

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Duarte

Monrovia

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

VOLUME 13 NO. 46

THE WEBB-MARTIN GROUP



11 Must Do Move-In Tasks

1. Change locks.
2. Reprogram the garage door opener.
3. Locate the water shutoffs.
4. Locate the main circuit breaker.
5. Test the smoke detectors & carbon monoxide detectors.
6. Figure out a strategy to use if you get locked out of your home.
7. Read up on your HVAC system.
8. Make a list of all your lightbulbs inside & outside, and buy energy efficient replacements.
9. Replace all toilet seats.
10. Make an exit plan for emergencies. Be sure small children can call 911.

Listed by The Webb-Martin Group

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SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES \$3 MILLION PREPAYMENT TO CALPERS

During the City Council meeting on November 12, 2019, the Sierra Madre City Council approved an additional discretionary payment to CalPERS in the amount of \$3 Million and established a pension funding policy that sets the City's pension funding goal at 100%.

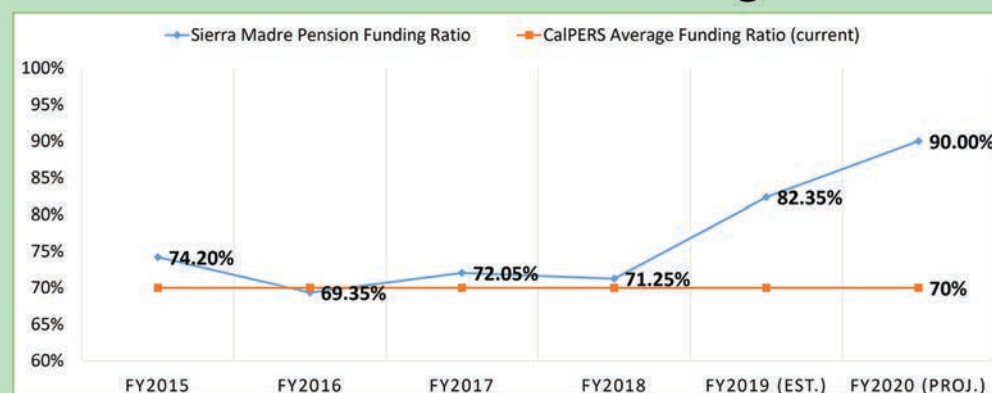
"Sierra Madre is already one of the most financially secure cities in California, increasing the pension funding level, and adopting a pension funding policy, will ensure the City doesn't have to reduce services or consider a fiscal emergency like many of our neighbors did recently.

The new pension funding policy will ensure that the City does not return to an underfunded pension position or have to reduce services or increase revenues as many local cities have done," said City Manager Gabriel Engeland.

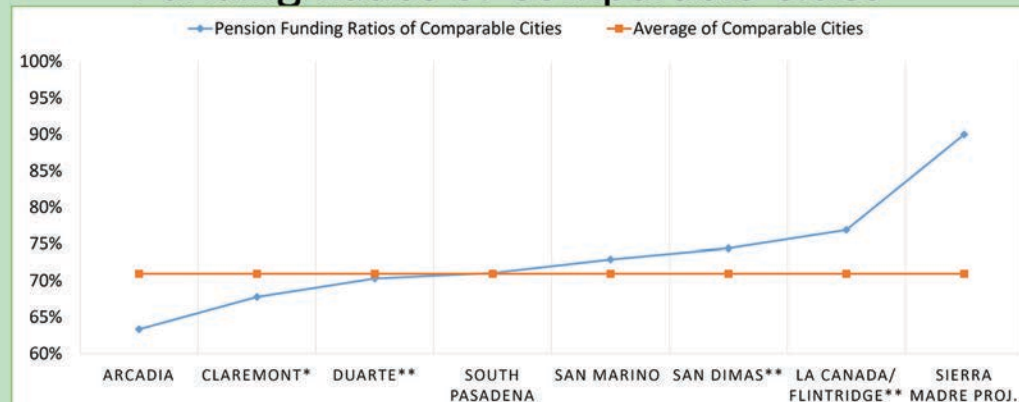
The additional discretionary payment will bring the pension funding level of Sierra Madre to more than 90%. In contrast, many California cities are funded at 70%, while Sierra Madre's peer cities have an average funding ratio of 71%.

The City's Pension Funding Policy will ensure the funded ratio does not fall below 85%. "This is a critical step that all cities and agencies should be taking to ensure the viability of their employees' retirements and their own financial standing," Mayor John Harabedian said. "We will continue to actively manage our pension liabilities for the good of the taxpayers, current employees, and retirees."

Sierra Madre Historic Funding Ratio



Funding Ratios of Comparable Cities



*Fire services provided by LA County

** Police and Fire Services are provided by LA County

For more information on pension funding policy, please contact City Manager Gabriel Engeland at (626) 355-7135.

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DISCOVER WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY!

Library Board of Trustees encourage you to save the date.

At 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 20th, at the Hart Park House, you will have the opportunity to learn about plans for a new Sierra Madre Public Library. This is a 21st century library, with community meeting rooms, comfortable reading spaces and rooms for people to learn about emerging technologies.

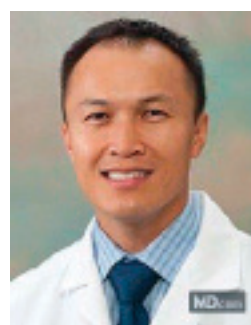
You'll meet Christine Smart, our City Librarian who has been guiding the process of envisioning a place that is big enough, modern enough, and flexible enough to serve our community for the next fifty years. There's been a lot of progress made. You'll get an exciting first look at the exterior of the building, and experience a 3D rendering that reflects all the input we've gotten so far. You'll hear from volunteers who have spent thousands of hours dreaming, designing and planning this new community asset.

There's still time, make your opinion heard! Join your neighbors and friends to discover what's next for one of Sierra Madre's most cherished institutions.



The Sierra Madre Police and Fire Departments are in the middle of No Shaver November. This a joint effort of our two public safety agencies, asking for donations to support the research and treatment of prostate cancer at the City of Hope.

As part of our efforts, we want to bring that awareness to members of our community. On Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 pm, Dr. Jonathan Y a m z o n , from the City of Hope Urology Department will be conducting a presentation, followed by a short Question & Answer forum. The event is open to city employees and members of the public and will take place in city council chambers.



NOW HIRING POLICE CHIEF

\$119,905 - \$149,745

APP CLOSES DECEMBER 15, 2019 AT 4P.M

The City is currently seeking applicants for the position of Police Chief. Please click on any of the following links for more info on the position and application.

Job App: <https://www.government-jobs.com/careers/sierramadre/>

City Website: http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/departments/humans_resources_department/police_chief_application

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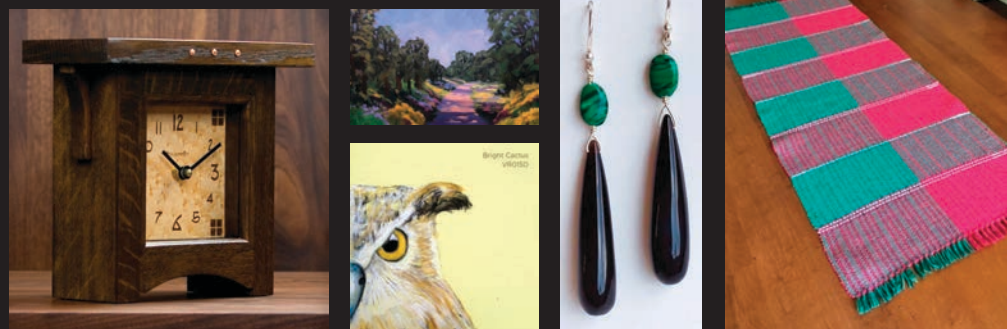
South Pasadena

San Marino

Art on Palm @ Jones Coffee Roasters



Holiday Shopping!



Saturday, November 23, 2019, 9:30 – 4
693 South Raymond Ave, Pasadena 91105

35+ makers, crafted foods and drinks, and easy parking.
\$1 admission donation and artist contributions benefit
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SOLD by Eileen Benson

Some of my favorite Sold Listings!



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SIERRA MADRE | Listing Agent



MONROVIA | Listing Agent



PASADENA | Listing Agent

EXCITING NEWS!!

Coldwell Bankers NEW **REALVITALIZE** PROGRAM

We have **teamed** up with **Home Advisor** to help Sellers make needed **improvements to their home** so the house looks its best day one on the market. Our goal is to help you **sell faster** and to maximize selling price. **Upfront costs for these services will be covered by Coldwell Banker.** Call Eileen for information 626.278.0187

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2019 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC, Coldwell Banker, the Coldwell Banker logo, Coldwell Banker Global Luxury and the Coldwell Banker Global Luxury logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. • Printed by www.mypmtpress.com 877.551.1220 • THIS IS PRINTED ON ECO-FRIENDLY PAPER. • #A61850



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GLOBAL
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St. Rita Drama Club Presents
Nov. 15 & 16 at 7PM
Nov. 17 at 2PM

WIZARD OF OZ

OZ TREATS AT EVERY SHOW!

Kids - \$2 Adults - \$5



**Shop
Small Business
Saturday!**

**Saturday
November 30, 2019.**
Come in for complimentary
paraffin hand dips and mimosas!



Be on the lookout for our
20th Annual Fundraiser
On December 5th.

300 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA

OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY 2-4



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(626) 252-6322 Cell



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This information is deemed reliable, but has not been verified and is not guaranteed.

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL**



Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Mon	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Tues	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Wed	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Thur	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Fri	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

CALENDAR

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

City Council
November 12th at 6:30PM
November 26th at 6:30PM CANCELED

Planning Commission
November 21st 7:00pm, 2019

Community Service Commission
November 18th, 2019 at 6:30PM

Senior Community Commission
December 5th

Library Board of Trustees
November 27th 2019 at 7:00PM CANCELED

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource Commission
November 20, 2019 at 7:00PM

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.

