listening skills, but she tends to pee in the corner after recess. Maybe she has a salt deficiency..." Shoot, I don't know how you could talk about such things with a straight face. Second grade teachers must make great poker players.

I couldn't listen to this sad tale without trying to come up with some possible solutions. (It also took a while to think of something to draw to go with this article!) The best idea I thought of was for the teacher to keep plus-size diapers on hand in the classroom. At the first sign of pee, the offending student would have to put on the diaper on top of their regular clothing. Of course, diapers probably aren't cheap, and I can't imagine the teacher writing up a requisition order for a shipment of Pampers. And whenever you have disciplinary action applied to children, there will most likely be a parent or two who will claim that the teacher is unfairly singling out their child. However, I don't think they'd be able to make that argument when all their classmates are sporting soggy diapers as well. So, remember to thank any second grade teachers you know --they're tougher than you think.



SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...January Birthdays*

Gerald Day, Mary Tassop, Judy Webb-Martin, John Johnson, Mary Bickel, Marlene Enmark, Shirley Wolf, Ross Kellock, Ruth Wolter, Sue Watanabe, Sandy Thistlewaite, Bobbi Rahmanian, Fran Syverson, Shirley Wolff, Judy Zaretska and Becky Evans.
* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737.
YEAR of birth not required



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:

Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum

Date: Friday, January 19, 2018

Time: 9:30a.m. – 3:30p.m.

Meeting Location: Hart Park House Senior Center

Cost: \$20 (Does not include lunch)

Enjoy the all new library and museum featuring nearly 70 major exhibits, 600 photographs, 8,000 square feet of wall murals and more than 300 artifacts. Through the two and a half hour tour, visitors experience history through the eyes of Richard Nixon, and discover the influential accomplishments that continue to shape our country's future. Lunch is on your own at a nearby restaurant. Level of Walking: Medium.

Registration for Sierra Madre Residents starts now through January 5th. Non-resident registration starts online January 6th; or in person on Monday, January 8, 2018. Due to scheduled street closures, please allow time for parking which will be behind City Hall and below Mariposa. Bus will be parked and located on Mariposa.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Explore DNA and Genealogy

Thursday, January 25th 2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m. at the Hart Park House

Explore a bit about DNA for yourself by joining this initial workshop for the Adult STEAM Program and promises all participants fun with Science! This session is geared towards beginners – no science background required. Sign-up by calling the Library to reserve your spot: 626-355-7186.

Seasonal Crafts

Thursday, January 25th 12:30 – 1:30p.m. at the Hart Park House

Join us in making Valentine Day wreaths with ribbons, tulles, and decorations. It will make a great accent for your home. All materials provided. Please call the Hart Park House for reservations 626-355-7394.

Valentine's Day Crafts with Instructor Kt Boyce

Monday, February 5th 12:30 – 1:30p.m.

Come share your poems or hear beautiful love stories in history. Kt will also demonstrate card-making with collages, drawings, stencils and calligraphy. Materials and supplies will be provided, but remember spaces are limited!

Call for reservations at 626-355-7394.

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Looking Up with Bob Eklund



ARECIBO PLANETARY RADAR RETURNS TO ACTION WITH IMAGES OF ASTEROID PHAETHON

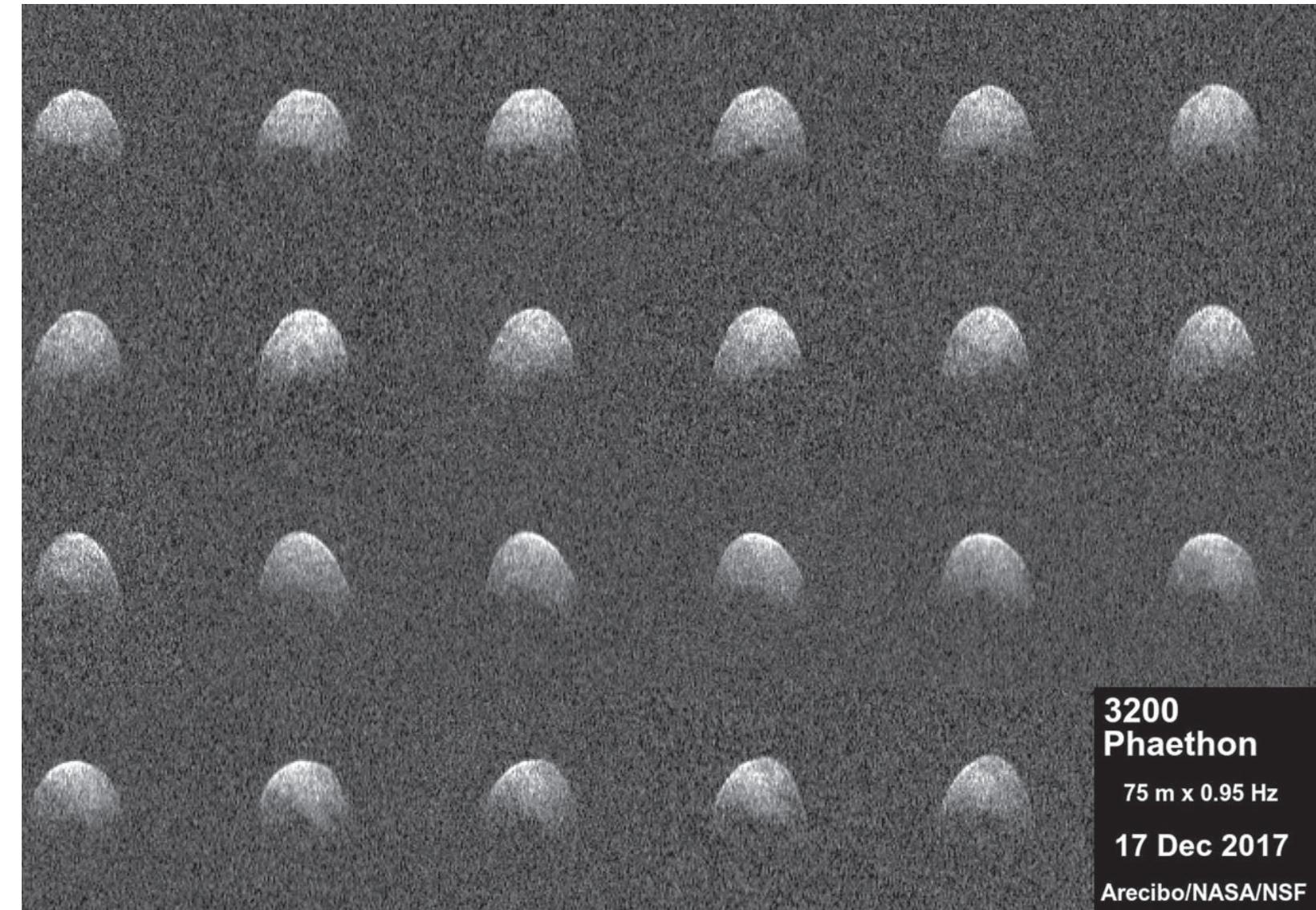
After several months of downtime in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Arecibo Observatory Planetary Radar returned to normal operation providing the best images to date of near-Earth asteroid 3200 Phaethon, which is thought to be the parent body for the Geminid meteor shower. The radar images, which are subtle at available resolution, reveal the asteroid is spheroidal in shape and has a large concavity at least several hundred meters in extent near the leading edge and a conspicuous dark, circular feature near one of the poles. Arecibo’s radar images of Phaethon have resolutions as fine as about 250 feet (75 meters) per pixel.

“These new observations of Phaethon show it may be similar in shape to asteroid Bennu, the target of NASA’s OSIRIS-REx spacecraft, but 10 times larger,” noted Dr. Patrick Taylor, Group Lead for Planetary Radar for Arecibo Observatory. “The dark feature could be a crater or some other topographic depression that did not reflect the radar beam back at us.”

Radar images obtained at Arecibo indicate Phaethon has a diameter of about 3.6 miles (6 kilometers) -- roughly 0.6 mile (1 kilometer) larger than previous estimates. Phaethon is the second largest near-Earth asteroid classified as “potentially hazardous.” Near-Earth objects are classified as potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs), based on their size and how closely their orbits approach Earth.

“Arecibo is an important global asset, crucial for planetary defense work because of its unique capabilities,” said Dr. Joan Schmelz, director at Universities Space Research Association (USRA) and deputy director of Arecibo Observatory. “We have been working diligently to get it back up and running since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico.”