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 Public
LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the
**Sierra Madre
Public Library**

November 18—November 23

Monday

Preschool Storytime 10:00—11:00 am

Tuesday

Baby Rhyme Time 10:00—11:00 am

Weekly LEGO Challenge 3:00—5:00 pm

Free Homework Help 3:00—5:00 pm

Virtual Reality 5:30—7:30 pm

Wednesday

Parent Café: Growing Together 10:00—11:00 am

Teen Activity Day: *Nailed It!* 4:00—5:00 pm

Cricut Workshop 5:30—6:30 pm

Library Public Forum at Hart Park House 6:30—7:30 pm

Thursday

Third Thursday Book Club 11:00 am—12:00 pm

Free Homework Help 3:00—5:00 pm

Read, Discover, Connect
@ Sierra Madre Public Library

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Sierra Madre Woman's Club
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship
Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs cfwc.org & gfwc.org

45th Prayer Breakfast
Wednesday, November 20 @ 8:00 a.m. sharp!
RSVP Required: 355-6225 by 5 pm Sun., 11/17

Wistaria Shop's Holiday Extravaganza
Thurs 12/5, Fri 12/6, Sat 12/7 9 a - 2 p

Explore Opportunities & Membership with Us
Join us for Member-Only Yoga w/ Paul Hagan Tuesdays, 10 am
GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org
Facebook/SierraMadreWomansClub 355-4379
Rent Our 1914 Historic Essick House 626-355-4379
Shop Award-Winning Wistaria Thrift Shop 355-7739

Sierra Madre Woman's Club
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 2019: 112 Years
Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship
Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs cfwc.org & gfwc.org

3rd Wednesday 11/20 6:30 pm
Project, Program & Networking
Help Pack Children's Holiday Gift Boxes

Then Join Us for Wine Tasting
w/ Maggie Lozoya

& More Holiday Bling w/ Jennifer Lowell
RSVP Janette : 626 242-3244 by 11/19
\$5 please - Wine & Hors d'oeuvres

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SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

I.C.Y.M.I. - HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN HALLOWEEN 2019

HALLOWEEN WINDOW PAINTING CONTEST FINALS FOR 2019

Halloween Window Painting, a Sierra Madre tradition, is sponsored by Sierra Madre Civic Club in co-operation with the City of Sierra Madre. Sierra Madre Civic Club would like to announce the outcome of this year's annual event. Students started Thursday, October 24 with the window taping; Friday, October 25, they started painting and finished their painting by 10:00 on Saturday, October 26. Judging started at 10:00 and awards were given at 12:00 at Kersting Court.

WINNERS

9-10-year-old age group:

1st ----Sydney Wang, Madison Gil and Leynah Barcarse painting window #45 at Berkshire

Hathaway HomeServices
2nd ----Isabela Ghiloni, Yinhei Ghiloni and Carlee Marker painting window #43 at Arnold's Frontier Hardware

3rd ----Ivan Parry, Henry Zimmerman, Sophie Ting and Samantha Descalzi painting window #46 at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

11-12-year-old age group:

1st ----Scarlett Glick, Diane Park, and Danica Chen painting window #41 at Haynes & Oakley, Architects

2nd----Kotelin Kinne, Sophia Culver, Taylor Truitt and Ava Rubbo painting window #11 at Casa del Rey Restaurant

3rd ----Lacy Kong, Dylan Kong, Angel Pan and Agnes Pan painting window #40 at Haynes & Oakley, Architects

13-14-year-old age group:

1st ----Peyton Thomas, Shane Vandeveld, Ashani Jennakoon and Phoebe Prentice painting window # 27 at The Bottle Shop

2nd ----Keira Mann, Viviana Vargas and Hayley Messersmith painting window #33 at The Only Place In Town

3rd ----Magnus Bjorgum, Tristan Tan and Aiden Marker painting window #32 at The Only Place In Town

15-17-year-old age group:

1st ----Colleen McPhillips and Margaret Brennan de Jesus painting window #20 at Chase Bank

2nd ----Jessica Valenzuela and Maria Ynuiz painting window #10 at Casa del Rey Restaurant

3rd ----Jadyn Iinuma and Xochitl Munoz painting window #29 at The Buccaneer Lounge, Inc.

The winners who were unable to attend the awards ceremony, can get their certificates at City Hall during their regular business hours of Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thank you to the students who volunteered on Thursday, October 24 to help with the taping of newspapers on the assigned windows.

Thank you to the Merchants who supported this event. There was a total of 105 windows offered, the students painted 55. There were 155 students registered which made up 52 teams.

Merchants offering their windows and monetary donations (\$):

*Accurate Financial (\$) *Arnold's Frontier Hardware *Bean Town (\$) *Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices(\$)

*Best Buy Drugs *Capelli Court Salon *Casa del Rey Restaurant *Chase Bank

*Craft Sierra Madre

*Deasy Penner Podley (\$) *Foothill HomeCare Partners (\$) *Haynes & Oakley, Architects *Koi

*Little Crown Pediatric Dentistry *Lunch Salon *Mail Box & Postal *Millennium Pension Services, Inc.

*Mother Moo Creamery (\$) *Pantorium Cleaners *Poppy Cake Baking Company *Ruiz's Shoe Repair (\$)

*Salon Zelo *Sierra Fitness *Sierra Madre Dance Center *Sierra Madre Music *Skin Rituals (\$)

*Subway (\$) *Syndicate Coffee & Bakery *Taylors Ol' Fashioned Market *The Bottle Shop *The Buccaneer Lounge, Inc. (\$)

*The Kensington Sierra Madre *The Only Place In Town *Tropical Nail Spa *Village Pizzeria *Yogurt & More (\$)

*Friend of Civic Club (\$ only)

We want to thank our volunteer judges for this year's event; Mayor John Harabedian, Civic Club Members Jean Coleman, Nancy Dorn, Karma Bell and Helen Staphenhorst. Community volunteers were Jill Franks, Sue Levoe, Alessandra Schulman, Bya Berger, Lacey Mode Walker and Sophia D'Auria. Also, Teddi Rhys, who is with The Creative Arts Group.

Thank you to all additional Civic Club volunteers who assisted the students with the taping of newspapers on the windows, registration and paint distribution and the water and snacks to keep us going. The award certificates were designed by Nancy Dorn. What wonderful photos from our photography staff of; Birgitta Gerlinger, Mary Lou Caldwell, Erma Gutierrez and Prudence Levine.

Civic Club Halloween Window Painting Committee: Sharon Murphy, Wendy Senour, Heidi Hartman, Margaret Switzer, Irene Nakagawa, Erma Gutierrez, Darlene Traxler, Jean Coleman, Carol Cerrina, Mary Lou Caldwell.

In the Spirit of Community; Everyone Makes a Difference!

Submitted by: Virginia Mullaney, Halloween Window Painting Chair



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SIERRA MADRE

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ARCADIA

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KATIE Tse....This and That



LOONEY TUNES & SPEECH PATHOLOGY

(Let me just say that I'm sure this title has grabbed the attention of any speech pathologists reading this paper. Or at least their close relatives. Speech pathologists are like that...)

I'm in a prayer group with my parents and their neighbors. This last time toward the end my dad and one of the neighbors (we'll call him Stephen), got to talking about speech pathology, my field. Stephen and I are somewhat kindred spirits, since we're both in special education.

It came up that all the characters in Looney Tunes have a speech impediment of some sort.

"Hey, you should write about that for the paper!" my dad exclaimed.

"Yeah!" Stephen laughed, "You know that'd actually be funny!"

What? You mean all my articles aren't scintillatingly hilarious? I restrained myself from asking. "I'll see," I said.

Admittedly, my heart wasn't in diagnosing the speech disorders of vintage cartoon characters. Not because I don't think it'd be a good article. It's just that speech pathology is my job. Therefore, I don't think it makes for interesting leisure reading, and part of me doesn't expect others to find it intrinsically fascinating, either.

It'd kind of be like asking a cop to analyze a TV crime drama. Sure, the rest of us may think that sort of thing is intriguing. But to someone else, it's just their job. And they might want to forget about it while they're not on the clock.

But then I didn't have any other ideas kicking around, so here goes nuttin'. One small, and need I say, obvious disclaimer --I'm not the first person to write this!

Yes, it's true, everything you've suspected about the speech of your favorite Looney Tunes characters. Porky Pig stutters (sound repetition in "Th-th-th-that's all, folks!"). Daffy Duck has a frontal lisp (/s/ is produced as /th/, "dethpicable" for despicable).

Tweety Bird has the phonological process of stopping (producing a continuous sound, what we in the trade call a "fricative," as a non-continuous sound, or a "stop.") Examples include "I tough I taw a puddy cat." However, if we consider that Tweety Bird may actually be a juvenile, his speech patterns could simply be developmental. Just for kicks, try to figure out what the following is [answer at end of article]: "Dough pis"

But the character we're all most familiar with is Elmer Fudd, who's forever chasing "wabbits." He's got the bane of all speech pathologist's existence --the dreaded gliding of liquids (/w/ replaces /l, r/, "wike" for like and "wain" for rain, etc.). Interestingly enough, unlike many of the kids us SLPs deal with, Elmer is able to pronounce some /r/-colored vowels, such as the -er in "ever" and the -or in "door." So there's hope for him.

Another reason I wasn't too hot about this topic was that it doesn't take too long to write. See? I've done it in three paragraphs. But what about the characters we've come to know and love who suffer from challenges outside the realm of speech pathology?

Look at the Seven Dwarfs or Winnie the Pooh's gang. For most of them, their problems are obvious. Grumpy has anger issues. Sleepy has insomnia or some other sleep disturbance. Actually, he's a bit rotund. Perhaps sleep apnea to blame. And what's behind Bashful's shyness? Some deep seated insecurity rooted in childhood trauma? And I'm not even going to touch Dopey, for obvious reasons.

Eeyore is clearly depressed, and Tigger has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. I'm not sure if Rabbit's got anything going on. In most episodes his short fuse escalates quickly. But he's got anything on Grumpy.

But rather than poking fun at people with speech impairments or social problems, I think one reason these cartoons are so popular is because their creators knew that by making them less than perfect, they'd be more relatable.

Reminds me of a meme I saw: "As children, we love heroes. As adults, we understand villains." We've all missed the mark in some way. That's why sometimes the off-beat characters resonate with us more than the heroes. If we're honest with ourselves, we'd admit we're all a little broken in places. And the moral of the story is that that's okay.

* Speaking of stories with relatable characters, check out my novel, "A Year at Apex!" If you can't relate to the guilt-ridden one-handed plumber, I've got a jaded veteran teacher for you. Makes the perfect stocking stuffer. Look for it in paperback and ebook on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. [answer to "dough pis": "Go fish."]

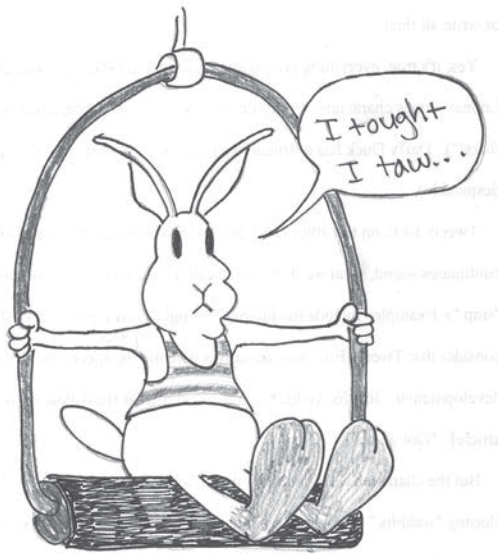


TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills thechefknows@yahoo.com

COMMENTARY: SO SORRY

What ever happened to the TV and Radio Commentary? According to Google, a commentary is simple, one person's opinion on an event, a happening or a live event. I plan to offer a commentary every now and then. These commentaries are social and are not aimed at a person, ethnicity or any certain restaurant; basically, things that happen to you and me on a daily basis. If you have a counterpoint I'd love to hear it, these commentaries are also available in print, you just need to join my mailing list! Joining my mailing list is easy! just go to my website diningwithdills.com and contact me. Don't forget that on Tuesday we have our podcast available, you can just type in Peter Dills and subscribe.

Here way go again!! Last week we spoke of social harmony and restaurants. This week I tackle why we apologize to the restaurant when they did something wrong. Hear me out, I order a steak and I ask for it medium rare and it comes back well done or my margarita on the rocks and its blended I think you see where this is going... I got this idea from listener Chelsea, she says that half the time she is apologizing for them not getting her order right. Let me interject here, my pet peeve is when the server says don't blame me I didn't cook your food!! Didn't say you did just please get it right. Just last week I stayed in a nice hotel off the Santa Barbara coast, my room was right next to the elevator shaft, I strolled down to the front desk and explained the situation and said I am sorry I can't sleep in that room, the hotel said, yea we get a lot of complaints on the room. My mom used to say killem with kindness, MOM I am trying!!! An apology is admitting you are wrong. My opinion? Let's be civil, keep your cool, be gracious, mistakes happen. I look at going to restaurants as a pro for them, you just don't have to return if you are not satisfied. Next week is the customer, always right? You'll be surprised at my answer



Listen in every Sunday at 8 AM to my show on Go Country 105!
I'll even give you my direct phone line: 866-479-1051

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"The gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge."

Albert Einstein

"We don't create a fantasy world to escape reality, we create it to be able to stay."

Lynda Barry

"Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope." Dr. Seuss

My dear friends and neighbors, I entered into a world of pure, exquisite fantasy Friday night a week ago when I was privileged to attend the preview of Moonlight Forest at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Here's how the Arboretum folks describe it:

"A fantasy of light transforms the Arboretum into an evening wonderland. Magnificent lantern art depicting exotic animals, shimmering flowers, whimsical pandas, soaring dragons and other themes create the mesmerizing experience of Moonlight Forest."



I was in a world of fantasy, totally mesmerized, from the moment I stepped through the Peacock Welcome Gate and my sense of awe and wonder continued throughout the evening as delight upon beautiful delight was revealed. Pandas, peacocks, dragons, flamingoes, antelopes, cheetahs, walruses, seahorses, mushrooms, fairies, and butterflies. Butterflies of every size and color imaginable. Well, you just simply have to go see for yourself. Pure light everywhere.

This is the second year of the Moonlight Forest Magical Lantern Art Festival and the Arboretum folks have been working to create this world of fantasy since last year. They have succeeded in giving all who come to visit an unforgettable evening. There is a row of gloriously illuminated canons firing colored flames into the air. A giant peacock with tail feathers spread covers an entire lawn. A dragon 160' long slithers along the lake. There are cranes, signifying longevity. A desert garden with giant lizards and snakes coiled around cactus. Sacred baobab trees. A giant crocodile, a team of Siberian Huskies pulling a sled, enormous macaws. So much wonder to absorb!

These "lanterns" are made of a very thin polyester fabric stretched over metal frames, lit from within with LED lights in every color imaginable. Over 300 hours have been spent setting up the lantern displays, of which there are over 50!

We were treated to a Chinese Face Changer – which defies description. Seriously! A pass of a fan and he was transformed from an evil villain to an innocent maiden and so many other characters. When you go, you will have an opportunity to see the Face Changer and an assortment of other Chinese acrobats including High Chair, Hand Stands, Land Circle, Opposing Power, Bar Balance and, so you can plan your time there, the shows are nightly at 6:00, 7:30 and 8:30 with an added show at 9:15 on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The Moonlight Forest Magical Lantern Art Festival will run through January 12, 2020 and is open for your amazement Wednesday through Sunday from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. You will see Aluminum Braiding, Stone Carving and Straw Painting at the Market Place and there are even several Interactive Lanterns like the Polychrome Elephant and the Moonlight Swings. All I can say is you just simply have to go and see this for yourself. You will take a million pictures, like we did, because you won't believe all that you will see. And, yes, there is food!

Tickets Wednesday-Thursday are: Adults - \$25.00, Seniors/Students - \$23.00, Children (3-17) \$20.00. Friday-Sunday: Adults - \$28.00, Seniors/Students - \$25.00, Children (3-17) \$23.00 and the parking is free!! You can purchase tickets on Arboretum.org. Or call 626-566-3711.

If you don't give yourself this magnificent Magical Lantern experience, you're going to be kicking yourself all year! Trust me on this. Fantasy doesn't happen around every corner, but you will find it for sure at the Arboretum Moonlight Forest. Photos by Chuck Seitz

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis

Blog: www.authordeanne.com

Christmas is just a few short weeks away and my book:

"Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"

Would be a really nice gift for everyone you know.

You can find it on Amazon.com

"Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story is there, too.

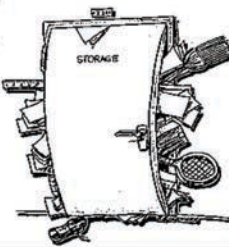
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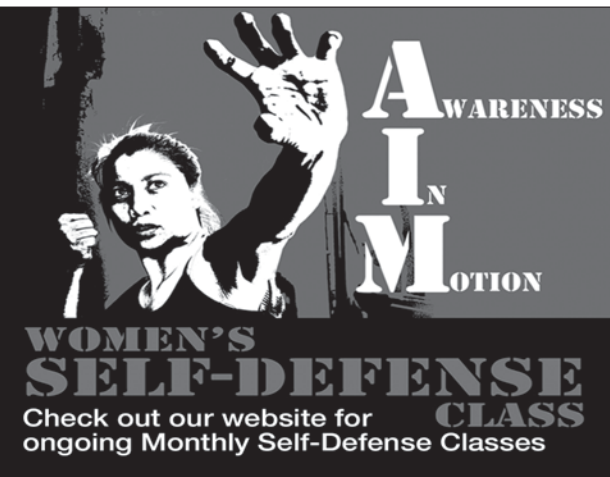
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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community



Local Area News Briefs

Three Children Shot by Boy with BB Gun



Although no one required medical attention, Pasadena police on Thursday questioned a 9-year-old Washington Elementary School student after he brought a BB gun to school and fired it on the playground.

Three students were struck by the small metal balls at about 7:30 a.m., police said. The students contacted school staff.

Pasadena Unified Office of Communications Hilda Ramirez Horvath said the school district takes the safety of students and schools "very seriously."

She said they are investigating the incident. Police said they are also investigating the shooting along with talking to the students parents.

The incident in Pasadena occurred around the same time as the deadly shooting at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, killing two students and injuring four. The injured included the suspect from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Police Arrest Man after Body Found on Highway 2

Pasadena police announced Tuesday the arrested a local man in connection to the body of a 22-year-old found last week along Angeles Crest Highway.

According to police, on November 6, witnesses who were in a vehicle traveling on Angeles Crest Highway, noticed a body on the side of the highway. The witnesses stopped and called 9-1-1 at approximately 1:13 a.m. Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel also responded and pronounced 22-year-old Julio Robles-Castaneda of Pasadena dead at approximately 1:31 a.m.

Investigators identified 30-year-old Daniel Cervantes as a suspect police said. He was taken into custody by U.S. Marshals Service after being found in a residential area in Pasadena the next day.

Based on the condition of Robles-Castaneda's remains, with at least one gunshot wound, the incident is being investigated as a homicide. A motive remains under investigation although investigators do not believe it was random.

The investigation is on-going, anyone with information about this case is encouraged to call Pasadena Police at (626)-744-4241 or you may report information anonymously by calling "Crime Stoppers" by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477).



Avon Building Put Forward as Landmark

The Pasadena city council is set Monday night to take up whether to designate the Avon Products Company office building at 2940 E. Foothill Boulevard a landmark —a distinctive example of an office building in the Corporate Modern style designed by the architect Stiles O. Clements.

The building, now owned by Home Depot and vacant, was constructed in 1947.

Pasadena Senior Planner Kevin Johnson said that "no formal applications have been submitted to the city for permits or other entitlements, representatives of the property owner have indicated to staff that the building is proposed to be used for research and development offices. The newer (1970's-era) buildings on the site are proposed to be converted to a Home Depot retail store, retaining their exterior appearance."

According to Monday's agenda report "staff informed the owner, The Home Depot, in writing of the application on July 18. City staff evaluated

the property according to the criteria in Title 17 of the P.M.C. and determined that a portion of the property (the original office building) qualifies for designation as a landmark. The property owner's attorney attended the Historic Preservation Commission meeting on September 17 and verbally indicated to the commission that the property owner consents to the designation."

The entry of the building, pictured above, is offset to the western end of the facade, consists of double frameless glass doors and sidelights surrounded by a projecting stone feature with rounded ends. The doors have a logo design etched into the glass and opaque glass cylindrical door pulls attached by metal clips. The north (front) facade facing E. Foothill Boulevard is divided into equally sized, deeply recessed rectangular panels of glass. The building is 367,051 square feet.

According to staff, architect Stiles Oliver Clements was a Los Angeles architect and a key figure in the local Art Deco movement of

the 1920s. A partner with Octavius Morgan and John Walls in the firm of Morgan, Walls & Clements, he was known for his exuberant theater designs, including the El Capitan Theater in Hollywood (1926), and the Mayan Theater in Los Angeles (1927).

The city council meets 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Pasadena City Hall 100 North Garfield Ave, Room S249. Public hearings are set to start at 7 p.m.

Rosebud Vase Artwork Awards Ceremony

Celebrating young student artists in the Pasadena Unified School District

This morning the annual art competition, open to PUSD elementary and middle school students, is set to provide an outlet to display their artistic talents with the Rose Parade theme as inspiration. This year, students designed and decorated rose vases inspired by this year's theme, "The Power of Hope."

Finalists from each school will display their vases and awards will be presented for first, second and third place in front of families, peers, school district officials and the 2020 Royal Court.

The 2020 theme, "The Power of Hope," celebrates the influence of hope. With hope anything, in fact, everything is possible.

The event will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Paseo – second floor plaza 300 E Colorado Blvd.

Parking: Validated (4-hour) parking applies to the mall parking lot off Marengo Avenue just south of Colorado Blvd. Drive to the top and park in the upper most level of the lot and walk across the catwalk over Marengo Avenue (East) towards the middle of the mall area near El Cholo Restaurant. The ceremony is outside.

For more information about the Tournament of Roses visit: tournamentofroses.com.

Caltech Seismo Sue and Her Seismo Sistahs Named Doo Dah Grand Marshals

Susan Hough, (pictured right) seismologist at the United States Geological Survey in Pasadena, and "Earthquake Response Coordinator" of the office on the Caltech campus is now taking charge with her seismologist sisters as the 2019 Doo Dah Parade Grand Marshals. The parade takes place on Sunday, November 24, in East Pasadena, stepping off at 11:00am.