The Arecibo Observatory has the most powerful astronomical radar system on Earth. The telescope suffered minor structural damage from the category 4 hurricane, the strongest to hit the island since 1928. Some days after the storm, the telescope resumed radio astronomy observations, while planetary radar observations, which require high power and diesel fuel for generators at the site, resumed operations in early December after



3200 Phaethon
75 m x 0.95 Hz
17 Dec 2017
Arecibo/NASA/NSF

commercial power returned to the observatory.

Asteroid Phaethon was discovered on Oct. 11, 1983, by NASA’s Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS). Observations of Phaethon were conducted at Arecibo from Dec. 15 through 19, 2017, using the NASA-funded planetary radar system. At time of closest approach on Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. PST (6

p.m. EST, 11 p.m. UTC) the asteroid was about 6 million miles (10 million kilometers) away, or about 26.8 times the distance from Earth to the Moon. The encounter is the closest the object will come to Earth until 2093.

Radar has been used to observe hundreds of asteroids. When these small, natural remnants of

the formation of our solar system pass relatively close to Earth, deep space radar is a powerful technique for studying their sizes, shapes, rotation, surface features, and roughness, and for more precise determination of their orbital path

You can contact Bob Eklund at: b eklund@MtnViewsNews.com.



CHRISTOPHER Nyerges
RECYCLING NEWSPAPERS INTO
BURNABLE “LOGS”

By Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of “Extreme Simplicity,” “How to Survive Anywhere,” and other books which provide more details. Nyerges can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com.]

In the genuine wilderness, firewood is everywhere, and abundant.

However, in the event of a natural (or man-made) disaster, firewood for fuel may not be so abundant in the urban areas. I recall hearing stories of German people burning furniture during WWII because there was no other practical way to get heat.

In today’s urban setting, there are many resources that are common, even abundant. One such resource that could be pressed into service in an emergency is newspaper.

Newspaper, obviously, can be used for many things, such as wrapping, making pots for your garden, emergency insulation, and also for making logs for the fireplace.

When I say “logs,” I’m not referring to the old 1970s method of rolling some newspaper around a broom handle, tying it up, pulling out the handle, and then burning the “log” like a wooden log. Trouble is, these don’t really burn all that well unless you already have a blazing fire going.

But there is an alternative. Put all your newspapers into a plastic bucket and add water. Soaking it for a few days is best. On occasion, when I have demonstrated this to children at camp, we simply shredded the newspaper, added water, and went to the next step, but soaking for a few days is ideal.

Next, you need to have a newspaper press, as pictured. I first purchased one around 1980, and though this model doesn’t seem to be available anymore, there are similar ones today manufactured by others which seems to work just as well. (Look for these products on Amazon.)

You put the wet newspaper into the rectangular box section of the press, add the top, and then push the handles down to press out the water. You then pop out the “brick” and let it dry for a few days (or longer). It then burns well in a fireplace or campfire. Granted, this is newspaper, so don’t expect the same BTU of oak or other hard wood. But it does burn, and definitely better than the logs rolled around a broomstick. I’ve used them in backyard campfires and in woodstoves.

This device also presents the possibility for dealing with security documents. If you just toss your paper documents into the city trash can or the city recycling bin, you never really know what might happen. I used to just burn such documents on a grill in the back yard, but this is not always a possibility. The last time I had a full bag of documents to deal with – old bills, etc. – I shredded them and put them into a bucket with water. Since they are mostly bond paper, not newsprint, I allowed a week of soaking. After the week, I made some logs and dried them. Since you can no longer read anything on the bills and documents after this, there is no need to burn them right away. And since bills are typically bond paper, the logs seem to burn just a bit hotter and longer.

I realize that not every home has a fireplace these days, and residents of Southern California are not likely to freeze to death, such as Polish and German people did during WWII in that more-northern locale. But you could still use these “logs” to cook food over a backyard grill if the power went out.



Jay Watkins shows the "log" he just pressed out of the device



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN...
AND AGAIN

This is not my first rodeo when it comes to New Years. I have ridden this Bronco so many times I cannot remember how many. Well, I can remember, but I am not going to let that slip. Something to do with a New Year’s Resolution.

Back in the days of youth, I used to stay up to watch the New Year’s Eve ball drop. Now, I see so many people drop the ball during the year that I don’t want to see another one on New Year’s Eve. I’ve seen enough of that.

At my stage in life, health is more important than watching something I have seen a thousand times before.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage agrees with me on this issue. It is one of the few issues that we agree on so why should I mess with it.