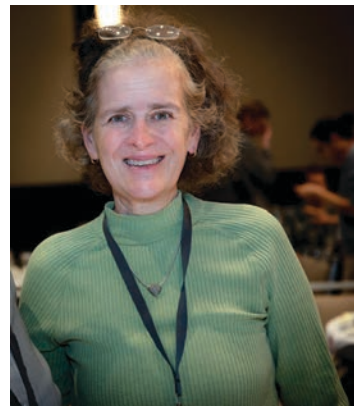
Elizabeth Cochran (USGS seismologist), Christine Goulet (USC, engineering seismologist), Voon Hui Lai (Caltech graduate student), Caleste Labedz (Caltech graduate student), Susan Owen (JPL, geophysicist), and Kate Scharer (USGS geologist) join Hough to bring the shake, rattle and roll to Doo Dah. Each of these women have significantly contributed to the advances in the understanding of earthquakes and earthquake preparedness.

Hough remembers attending the Doo Dah parade some years ago. She remembers in particular an entry that catapulted cooked hot dogs from bazookas. This was the BBQ & Hibachi Marching Grill Team, a perennial Doo Dah Parade favorite (and 2005 Grand Marshals) until they retired.

"I thought I'd experienced the epitome of my career... until I was asked to be a Pasadena Doo Dah Parade Grand Marshal," Hough said.

Tom Coston, of Light Bringer Project, producers of the parade, says "It's terrific to welcome the Seismo Sue and Her Seismo Sistahs to the Doo Dah Parade this year. It's a great thing that Caltech and seismology are such a big part of our local culture. They're not only a brilliant group of women, they know how to have fun! It's great to celebrate their achievements at Doo Dah!"

In 1992, Hough arrived in Pasadena, long the epicenter of the study of and innovation in regard to geophysical research. The world renowned Caltech



Seismological Laboratory - more commonly known as the Seismo Lab - was established in 1921 by Harry Wood. Wood and John Anderson developed a torsion seismometer that became the standard for earthquake recording - hundreds of them still in regular use today - and the first local seismic network was developed around Southern California. Charles Richter arrived at the Seismo Lab in 1927. Everyone knows that name because the Richter scale was the first-ever scale to measure the size of earthquakes. What most people don't know, and Susan informed us, is that Violet Taylor was instrumental during that period, running the Seismo Lab and training students. Women have greatly contributed to earthquake science, including our beloved Earthquake Lady Kate Hutton and Dr. Lucy Jones. Hough said early on in her career, she was often the only woman in a sea of men. Now the women at the USGS office here in Pasadena sometimes suggest (joke) that they should increase the office diversity and hire more men.

The 42nd Occasional Doo Dah Parade will be held Sunday, November 24, stepping off at 11:00am on the streets of East Pasadena. As always, the event is free and spectators are encourage to bring a lawn chair!

Public Information Hotline 24/7: (626) 590-759. For entry forms and other information, visit: PasadenaDooDahParade.info.

Emilio Estefan Featured in Rose Parade Opening

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses announced Friday the Opening Spectacular for the 131st Rose Parade on Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

The 2020 Rose Parade Opening Spectacular exemplifies "The Power of Hope." Featuring a song that was written and produced by the legendary producer and 19-time GRAMMY award winner Emilio Estefan. This inspiring, uplifting number embraces a wide array of musical styles including samba, rap and one beautiful melodic voice. Written and produced exclusively for the Tournament

of Roses, Estefan's "Reach for the Stars" features one of the biggest and most popular Latin Reggaeton artists in the world – Farruko. Joining this 2019 Latin GRAMMY Winner for Best Urban Fusion/Performance, is singer Ally Brooke. Brooke, the break out star of all girl group Fifth Harmony and currently competing on Dancing with the Stars. Bringing it all together, adding additional energy to the streets of Pasadena, are immensely talented and six-time WGI World Champion members of the Chino Hills High School Drumline.

For more information, visit: tournamentofroses.com.

Enchanted Forest of Light



Descanso Gardens' annual light show Enchanted Forest starts this weekend and runs through the beginning of January.

Enchanted Forest of Light is an interactive, nighttime experience unlike anything else in Los Angeles, featuring a one-mile walk through unique lighting experiences in some of the most beloved areas of Descanso Gardens. There are a variety of large-scale light displays, many of which are interactive, allowing visitors to manipulate the lights and sounds.

Enchanted returns November 17-January 5. Enchanted is a rain-or-shine event. Tickets are non-refundable, have timed entry

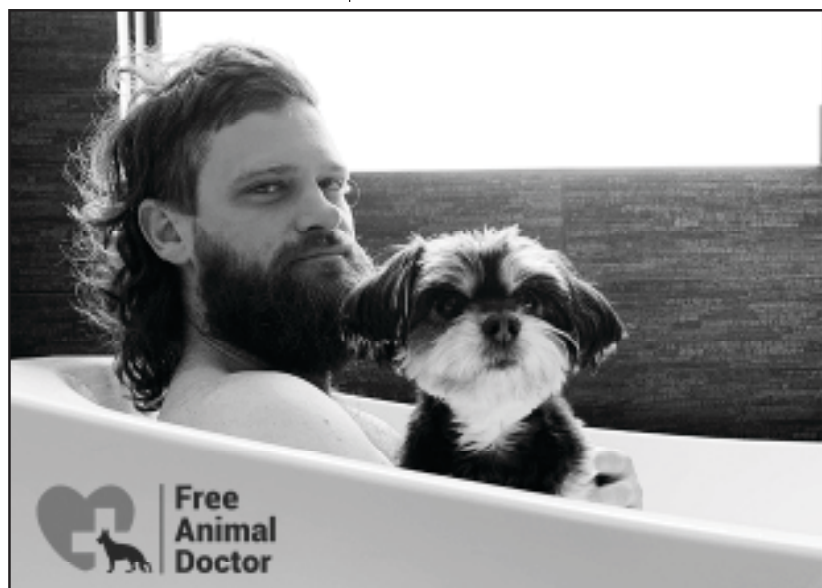
and must be purchased in advance.

Special nights Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14 will feature performances by California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley and The Flashdance DJs

General admission tickets for adults, children (2-18), and seniors are \$28 and up depending on the date and time selected. Children under 2 enter free, but still require a ticket. Descanso Gardens members receive a \$5 discount per ticket.

Tickets can be purchased at enchantedLA.com. Tickets are also available for purchase in advance at the Descanso Gardens Visitor Center.

Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge,



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ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 3rd, through Saturday, November 9th, the Police Department responded to 983 calls for service, of which 116 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 3:

1. Shortly before 9:11 a.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department regarding a grand theft report that happened at the Santa Anita Race Track, 285 West Huntington Drive, during the previous evening. The victim believes her cellphone, case, and driver's license were stolen from her wallet sometime while attending the horse races. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.
2. At approximately 11:24 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 700 block of West Huntington Drive regarding a mail theft report. The officer discovered sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on November 3rd, unknown suspects forced open multiple mail boxes and fled with stolen mail. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Monday, November 4:

3. Just after 10:13 a.m., an officer responded to the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a vehicle burglary report. Surveillance footage revealed a male suspect exited a white Ford cargo van, smashed the victim's car window, and fled with clothing and identifiable information. The investigation is ongoing.
4. At approximately 4:33 p.m., an officer responded to 7-Eleven, 1003 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a shoplifting report. Cellphone footage revealed two black males stole cleaning wipes, soda, coffee cups, and medicine from the store and fled in a black, four-door Mercedes Benz. The registered owner of the vehicle is a 22-year-old male from Torrance.

Tuesday, November 5:

5. Around 5:28 a.m., Arcadia Fire and an officer responded to the 00 block of North First Avenue regarding a trash fire. An investigation revealed an unknown suspect started a trash fire for no apparent reason. The investigation is ongoing.
6. Just before 7:51 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 700 block of Fairview Avenue regarding a domestic disturbance report. The officer discovered an argument between a husband and wife turned physical when the husband struck the victim multiple times on the head, shoulder, and thigh. The victim was transported to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for treatment. The suspect, a 54-year-old male from Arcadia, was gone by the time officers arrived. The suspect is outstanding as of November 12th.
7. Around 9:11 p.m., an officer responded to Arcadia High School, 180 Campus Drive, regarding a vehicle burglary report. Sometime between 8:00 p.m. and 9:10 p.m., an unknown suspect smashed the victim's window and fled with a computer bag, laptop, and miscellaneous notebooks. A second vehicle burglary at the high school was reported during the same time. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Wednesday, November 6:

8. Shortly after 7:06 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 600 block of Camino Grove Avenue regarding a residential burglary report. The officer determined an unknown suspect entered the victim's backyard, accessed the unlocked detached garage, and fled with various hand tools. The investigation is ongoing.

Thursday, November 7:

9. Before 9:52 a.m., an officer responded to World Gas, 3 East Duarte Road, regarding multiple skimming devices on the gas pump machines. The supervisor noticed five gas pumps had illegal skimming devices installed on them. It is unknown how the suspect gained access or for how long the devices have been there. The investigation is ongoing.
10. Around 11:24 a.m., an officer responded to Victoria's Secret, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a commercial burglary report. Two suspects entered the store with "booster bags" and fled with \$1,045.00 worth of merchandise. The suspects were followed to the parking lot by loss prevention and ultimately fled with another suspect who had stolen an additional \$1,009.55 worth of merchandise. The suspects are described as one black male and two black females. They fled in a grey Volkswagen registered to a male and female out of Redlands. The investigation is ongoing.

Friday, November 8:

11. At about 8:33 a.m., an officer responded to the 800 block of Southview Road regarding a stolen vehicle report. The victim discovered his 1990 Honda Accord had been stolen sometime during the previous evening. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

By Joan Schmidt

Beautiful Veterans Day Observances were held in Monrovia and Duarte. At Library Park, Monrovia was the Allied Veterans Council annual event. Attendees included Mayor Pro Tem Larry Spicer, Council Members Becky Shevlin, Gloria Crudginton (who brought a beautiful photo of her late father, a Veteran war hero), Alex Blackburn, Police Chief Alan and Lisa Sanvictores, Arcadia Mayor April Verlatto, and Kristi Lopez, representing Senator Portantino. Scott Sinclair, President Allied Veterans Council was Master of Ceremonies. Colors were posted by VFW 2070, who also did the Flag Folding Ritual as Janine Coyne explained their significance. Their Chaplain, Ferrell Heydorf, composed a beautiful Invocation and Benediction. Inspirational Guest Speaker was Retired Colonel Paul Raggio, U.S. Army. The Monrovia HS Band, directed by Daniel Magallanes, performed a Salute to Veterans, and beautiful renditions of our Patriot songs. Robert Edmonds, Royal Canadian Legion read Flanders Field, and placed the Wreath with Lt. Charles West, Civil Air Patrol.

The Observance was beautiful, but afterwards was an awesome dedication of a new Viet Nam Memorial representing ALL Veterans of the War. It is so unique and is embedded in stone. Chuck Keen, American Legion Post 44 worked hard to see this happen. There already was a specific Viet Nam Memorial honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice. But he felt ALL who served needed recognition. Of the six Monuments at Library Park, three exist because of American Legion Post 44. (There is also one to Veterans of the Korean War)

Earlier in Duarte, there also was an outstanding event for Veterans. Council Member Margaret Finlay spoke of her courageous father-in-law, Robert Finlay, who had fought in the Battle of the Bulge. (He had passed away a few days earlier and my sincere condolences to his family.)