One thing about starting over again is trying not to make the same mistakes you made last year. It is good to sit down and think about all the mistakes you have made last year and mine came to one.

When I got to that issue, I proudly shared it with my spouse. I was so excited that I could only think of one mistake I made last year and I really wanted to share it with her.

“What do you mean,” she said rather suspiciously, “you only made one mistake last year?”

With a great deal of excitement, I nodded enthusiastically and said, “Yes, I only made one mistake last year and my resolution is not to make the same mistake this year.”

“What was that mistake?”

“My biggest mistake last year was that I forgot to give you a birthday card.”

I thought I was in good territory here, I thought I was playing into her heart and she would be happy for this resolution.

“A birthday card?”

“Yes,” I said as seriously as possible. “I don’t remember getting you a birthday card this past year and I want to make it up to you in the coming year.”

What could be better than that kind of solution for a year of mistakes?

She stared at me with sort of a twinkle in her eye, which at the time confused me. I know what

a sarcastic stare is. I know what an anger stare is. I know what an enthusiastic stare is. I also know what a confused stare is. But a twinkle in her eye!

My biggest mistake for the New Year may be not knowing what this twinkle in her eye is all about. Is she agreeing with me? Or, am I in more trouble than I can really comprehend?

There was a moment of awkward silence. Actually, that moment stretched to several moments of silence, which I am not accustomed to. When my wife is silent, something is developing that I am not going to be prepared for.

When her silence had exhausted itself, she simply said, “So, you only made one mistake last year?”

I’m worried now. I thought I was trying to get the New Year started off in a very positive direction. Now I have no idea what I’m going to do.

Then she began with a series of, “Remember the time when...?”

If what she said was true, I came quite close last year to making one mistake for every day. Oh boy! If she is correct, no two mistakes were the same. I am not sure if anybody can make that many mistakes in a given year. Either, I am crazy or I am a genius in the area of making mistakes.

No way could I contest any of these mistakes for the simple reason my memory is not on my side. I cannot say I did not make those mistakes because I do not remember. She remembers me doing them so it must be true. Right?

When she finished her evaluation of my past year, I sighed a very deep sigh and asked, “What do you think my New Year’s resolutions ought to be for the New Year?”

Again came that twinkle in her eye. I’m not used to that twinkle yet. “Well,” she said rather seriously, “if you are serious about your New Year’s resolution maybe you should make one resolution for the New Year that you will not make the same mistakes this year.”

She paused a little bit, stared at me and then continued, “This New Year, why don’t you concentrate on making different mistakes.” When she said that the twinkle in her eye exploded into hilarious laughter. I was not sure if I should laugh or not.

When my wife is right, she is right. Therefore, my New Year’s resolution for this New Year is to concentrate on making different mistakes than last year. With this resolution comes the full support of my wife. The two of us together can concentrate on making new mistakes.

This has made my New Year so very exciting. Yes, I made mistakes last year, but forget all about that.

I was reminded of what the apostle Paul said, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before” (Philippians 3:13).

Let’s concentrate on the year at hand and mistakes that can be made this year that were never thought of last year.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34483, where he lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-866-552-2543, e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. Website is www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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Parkinson's Support Group

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Thursday of every month to be a
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Half of the meetings will be informative,
but you'll also get a chance to connect with
other people and engage in fun activities like
dance or art.

Amy Carlson, diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2012
at age 44, will be facilitating this new group. Amy is a big
advocate of being a self advocate. She believes that an "Always
Now" attitude is the way to tackle every day. She also knows
that exercise is the cornerstone to living well with PD. She
wants to be a resource for people in the San Gabriel Valley
who have Parkinson's Disease as much as possible and has
authored the Meetup Group *People with Parkinson's Pursuing Wellness* to help do that.



Facilitator: Amy Carlson
People with Parkinson's Pursuing Wellness

EVENT DETAILS

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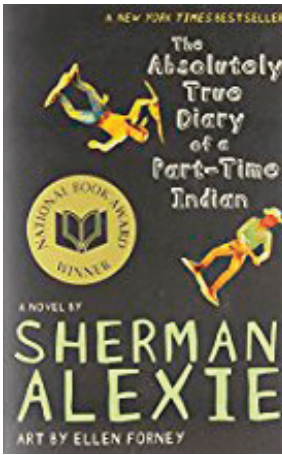
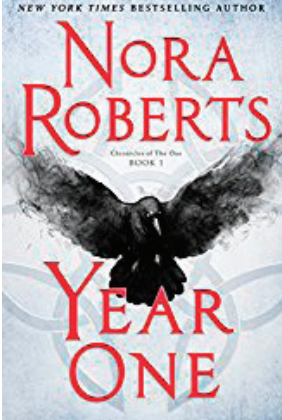
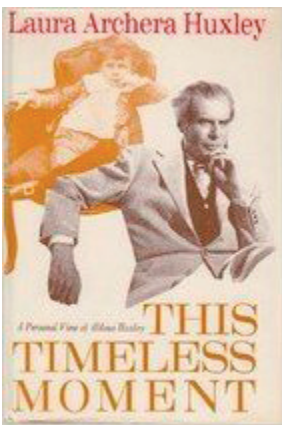
By Jeff Brown

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie & Ellen Forney

In this National Book Award Winner, author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live. With a foreword by Markus Zusak, interviews with Sherman Alexie and Ellen Forney, and four-color interior art throughout, this edition is perfect for fans and collectors alike.

Year One: Chronicles of the One, Book 1 by Nora Roberts

Year One is an epic of hope and horror, chaos and magic, and a journey that will unite a desperate group of people to fight the battle of their lives...It began on New Year's Eve. The sickness came on suddenly, and spread quickly. The fear spread even faster. Within weeks, everything people counted on began to fail them. The electrical grid sputtered; law and government collapsed—and more than half of the world's population was decimated. Where there had been order, there was now chaos. And as the power of science and technology receded, magic rose up in its place. Some of it is good, like the witchcraft worked by Lana Bingham, practicing in the loft apartment she shares with her lover, Max. Some of it is unimaginably evil, and it can lurk anywhere, around a corner, in fetid tunnels



beneath the river—or in the ones you know and love the most. As word spreads that neither the immune nor the gifted are safe from the authorities who patrol the ravaged streets, and with nothing left to count on but each other, Lana and Max make their way out of a wrecked New York City. At the same time, other travelers are heading west too, into a new frontier. Chuck, a tech genius trying to hack his way through a world gone offline. Arlys, a journalist who has lost her audience but uses pen and paper to record the truth. Fred, her young colleague, possessed of burgeoning abilities and an optimism that seems out of place in this bleak landscape. And Rachel and Jonah, a resourceful doctor and a paramedic who fend off despair with their determination to keep a young mother and three infants in their care alive. In a world of survivors where every stranger encountered could be either a savage or a savior, none of them knows exactly where they are heading, or why. But a purpose awaits them that will shape their lives and the lives of all those who remain. The end has come. The beginning comes next.

This Timeless Moment: A Personal View of Aldous Huxley by Laura Huxley

Long before "turn on, tune in, drop out" became the credo of the American counterculture, Aldous Huxley was using mescaline and LSD in controlled, carefully documented experiments. Accounts of those psychedelic experiences, along with his interest in Eastern mystical religions, accompany the moving story of Aldous Huxley's later years with his wife, Laura. Huxley's fascination with the spiritual world remained with him throughout his life and never wavered through his final illness in 1963. The book takes the reader into the lively mind of one of the most profound thinkers of any generation.

FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ESTATE PLANNING IN 2018

2017 is now fading into the rearview mirror. As we all look ahead to 2018, let's consider a few things to watch regarding estate planning, so you and your family can be completely protected.

* **The death tax.** The death tax has been in a state of flux ever since the early 2000s when the Bush administration's first tax cuts changed the exemption and tax rates. The recently-passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is the latest significant change. Starting January 1, 2018, the estate tax exemption amount will double to \$11.2 million per person (married couples have \$22.4 million of combined exemption). Like the current exemption, this amount will adjust annually for inflation. However, this enhanced exemption expires on December 31, 2025, at which time it will return to an amount similar to the \$5.49 million per person exemption we've had in 2017. Similar to what happened when the Bush tax cuts phased in (and were scheduled to expire) during the 2000s, we'll face the same situation over the coming years – the law provides a deadline and timetable, but political activity may result in something entirely different. Regardless of your stance on this new tax law, if you have a plan based around the now-old rules, it's time to visit with us, so we can make sure your plan still meets your needs and goals while maximizing the benefit to your family, charities, or other beneficiaries.