God Bless America, our brave Veterans who fought for our freedoms and the sacrifices they and their families made.



ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDED TRAFFIC EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT GRANT FROM THE OTS

Arcadia Police Department received a \$60,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a one-year enforcement and education program. The money will fund various activities intended to reduce deaths and injuries on California roads.

"The Arcadia Police Department looks forward to participating in the 2020 OTS Traffic Education and Enforcement Program. Through our continued partnership with OTS, and the grant funding provided, we will work together toward reducing the number of traffic deaths and injuries in Arcadia, while also focusing on community outreach to educate our residents and community members on traffic safety," – Arcadia Police Chief Robert Guthrie.

The grant-related activities are for the 2020 federal fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020. The funding from the OTS will be used for numerous programs, including:

DUI/driver's license checkpoints.

Patrols specifically looking for suspected alcohol and/or drug-impaired drivers.

Patrols targeting violations of California's hands-free cell phone law and vehicle code violations by drivers, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians that put other roadway users at risk.

Patrols targeting the primary causes of crashes: Speeding, improper turns, running stop signs or signals, right-of-way violations and driving on the wrong side of the road.

Traffic safety education presentations for youth and community members on distracted and impaired driving, bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Creating "Hot Sheets" identifying repeat DUI offenders.

Officer training to identify suspected impaired drivers and conduct sobriety tests.

"Getting in a vehicle remains one of the most dangerous things we do," OTS director Barbara Rooney said. "We must continue to work with our partners in law enforcement to shift that realization and make traveling on our roads safer."

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

FIREWORKS CRACKDOWN FOR MAD TOWN AREA

By Michele Silence

Anyone living in the county areas of Monrovia, Arcadia and Duarte (MAD) know that illegal fireworks use has escalated over the years especially on July Fourth. Many won't leave home fearing fire will breakout or their pets will injure themselves. Others have medical issues or PTSD and find it unbearable to be at home. The Fourth of July is not a happy time for many residents.

This year a group of concerned citizens decided to do something about it. Through public records it was discovered that the county area has been largely ignored when it comes to issuing tickets for firework infractions. Cities like S. El Monte and Rosemead record citation numbers as high as 37 for the week of July Fourth. But, only 2 tickets have been issued over the past 3 years in the MAD town area. According to Sergeant Lewis from Temple Sheriff's Station, the county doesn't have resources and funds to cite people in the unincorporated areas.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger's office has offered to help. At the last citizen meeting on Nov. 6, Elisa Arcidiacono committed to provide more funding for enforcement within the MAD town region. There will be educational demonstrations to make sure everyone knows the dangers and penalties for fireworks discharge (fines up to \$1000). A free community event will also be planned to give families safe, fun entertainment.

Other changes to look for next year include city wide signage posted in both English and Spanish. A hotline will be available so that complaints for illegal use won't get lost among other calls. And, more patrol cars will be in place, ready to catch offenders "in the act".

MAD town councilmembers also attended the Nov. 6 meeting. Even though consumer fireworks have been illegal throughout Los Angeles county for more than 30 years, councilmembers Hall and Williams both voiced concern over how difficult it will be to change personal behavior.

Regardless, things will be changing next year. Citizens and Supervisor Barger's office are hopeful the project will decrease usage and serve as a successful model for other county areas. If you have ideas for the educational and community events or can help with planning, please email move_it@sbcglobal.net.

ALTADENA - SO. PASADENA - SAN MARINO

City Adopts Temporary Eviction Moratorium

The South Pasadena City Council adopted a temporary ordinance last week that prohibits tenant evictions without just cause. South Pasadena, like many of its neighboring cities, has seen a recent increase in tenant evictions in advance of Jan. 1, 2020, when a state cap on rent increases is set to take effect.

Friends of the Library Looking for New Board Members

The Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library are recruiting for new board members. The Friends are an important part of the Library's success. Their efforts and advocacy support collections, public programs, Summer Reading Program and much, much more.

If you or someone you know are interested in a volunteer opportunity that would allow you to support the library while working with great, like-minded people please contact Laura Kieffer of the Nominating Committee at laurakieffer@me.com or 323-578-4203.

The mission of the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library is to serve the informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs of the patrons of the Library and the community at large.

In 2018 the Friends provided more than \$40,000 in support of Library materials, programs and services. This includes performers for the Eclectic Music Festival, Arts Crawl, and Summer Reading Program; online resources like Mango Languages, Ancestry.com, and Tutor.com; and many ebooks, books, CDs, and DVDs. More than \$12,000 was contributed to the Summer Reading Program, which engaged 2,000 readers.

The Friends also operate a very successful used bookstore that is staffed by more than 185 volunteers who donated more than 9,450 hours in 2018.

Also under the Friends umbrella, the Restoration Concert Series has presented 8 world-class concerts in the historic Library Community Room every year for the past 23 years.

South Pas Community Room Conversations: Our Climate Future

A Talk by Caltech Professor Tapio Schneider



The South Pasadena Library is pleased to partner with local non-profit South Pasadena Hometown Exchange to present a Community Room Conversation on the topic of Climate Change. Our distinguished speaker is Tapio Schneider (pictured right), the Theodore Y. Wu Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at Caltech and a Senior Research Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The event will take place in the library Tuesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Earth has warmed 1° Celsius over the past 150 years. Most of this warming occurred since the 1970s. For Los Angeles, this means, for example, that the average number of days per year with temperatures exceeding 95° Fahrenheit has increased from 53 in 1970 to 67 today—two extra weeks' worth of very hot days that prime California's landscape for ferocious wildfires and put vulnerable populations at risk. Prof. Schneider will walk through the scientific evidence showing that most global warming we have already seen is caused by human activities, and will discuss possible climate futures we may be facing. For while climate change is certain, precisely how climate will change is less clear, with uncertainties arising primarily from difficulties predicting how clouds, such as the marine layer off the coast of California, change with climate.

Professor Schneider is currently leading the Climate Modeling Alliance

(clima.caltech.edu), whose mission is to build the first Earth system model that automatically learns from diverse data sources to produce accurate climate predictions. He was named one of the "20 Best Brains Under 40" by Discover Magazine, was a David and Lucile Packard Fellow and Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, and is recipient of the James R. Holton Award of the American Geophysical Union and of the Rosenstiel Award of the University of Miami. His work has elucidated how rainfall extremes change with climate, how changes in cloud cover can destabilize the climate system, and how winds and weather on planetary bodies such as Jupiter and Titan come about.

The South Pasadena Hometown Exchange (S.P.H.E.) is a California nonprofit corporation that aims to provide opportunities for Americans from different backgrounds and with varying viewpoints to come together for friendship and also for purposeful and constructive dialogues, especially on subjects about which people may disagree.

The Library Community Room is located 1115 El Centro Street.

For more information visit: southpasadenahomeexchange.com.

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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

2020 CENSUS: FACT V FICTION

by Colleen Tressler, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

The Federal Trade Commission is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help you guard against potential census scams. Knowing how the 2020 Census process works, what information you will — and won't — be asked for, and some red flags will help you spot and report scams.

The Process

In mid-March 2020, the Census Bureau will start mailing out (and, in some areas, hand delivering) invitations to participate in the 2020 Census. You should get yours by April 1. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

The Census Bureau has an important job: to count every person living in the United States. Starting in May 2020, census takers will start visiting homes that haven't responded to make sure everyone is counted. If you aren't home or can't come to the door, the census taker will come back up to six times. Each time, they'll leave a door hanger with a phone number so you can call to schedule a visit.

The Questions

The census questionnaire asks how many people are in the home at the time you complete the form; their sex, age, race, ethnicity; their relationships to one another; phone number; and whether you own or rent the home. For the full list of questions on the 2020 Census, visit Questions Asked.

Signs of a Scam

Scammers may pose as census takers to get your personal information — and then use it to commit identity theft and other frauds. But there are ways you can identify official census takers.

Census takers must show a photo ID with the U.S. Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date. If you ask, the census taker will give you a supervisor's contact information and/or the census regional office phone number for verification.

The Census Bureau will never ask for your full Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party. The 2020 Census will not ask citizenship status.

The Census Bureau may call you as part of their follow-up and quality control efforts. They also might call if you're not home when a census taker stops by or when a personal visit is not convenient. Calls will come from one of the Census Bureau's contact centers or from a field representative. Since we all know you can't trust caller ID, visit How to identify a phone call from the Census Bureau for the phone numbers you can use to check out any calls you might get.

Make sure you have the latest and most accurate information about the 2020 Census. Visit 2020 Census Rumors to fact-check and ask questions.

If you suspect fraud, call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. You also can file a report with the FTC at [FTC.gov/Complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/Complaint). Your reports may help law enforcement agencies launch investigations that could stop imposters and other fraudsters in their tracks.

SOME COLLEGE, NO DEGREE? 2020 COULD BE YOUR YEAR

By Dr. Edward C. Ortell
Citrus College Governing Board Member



In just five years—from 2014 to 2019—nearly one million U.S. students who had previously dropped out of college returned and earned their first undergraduate credential. An additional 1.1 million students who returned to college in that same timeframe are still enrolled and working toward their degree.

These findings are part of a new report, “Some College, No Degree: A 2019 Snapshot for the Nation and 50 States,” published by the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center. The report is an important indicator for the U.S. economy, with its increasing demands for more workers with education and training beyond high school.

California ranks number one nationally in the number of students who started and then stopped attending college. This is hardly surprising, given the massive number of students who enroll in college in our state, as compared to other states. Fortunately, the NSC findings suggest that the pathways to degrees for returning students are reflective of community colleges’ broad-access missions, and that California’s community colleges are one of the best places for returning students to achieve success.

The NSC report also states, “Not only are community colleges indispensable to the process of broadening postsecondary access to diverse students, but they also could have a significant effect on reaching a state’s postsecondary attainment goal.”

One of the things that make community colleges such a great resource for returning students is their commitment to eliminating barriers to student success. Local community colleges—like the ones in your community—have well-established student support services that keep returning students on track and successful. These include counseling, assessment, convenient class schedules, a variety of tutoring options, financial aid and many others. Does Some College, No Degree sound like you? The degree or certificate you put on hold when the demands of family and work made life far too difficult could be just around the corner. Picture that diploma with your name on it and the increased income, improved quality of life and personal satisfaction that comes with it. Then head online or in person to your local community college and kick off a great new year!

About the Author:

Dr. Edward C. Ortell is the senior governing board member at Citrus College and a Professor Emeritus at Pasadena City College. He has served on the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) state board of directors and 11 terms as president of the Citrus College Board of Trustees.

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FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



BUYER BEWARE: THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF DIY ESTATE PLANNING—PART 1

Do a Google search for “online estate planning documents,” and you’ll find dozens of different websites. These sites let you complete and print out just about any kind of planning document you can think of—wills, trusts, healthcare directives, and/or power of attorneys—in just a matter of minutes. And the documents are typically quite inexpensive.