* **Incapacity planning.** What happens if you don't die? Historically, much of estate planning focused

on what happened to your assets after your death. With cognitive impairment at near epidemic proportions, you must plan for the contingency that you don't die and instead require assistance managing your affairs. Depending on your circumstances, this could range from a relatively simple matter of ensuring you have a trusted person authorized to make decisions to extensive planning to become eligible for help paying for nursing home care. Either way, now is the time to review your plan with us to ensure that it protects you, even if you don't die.

* **Giving your family lifelong financial security.** Although you may not consider yourself "wealthy", you probably have an IRA or a life insurance policy. A modest IRA or life insurance policy could be the foundation for lifelong financial security for your family. To make this a reality, you need to set up your affairs with the proper structures to ensure money avoids costs, taxes, and the risk of financial immaturity or ignorance. We are here to help you ensure that the savings you've spent a lifetime building will be there for your family.

* **Fixing broken or old trusts.** Many people have inherited assets from parents, aunts, uncles, and others through a trust. Some of these trusts may use old strategies or be expensive or difficult to administer. The law recognizes that old trusts may need some refreshing. There are many options available to modernize an old trust, and the best way to get started is to meet with us so we can explore which option is best for you and the trust you inherited.

2018 will likely be an exciting, dynamic year. No matter where you are on the estate planning journey, carve out some time to talk with us to make sure that you and your family are fully protected.

Happy New Year!

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 55 Auburn Avenue, 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 for more information.

All Things

By Jeff Brown

OUR BEAUTIFUL (& VOCAL) PARROTS

The California Parrot Project is a scientific organization whose purpose is to monitor, document and research aspects related to wild parrot populations in California. With thirteen species of parrots found in California, it is often difficult to identify a particular species especially among those with similar traits. Their identification guide at the Parrot Project web site is provided as a quick reference to identify naturalized parrots by showing the visual differences between species.

Q. How did the wild parrots get here? No parrots have occurred naturally in California. Our birds are either escapees or, more often, descendants of birds originally imported (either legally or illegally) into the United States for the pet bird trade. There was no single event that resulted in the release of parrots into California rather, dozens or hundreds of instances of escape or release ultimately led to the breeding populations we have today.

Q. How do they survive? Parrots in California

mainly eat seeds, fruits, and nectar from the huge variety of non-native (often tropical) trees and shrubs we have planted around our urban and residential areas. We have provided the food and the nest sites (generally cavities and hollows in trees) that they require. Although most parrots are tropical or subtropical in distribution, they survive in California's dry and (in winter) relatively cool climate because the food resources they need are available year round. Also, they are free from the intense predation pressures (e.g. from nest predation by snakes) that they experience in their native habitats.

Q. Why are the parrots so loud? It's true parrots can be heard from great distances, but their loud calls are essential to their survival. Parrots are highly social creatures and their calls are used to locate others in densely wooded areas and from a distance. Living exclusively in the trees, the parrots use their skilled voices to maintain contact with their flock, their mates, and their young.

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Parkinson's Support Group

Join us at The Kensington on 3rd Thursday of every month to be a part of this new group.

Half of the meetings will be informative, but you'll also get a chance to connect with other people and engage in fun activities like dance or art.

Amy Carlson, diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2012 at age 44, will be facilitating this new group. Amy is a big advocate of being a self advocate. She believes that an "Always Now" attitude is the way to tackle every day. She also knows that exercise is the cornerstone to living well with PD. She wants to be a resource for people in the San Gabriel Valley who have Parkinson's Disease as much as possible and has authored the Meetup Group People with Parkinson's Pursuing Wellness to help do that.



Facilitator: Amy Carlson
People with Parkinson's Pursuing Wellness

EVENT DETAILS

STARTS THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017
From: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

at The Kensington
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Mountain Views News Mission Statement

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.

TOM PURCELL



WHY MY FATHER SHUNS SOCIAL MEDIA

My father is behind the curve on social media, but I think he is onto something.

You see, my father was born in 1933. He was a paperboy in the days when paperboys stood on city corners and shouted "Extra!"

In his home, the newspaper still is king. He has two delivered daily. He reads every inch of both. He does the crossword puzzles in both, too - with a pencil.

(Note to people under 30: A pencil is a small, yellow stick that leaves a mark when its tip is pressed against paper.)

My father knows that people can do crossword puzzles on their computers and smartphones, but the idea is nutty to him. Only an idiot would bring electronic equipment into the bathroom.

To be sure, my father has shunned the communications marvels of modern times. He uses my mother's smartphone - but only to avoid long-distance charges. I showed him how to use her phone to text family members, but he gave up on that fast.

(Note to people over 50: texting is when you press both thumbs against a smartphone keypad to bastardize the English language.)

I bought him a Kindle for Christmas a few years ago and created an email account for him. He gave it a try but quickly lost interest in emailing anyone.

I showed him how to search the web to locate people and businesses. He gave that a try, too, but still prefers to use the White Pages or Yellow Pages.

(Note to people under 40: The White and Yellow Pages are thick directories of people and businesses that are left at your door once a year.)

He loves to read, so I showed him how to download ebooks, but he still prefers paper-bound books.

(Note to people under 20: A paper-bound book is a compact device in which words are printed on several pieces of paper; the paper is glued to a spine.)

But one thing he will never do is use a social media website, such as Facebook, which, says The Statistics Portal, has more than 2 billion active users.

For starters, my father thinks social media is a total waste of time.

He thinks it is causing group think, as many people "friend" others who think exactly as they do and "unfriend" those who think differently.

He thinks the fake news articles are driving misinformation - a dangerous thing in a republic, whose success depends on thoughtful, well-informed voters.

And he thinks social media is increasing incivility, as people, hiding behind their keyboards, shout and yell and call others names.

According to two former Facebook executives, my father's observations are spot on.

According to Fortune, one former executive said that Facebook "was developed to be addictive." He said that the information-sharing platform was designed as a "social-validation feedback loop." He said that it "exploited weaknesses in the human psyche."

Fortune also reports that a second former executive said that Facebook "encourages 'fake, brittle popularity,' leaving users feeling empty and needing another hit, and suggested that this 'vicious circle' drives people to keep sharing posts that they think will gain other people's approval."

Which brings us back to my father.

He may be behind the curve on social media, but he's thriving in the real world of the White Pages, printed newspapers and books with spines.

When he wants to communicate, he approaches other human beings, usually my mother, and uses his voice. Sometimes he uses facial expressions and hand gestures to emphasize a point.

As I said, I think he's on to something.



LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN

DICK POLMAN

PRESIDENT TRUMP IN 2017: A POP QUIZ



In honor of Donald Trump's most towering achievement - no previous president can touch his talent for serial falsity - my year-end pop quiz features only one question: Which of these blatant lies did Trump not utter in 2017? In other words, which lies are merely figments of my imagination (although he was fully capable of uttering all of them)?

You'll find the answers at the bottom. No peeking!

1. "The overall audience was, I think, the biggest ever to watch an inauguration address, which was a great thing."
2. It was "the largest audience ever to witness an inauguration, period, both in person and around the globe."
3. "The murder rate in our country is the highest it's been in 47 years, right? Did you know that? Forty-seven years."
4. "[Mine] was the biggest Electoral College win since Ronald Reagan."
5. On terrorism: "Look at what's happening last night in Sweden. Sweden. Who would believe this?"
6. "Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory."
7. "NATO, obsolete, because it doesn't cover terrorism."
8. "We're the highest-taxed nation in the world."
9. "Nobody cares about my tax return except for the reporters."
10. Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski came "to Mar-a-Lago three nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift."
11. "Wacky Kirsten Gillibrand lowered herself to her knees while begging me for money, which was disgusting."
12. "We've signed more bills - and I'm talking about through the legislature - than any president, ever."
13. "Frederick Douglass, who is getting recognition more and more, could've helped stop the Civil War but didn't. Sad!"
14. The Republican tax bill "very very strongly, as you see, I think there's very little benefit for people of wealth."
15. "Study what General Pershing of the United States did to terrorists when caught. There was no more Radical Islamic Terror for 35 years!"
16. "We have to prime the pump ... Have you heard that (economic) expression used before? Because I haven't heard it. I mean, I just - I came up with it a couple of days ago."
17. "The protestors in Charlottesville who are defending southern heritage, some of them are probably bad people. But the tikki torch industry is making some beautiful profits this year, believe me."
18. "I got a call from the head of the Boy Scouts saying it was the greatest speech that was ever made to them, and they were very thankful."
19. "Black homeownership just hit the highest level it has ever been in the history of our country."
20. "Hillary Clinton lied many times to the FBI!"
21. "I play golf when I'm not working hard and believe me, I've birdied more holes than Obama ever did."
22. The Republican tax bill "is going to cost me a fortune, this thing - believe me. Believe me, this is not good for me."
23. "Hillary Clinton gave away 20 percent of the uranium in the United States."
24. "The F.B.I. person really reports directly to the president of the United States."
25. "You know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story."
26. "In other words, Russia was against Trump in the 2016 Election... Witch Hunt!"
27. "Putin - a leader, very strong, not like someone like Pocahontas."
28. "I'm a very big person when it comes to the environment. I have received awards on the environment."
29. "The White House is functioning perfectly... I have very little time for watching TV."
30. "Between three million and five million illegal votes caused me to lose the popular vote."
31. "With the exception of the late, great Abraham Lincoln, I can be more presidential than any president that's ever held this office."