At first glance, such DIY planning documents might appear to be a quick and cheap way to finally cross estate planning off your bucket list. These forms may not be perfect, many consumers reason, but at least they’re better than having no plan at all. However, relying on DIY planning documents can actually be worse than having no plan at all—and here’s why:

An inconvenient truth

Creating a plan using online documents, can give you a false sense of security—you think you’ve got planning covered, when you most probably do not. Relying on DIY planning documents is one of the most dangerous choices you can make. In the end, such generic forms could end up costing your family even more money and heartache than if you’d never gotten around to doing any planning at all.

At least with no plan at all, planning would likely remain at the front of your mind, where it rightfully belongs until it’s handled properly.

Planning to fail

Many people don’t realize that estate planning entails much more than just filling out template driven legal forms. These websites offer a one-size-fits-all solution to your unique situation, needs, and goals. Even worse, they provide no real guidance or counsel, which leads to a plan that misses the mark often—and the loved ones you were trying to protect will be the very ones forced to clean up the mess.

The whole purpose of estate planning is to keep your family out of court and out of conflict in the event of your death or incapacity. Yet, as cheap online estate planning services become more and more popular, millions of people are learning that taking the DIY route can not only fail to achieve this purpose, it can make the court cases and family conflicts far worse and more costly.

One size does not fit all

Online planning documents may appear to save you time and money, but keep in mind, just because you created “legal” documents doesn’t mean they will actually work when you need them. Indeed, if you read the fine print of most DIY planning websites, you’ll find numerous disclaimers pointing out that their documents are “no substitute” for the advice of a lawyer.

Some disclaimers warn that these documents are not even guaranteed to be “correct, complete, or up to date.” These facts should be a huge red flag, but it’s just one part of the problem.

Even if the forms are 100% correct and up-to-date, there are still many potential pitfalls which can cause the documents to not work as intended—or fail all together. And without an attorney to advise you, you won’t have any idea of what you should watch out for.

Estate planning is not a one-size-fits-all kind of deal. Even if you think your particular situation is simple, that turns out to almost never be the case. To demonstrate just how complicated the planning process can be, here are 4 common complications you’re likely to encounter with DIY plans.

1. Improper execution To be considered legally valid, some planning documents must be executed (i.e. signed and witnessed or notarized) following very strict legal procedures. For example, California requires that you and every witness to your will must sign it in the presence of one another. If your DIY will doesn’t mention that (or you don’t read the fine print) and you fail to follow this procedure, the document can be worthless.

2. Not adhering to state law State laws are also very specific about who can serve in certain roles like trustee, executor, financial power of attorney, and witnesses. Having an invalid person serving in an important role can cause your entire plan to fail.

3. Unforeseen conflict Family dynamics are—to put it lightly—complex. This is particularly true for blended families, where spouses have children from previous relationships. A DIY service cannot help you consider all the potential areas where conflict might arise among your family members and help you plan to avoid it. When done right, the estate planning process is a huge opportunity to build new connections within your family.

4. Thinking a will is enough

Lots of people believe that creating a will is enough to handle all their planning needs. But this is rarely the case. A will, for example, does nothing in the event of your incapacity, for which you would also need a healthcare directive and/or a living will, plus a durable financial power of attorney.

Furthermore, because a will requires probate, it does nothing to keep your loved ones out of court upon your death. And if you have minor children, relying on a will alone could leave your kids vulnerable to being taken out of your home and into the care of strangers.

Don’t do it yourself

Given all these potential dangers, DIY estate plans are a disaster waiting to happen. And as we’ll see next week, perhaps the worst consequence of trying to handle estate planning on your own is the potentially tragic impact it can have on the people you love most of all—your children.

MARC

Dedicated to empowering your family, building your wealth and defining your legacy,

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 626.355.4000 or visit www.CaliLaw.com for

more information.



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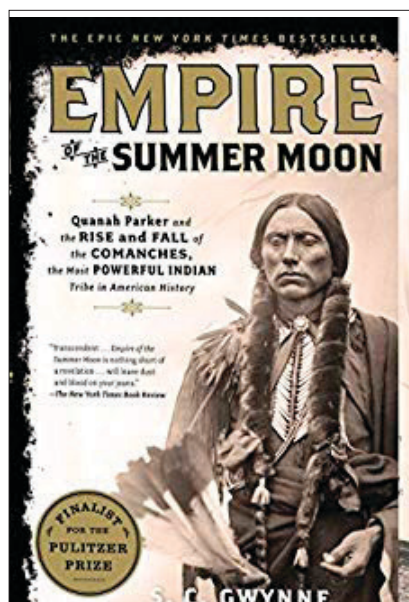
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Jeff's Book Pics By Jeff Brown

EMPIRE OF THE SUMMER MOON: QUANAH PARKER AND THE RISE AND FALL OF THE COMANCHES, THE MOST POWERFUL INDIAN TRIBE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

by S. C. Gwynne

Empire of the Summer Moon spans two astonishing stories. The first traces the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. The second entails one of the most remarkable narratives ever to come out of the Old West: the epic saga of the pioneer woman Cynthia Ann Parker and her mixed-blood son, Quanah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches. Although listeners may be more familiar with the names Apache and Sioux, it was in fact the legendary fighting ability of the Comanches that determined just how and when the American West opened up. They were so masterful at war and so skillful with their arrows and lances that they stopped the northern drive of colonial Spain from Mexico and halted the French expansion westward from Louisiana. White settlers arriving in Texas from the Eastern United States were surprised to find the frontier being rolled backward by Comanches incensed by the invasion of their tribal lands. So effective were the Comanches that they forced the creation of the Texas Rangers and account for the advent of the new weapon specifically designed to fight them: the six-gun. The war with the Comanches lasted four decades, in effect holding up the development of the new American nation. Gwynne's exhilarating account delivers a sweeping narrative that encompasses Spanish colonialism, the Civil War, the destruction of the buffalo herds, and the arrival of the railroads - a historical feast for anyone interested in how the United States came into being.



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E-mail address: jfanara@alvernoheights.org

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(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org
Principal Mrs. Courtney Kassakhian

Monrovia High School
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(626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Odyssey Charter School
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(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School
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(626) 396-5880 Principal: Roberto Hernandez
website: http://pchs.pusd.us

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Principal Joan Harabedian (626) 355-9028
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Lindsay Lewis
E-mail address: lewis.lindsay@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom
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Lisa Feldman: Head of School

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

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* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required



HART PARK HOUSE MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

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 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Join the class with Instructor Barbara Dempsey as she leads you in the art of Hula!

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

Free Blood Pressure Testing: 2nd Tuesdays Monthly from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Brain Games: Every third Thursday of the month at 12:45-1:45pm Join us for Scattergories, a creative thinking game by naming objects within a set of categories; or Jenga, a block-building challenge that keeps you stacking and balancing your tower. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is needed. A great way to strengthen your mind and make new friends... Games are facilitated by Senior Volunteers. *Will Resume in September 2019*

Free Legal Consultation: Wednesday, August 14th from 10:30 a.m. - Noon. Attorney Lem Makupson is available for legal consultation. Specializing in Family Law, Wills, Trusts, Estates and Injury. Please call the Hart Park House for an appointment, 626-355-5278 ext. 704.

Senior Club: Meets Saturdays, Weekly at Hart Park House Brown Bag Lunch, great company and bingo at 11:30 a.m.

Chair Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. with Paul Hagen. Classes include Yoga and balance exercises. All ability levels are encouraged and welcomed!

Birthday Celebration: Every 2nd Thursday Monthly at the Hart Park House. Share free birthday cake and ice cream kindly provided by the Senior Community Commission!

Game Day: Every Thursday Monthly 12:00 Noon come into the Hart Park House and join a lively poker game with friends!

Free Strength Training Class: Fridays 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. with Lisa Brandley. Light weights, low impact resistance training and body conditioning. Class equipment provided.

Gentle Yoga for Active Seniors: Every Monday & Wednesday from 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. with Andrea Walsh at the Hart Park House. Classes include complete floor relaxation, standing and floor postures, balancing, and featuring extended meditations on the fourth Wednesdays of the month! Call (626)-355-5278 for more information.



NOVEMBER EXCURSION

Hope is the thing with feathers
that perches in the soul. - Emily Dickinson

NOVEMBER 15, 2019 (SANTA BARBARA) 10:15 A.M.-5:45 P.M.

The Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of unwanted, abused, and orphaned companion parrots. Our sanctuary is currently home to more than 60 large parrots, many of which have behavioral or medical conditions that prevent them from being adopted. With a lifespan of up to 80 years and the intelligence level of a 3 year old child, these birds require an enormous commitment that the average person finds difficult to fulfill.

Following a self-guided tour of the facility our group will enjoy the W.O.W. (World of Wings) program where we can get up-close and personal with their flock of avian ambassadors. Discover a vast array of species in all their glorious shapes, colors and sized as we explore their geographical distribution. Learn about personality and behavioral traits attributed to different types of parrots; which ones talk, who is sweet and cuddly, and who is the most intelligent. **\$25.00 ****Level of Walking: LOW Money for lunch and souvenirs is optional. Sierra Madre registration is 10/29-11/4. Non resident begins 11/5 online or in person.**

MEALS - ON - WHEELS PROGRAM

The Home Delivered Meals Program provides healthy meals to homebound Seniors 60 and above. Seven frozen meals, milk, bread and fruit are included and delivered once a week. \$3 Donation per meal is suggested but remains completely anonymous and voluntary. Clients must be eligible and we invite you to contact YWCA Intervale Senior Services at 626-214-9467. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE SUGGESTED DONATION \$3.00 1% LOW FAT MILK INCLUDED



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

WHAT'S IN A NAME ANYWAY?

I cannot express how ecstatic I was when someone gave me a coupon for a free donut. Normally, I am not overly excited

about "free."

All I had to do was fill out a little survey online and they would send me a code that would guarantee me a free donut. In my "daily diary diet," I have a whole section devoted to the subject that when a forbidden food is free it cancels out all calories.

When I first told the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, she looked at me rather strangely and said, "Who said that?"

I know we are both getting old but we are not that old!

I got close to her, waved my hand so she could see me and said, "It's me. I just said it. Can you hear me now?"

"That is not funny. You know exactly what I meant."

My grin drained from my face and I said to her, "Well, I said it."

"Did," she said inquisitively, "anybody ever say that before you said it?"

My wife has many talents, skills and gifts. It would be difficult for me to say which is her best gift but at the moment, her greatest skill is backing me into a corner. And in a corner, I was thus backed.

I then had to explain to her, in detail, how this was an observation I worked through with much research. This is an original with me and I am quite proud to be the author.

All she said was, "Huh, that is exactly what I thought."

I will go to my grave believing when a donut is free it means it is free of calories. Call it what you will but free by any other name is still free in my personal dictionary.

Getting back to my free donut. I was anxious to get to the donut shop, cash in the coupon and enjoy a donut. I do not know when the best time to eat a donut is, so I just started at my convenience.

I got at the donut shop and walked in and the smell was overpowering. Nothing like the smell of donuts baking in the oven with a hint of coffee brewing in the background. I just stood there for a few seconds absorbing the luxury of this marvelous atmosphere. It is not often I can enjoy such luxuries, especially if my wife knows where I am.

When I became adjusted to the ambiance, I walked up to the counter and presented my coupon for a free donut. It was at that moment I saw them.

I know I am not the most observant person at the circus. Many things get by me without noticing them. Sometimes I am just in deep thought and not aware of my surroundings. I can relate to Walter Mitty in many ways.

Even though you need help each day, we agree that you're still in charge

Many seniors fear that moving out of their home into an assisted living residence means forfeiting control of their lives. At The Kensington, nothing could be further from the truth. We believe it is our role to support our residents, not to assume complete decision-making authority. Of course, as specialists in caring for older adults, we monitor routines, behavior and mood every day. If we see changes that concern us, then we talk with residents and their families immediately. Together, we all decide about making adjustments to care and services to preserve comfort, wellness and morale.

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HOW TO KNOW WHEN AN OLDER PARENT HAS A GAMBLING PROBLEM

Dear Savvy Senior:

I'm worried that my 76-year-old father has become addicted to gambling. He spends at least two days a week at an Indian casino about a half-hour's drive from his house playing slot machines. What can I do? Worried Daughter

Dear Worried:

Problem gambling among older adults is unfortunately on the rise. Studies suggest that more than 4 million Americans, age 65 and older, could have a gambling problem. The reasons behind this growing problem are because seniors have time and money on their hands and the influx of casinos that have cropped up around the country have made access to gambling much more convenient. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources that can help your dad if he does indeed have a problem.

Problem Gambling

For most older adults, gambling is simply a fun recreational activity, but for those who become addicted to it, it can be a devastating disease that can financially wipe them out.

There are a number of reasons why seniors can be vulnerable to gambling problems. For starters, seniors are often catered to by casinos with free bus transportation, free drinks, discounted meals, special rewards and other prizes as a way to entice them.

In addition, many seniors use gambling as a way to distract or escape feelings of loneliness, depression or even a chronic health condition. Some may have financial problems they are seeking to overcome. And some may have cognitive impairment that interferes with their ability to make sound decisions.

Adding to the problem is that many seniors may not understand addiction, making them less likely to identify a gambling problem. Or they may be confused or embarrassed that they can't control their urges to gamble and reluctant to seek help because they think that at their age, they should know better. And even if they recognize that they have a problem, they may not know that help is available or where to get it.

You should also know that while there are many gambling options for people to get hooked on today, casino slot machines are far and away the most popular among seniors. Slot machines are much more addictive than the old machines of yesteryear with spinning lemons, cherries and melons. Many of today's slot machines offer intense sensory stimulation with large video screens, music and vibrating, ergonomic chairs.

Get Help

How can you know if your dad has a gambling problem? Gamblers Anonymous offers a 20-question online test at GamblersAnonymous.org that he can take to help determine if he has a problem. In the meantime, here are some questions you can ask to help evaluate his situation.

Is he preoccupied with gambling, constantly talking about it, or planning to gamble versus doing his normal activities?

Is he gambling more and more money to get the same level of excitement?

Is he using his retirement funds or other savings to gamble, or is he pawning or selling personal items to get money to gamble with?

Has he lost control to the point that he can't set a limit of time and money to spend in the casino, and stick to it?

Does he become uncomfortable, angry or lie when you ask him about his gambling activities?

If your dad answers yes to any of these questions, he may have a problem. To find help contact the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPgambling.org), a non-profit organization that operates a 24-hour national hotline at 800-522-4700. They can direct you to resources in your area, including counselors who have been trained through the National Certified Gambler Counseling Program.

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.



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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.

STUART TOLCHIN THE FELLOW TRAVELER



As I approached the window specifically set aside for inquiries by Attorneys I thought about my approaching retirement at the end of the year. I have been practicing for over fifty years and active on this referral panel for almost half that period and this is one of the very few times I have inquired about a payment irregularity. I was appointed on a case in which I did not prevail. I was appointed because the Defendant's father had written a letter directly to the Court requesting assistance for his son who had unquestionable emotional and mental difficulties. I had attempted to set aside a ruling

which resulted in a lifetime requirement that the son register as a sexual offender.

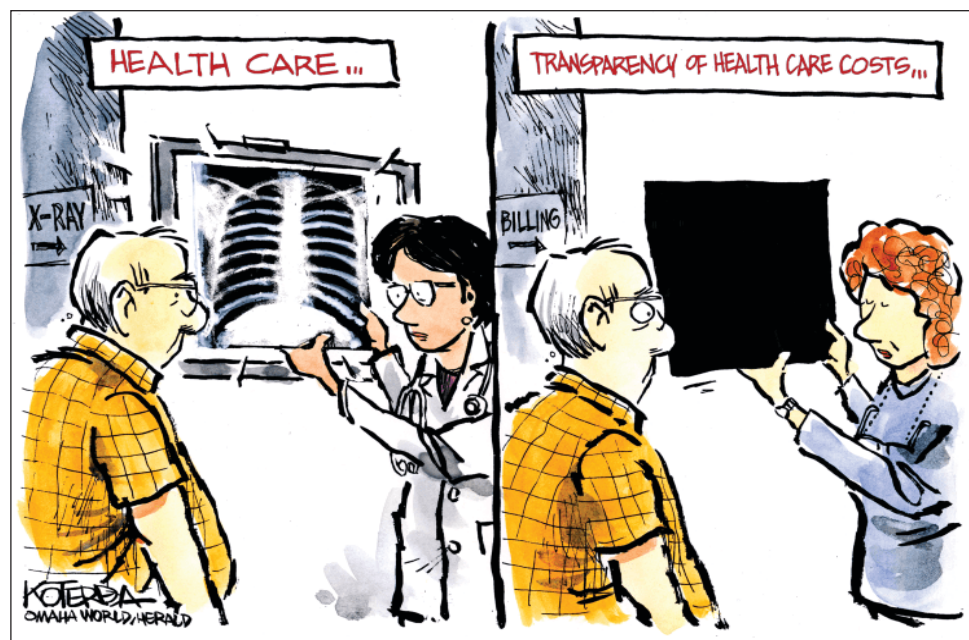
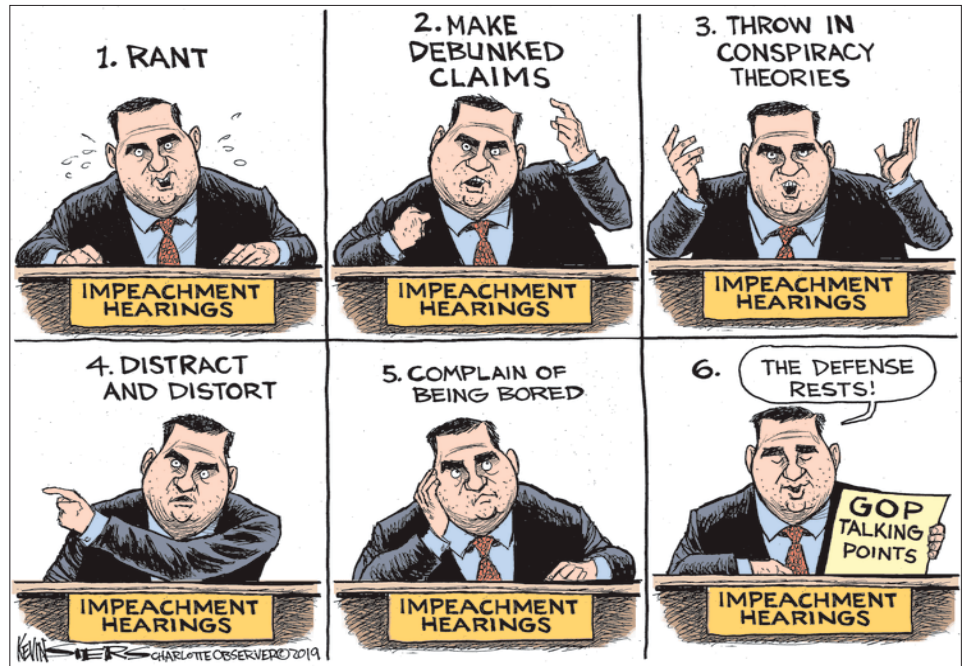
After being referred to the Mental Health Court for examination and evaluation examination the Defendant eventually was found to be competent and to have the capacity to understand the charges against him and to assist in his own defense. Returning to the Criminal Court he plead guilty contrary to the advice of the Public Defender representing him. As a result of his plea the Defendant was placed on probation and informed that for the rest of his life he would be required to register as a sex offender which imposed various conditions upon him. In addition to restricting the area where he could live, the Defendant would be ineligible to participate in certain rehabilitative and diversion programs.

I attempted to speak with the Defendant but was unable to generate much of a conversation with him. I did learn the facts of the offense which were that the Defendant had approached a young girl on the streets while saying "you're cute" and grabbed her buttocks. The young girl became frightened, ran across the street and told some friends what had happened. The friends crossed the street and a fight between the Defendant and the friends ensued. For this reason the prosecutors felt it was a very serious matter and were adamant that the requirement of Sexual Registration remain.

Why I include the history of this matter is not to review the legal circumstances but rather to describe the relationship between myself and my client and his father. After being released the son was refusing to live at home, was once more on the streets, and not taking his medication. The father, who was a single father of this disabled young man was having a difficult time holding on to his job and was continually worried about the welfare of his son. The father and I met to speak about the matter and I explained that I too was a single father who had raised a son with mental and emotional disabilities. As his son was on Probation on another matter I encouraged and accompanied the father to meet with a previously-assigned probation officer and eventually the father managed to have the son meet with the officer. The son has returned home and no longer speaks of himself as a bad person who did wrong but sees himself as a person who needs help and is willing to accept that help. Once that decision was made we all exchanged hugs and have stayed in touch. There have been no further incidents of inappropriate touching and I was very relieved to hear that.

Hopefully I will eventually get paid for the time I spent with the parties. That is not the point. I have been fortunate to have done (not accomplished) just done, the kind of Law I have practiced for over fifty years. It has allowed me to act almost as a fellow-traveler with my clients. Not acting as a doctor who just prescribed remedies but as someone who occasionally, not always or even very frequently but sometimes, shared emotions and helped people make what I hoped were positive changes in their lives and would as well be a public benefit. I will miss this in retirement but at least I won't have the expectation of being paid which gets in the way sometimes.

It is my hope that, subsequent to retirement, I will do the best I can to act in accord with my best self and do whatever good I can do. Writing, and more importantly, thinking about these articles I believe will assist me to stay on the right path.



LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN

PETER FUNT



TRUMP'S TWEET SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

We interrupt this impeachment hearing to bring you a message from Donald Trump: "Everywhere Marie Yovanovitch went turned bad."

That tweet, read on live television by House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff, was shocking because it sought to affect the testimony of a key witness in an impeachment hearing as she spoke. Moreover, it marked what may be a first – and potentially devastating turn – in American history. As described by Schiff, it was: "Witness intimidation in real time by the president of the United States."