OK, Trump didn't say #2 (although Sean Spicer did). He didn't say #13 (although he said something similar). Nor did he say 13, 17, 21 or 27 (but he probably thought them all).

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MAKING SENSE by MICHAEL REAGAN

CALLING OUT CONGRESS



Didn't we turn over a new leaf in 2018?

Didn't everyone in Washington resolve to work together on America's important problems and get things done?

Oh, sorry.

That must have been that pipe dream I had last weekend when I dozed off in my La-Z-Boy watching the Times Square ball fall on TV.

The New Year isn't even a week old and already I can't wait till the start of 2019.

We're back to watching the same stupid political stuff going on in Washington and listening to the cries of the same Trump-deranged national media.

Today it's Steve Bannon and his former boss Donald Trump calling each other names in public and everyone on TV talking about Michael Wolff's new expose, "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House."

Wolff's book details the internal feuds, power plays and administrative chaos of the president's first year.

Nothing Wolff writes would surprise me, but these days who knows what's true or fake?

What we know for sure so far in 2018 is what we learned from last year -- there's room for only one super ego in Washington, and Steve Bannon isn't it.

Meanwhile, the forecast for The Swamp looks like a repeat of last year.

Our politicians will be playing the same selfish games in Congress and they'll never accomplish anything worthwhile on big things like health care reform or immigration policy.

How about doing something simple and worthwhile for a change, Congress people? How about doing your job and coming up with a dozen spending bills this year to pay for discretionary things like defense, agriculture and infrastructure -- and then passing them on time?

According to the Constitution, Congress has the duty to pass discretionary spending bills each fiscal year to fund the annual budget the president has proposed.

You might not have noticed, because the mainstream media don't pay much attention to this smelly aspect of federal sausage-making, but Republican and Democratic Congresses have shirked their spending duties almost religiously since 1974.

Since the current budget system was put into place the year Richard Nixon resigned, Congress has passed all of its annual spending bills on time only four times.

What Congress does more often is pass continuing resolutions that merely extend spending from previous years' spending bills.

In early 2017, after the usual deal-making, Congress used a continuing resolution to pay for fiscal year 2017-- three months after it had officially started on Oct. 1, 2016. All of this is confusing, frustrating and unnecessary.

It used to be that a president had the power to impound -- or simply not spend -- any money that Congress had allocated for something if he thought that it would raise the deficit.

But in 1974, after Nixon had lost his ability to veto any legislation Congress sent him because of Watergate, Congress passed a law stripping him of his power to impound Congress' money.

Since then presidents have essentially been forced to spend every dime Congress allocates, whether it's for "A Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska or free cell phones to the poor. Depriving the president of his impoundment powers, which Thomas Jefferson first used in 1801 to stop the building of unneeded Mississippi River gunboats for the Navy, is one reason our annual deficits are averaging half a trillion dollars and the national debt has zoomed past \$20 trillion.

A bigger reason is that members of Congress from both parties can spend what they want with little political pain or media scrutiny and then pass continuing resolutions that are loaded with pork, perks and new laws no one reads until it's too late.

It's still a new year. It's not too late to make presidential resolutions.

If Donald Trump really wants to clean up The Swamp, he should pledge that this year he'll try to force Congress to write a budget, vote on it and pass it by October 1.

It's not a goal he can explain to the public in a tweet, but it's one of the best things any president could do in 2018 to make America great

-Copyright 2018 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 and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelreagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

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