Yovanovitch, whose testimony was calm, considered and effective, was explaining how Trump and his facilitators sought to smear her as she served as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. She said she was "shocked" when she learned that Trump called her "bad news" in his controversial phone call last July with Ukraine's president. As she spoke Friday morning, Trump took to Twitter and his reelection campaign sent out an email.

With the subject line, "Impeachment Hearing BS," Trump emailed his support-ers that the hearings were "fake" and a "witch hunt trial."

As is often the case in matters regarding Trump's malfeasance, the most use-ful insight comes from those courageous journalists at Fox News who are will-ing to criticize the president. Bret Baier stated that Trump's tweet raised the real possibility of an additional impeachment charge against Trump for "wit-ness tampering or intimidation."

Baier's colleague Chris Wallace added: "If you were not moved by the testi-mony of Marie Yovanovitch, you don't have a pulse."

Clearly, Trump was moved, so much so that he tweeted about Yovanovitch during her live testimony. Apparently he couldn't help himself – after telling re-porters earlier in the week that he wasn't even watching the impeachment hearings.

As fascinating as the first two days of hearings have been – with even more critically important testimony scheduled for next week – Trump has shifted the focus to the crime of witness tampering. By blasting Yovanovitch in real time was the president hoping to silence her? Or, more likely, was he sending a thinly-veiled message to future witnesses that if they testify they risk public humiliation?

This behavior, made possible by digital access to tens of millions of Americans with a single click, never existed during the impeachment hearings in-volving Nixon and Clinton. Trump is acting in uncharted territory. His tweets reach roughly 20 percent of all Americans with Twitter accounts.

Speaking of developments in real time, less than an hour after Trump's at-tempt to intimidate those who would testify against him in a Congressional hearing, his associate, Roger Stone, was convicted of lying to Congress to protect Donald Trump.

What drama. Trump signals witnesses that they should fear testifying against him. And a court underscores the fact that lying to Congress can lead to a lengthy prison sentence.

When digital malfeasance by the Russians came up in the 2016 election, then-candidate Trump said, "It also could be somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds, okay?"

Friday, there was digital interference that was equally troubling. It was by somebody sitting, possibly on their bed at the White House, that weighs 240 pounds. Clearly, not okay.

OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS GREAT. THERE'S JUST ONE CATCH

Sonji Wilkes learned the hard way that life can still throw you a curve, even when you play by the rules. She had health insurance and the hospital she picked to bring her son into the world was "in-network"

And, since it accepted her insurance, everything should have been fine. It wasn't. The Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit where her baby son was sent due to post-delivery complications was operated by an "out of network" third-party provider with whom her "in-network" hospital had contracted.

Wilkes didn't know that, not that she really had much of a choice. She ended up – Surprise! – with a \$50,000 bill for emergency services.

She's not alone. Insured patients are being sent, with increasing frequency, from facilities that accept their insurance to those that don't without being made aware there's a difference that matters. Some might say it should be an example of "let the buyer beware" but America is a much more generous, compassionate and ethical country for that to be the case here.

Surprise billing, as President Donald Trump and others call it, is a black mark on the world's finest health care system. Something needs to be done, but there's a right way to handle it and a wrong way.

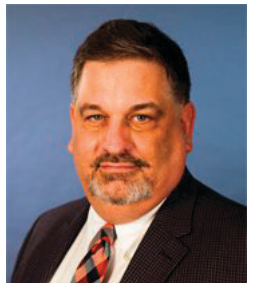
The usually reliable Lamar Alexander, chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, is backing the wrong one. His Lower Health Care Costs bill, which has already been passed favorably out of his committee, would cap what insurers need to pay to protect their patients by setting a "median in-network rate" for services.

Rather than ensuring a patient's surprise bills are covered, Alexander's legislation empowers insurance companies to cut costs over years by kicking patients' doctors with the most experience out of their networks.

The health insurance lobby is one of Washington's most powerful, so it's no shock this approach is making its way through the Senate. Luckily, the Alexander bill looks dead in the U.S. House — which may explain why Richard Neal, chairman of the powerful Committee on Ways and Means, is trying an end-run.

Neal recently sent a letter to his fellow Democrats proposing the creation of a committee of stakeholders and representatives from the departments of Health

PETER ROFF



and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury to draft a regulation that would take care of the problem of surprise billing once and for all.

What Neal wants to do is outsource responsibility for finding a solution to the problem of surprise billing to unaccountable, unelected federal bureaucrats. That's bad news for consumers.

Fortunately, there is a right way, offered on a bi-partisan basis in the Senate by Louisiana Republican Dr. Bill Cassidy and New Hampshire Democrat Maggie Hassan. Their plan taps the power of markets to lower health care costs instead of caving to the demands of insurance industry lobbyists.

The Cassidy/Hassan measure, the STOP Surprise Medical Bills Act, uses arbitration to protect patients. Under its provisions, payers and billers would both submit a fair price estimate for services rendered to a neutral third party who would choose either one price or the other.

Arbitration, when done right, encourages everyone to be fair; if an estimate is outrageously high, for example, it's likely to be rejected. A similar idea is gaining traction in the House where two doctors, California Democrat Raul Ruiz and Tennessee Republican Phil Roe, are pushing a bill allowing arbitration that most of the physicians in Congress in Congress support.

"People who follow the rules and are doing everything right shouldn't be stuck with sky-high bills," Sen. Hassan said during a recent discussion at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

The problem is bigger than arbitration alone can solve, but it's a good start. Working Americans shouldn't have emergency situations compounded by massive, unexpected medical bills. Lawmakers should be looking for ways, like Cassidy/Hassan, to empower patients and reduce prices across the board. That outcome would be a pleasant surprise for all of us.

Peter Roff is a senior fellow at Frontiers of Freedom and a former U.S. News and World Report contributing editor who appears regularly as a commentator on the One America News network.

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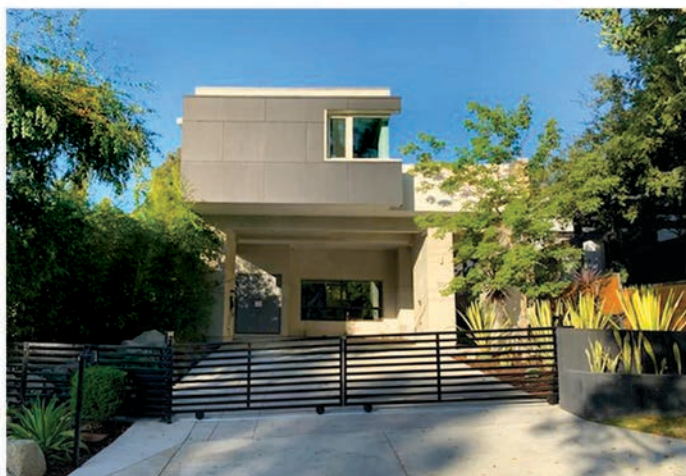
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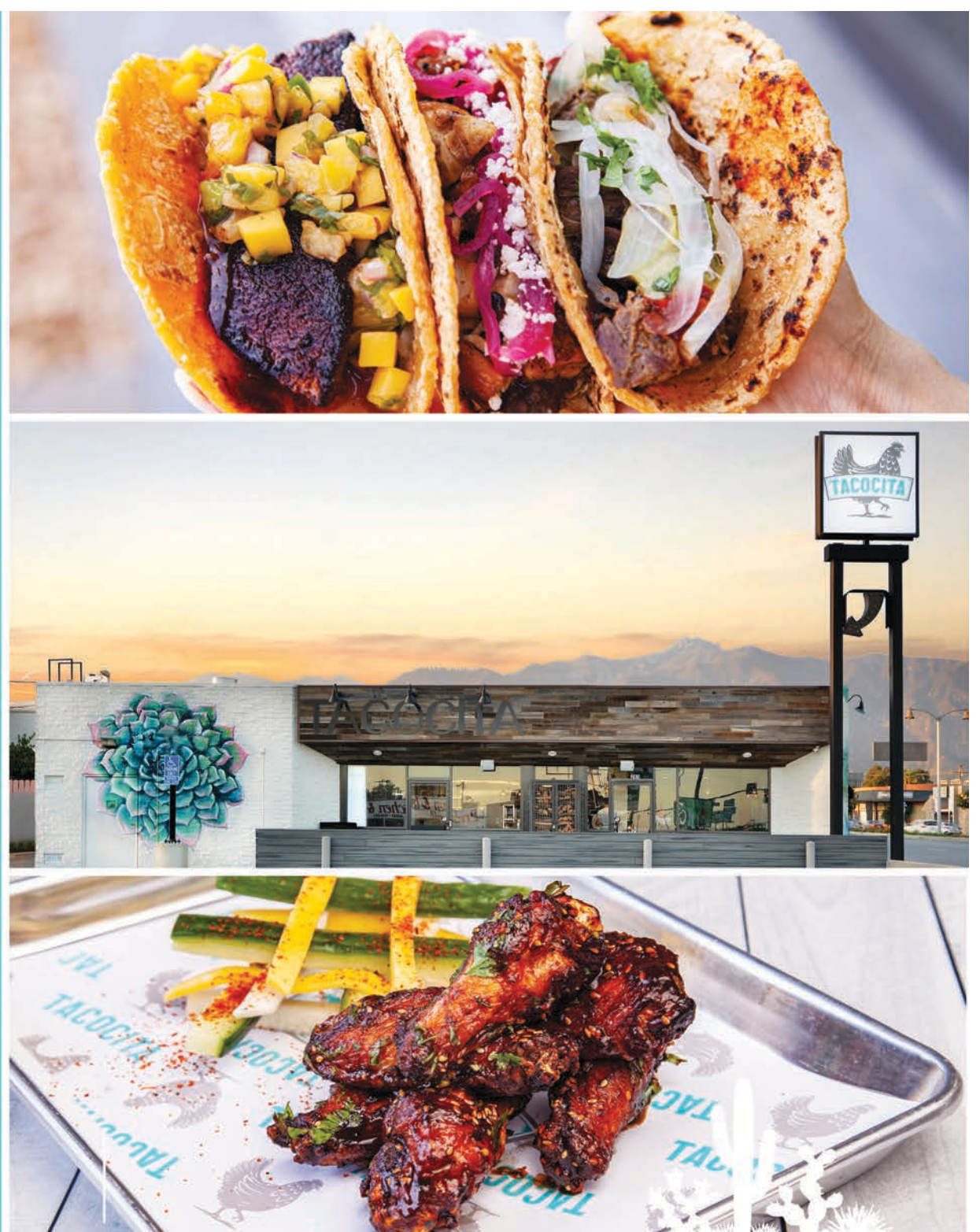
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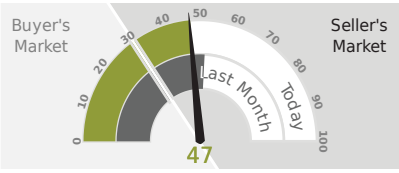
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Market Update :: Sierra Madre

This week the median list price for Sierra Madre, CA is \$610,000 with the market action index hovering around 47. This is less than last month's market action index of 52. Inventory has held steady at or around 1.

MARKET ACTION INDEX

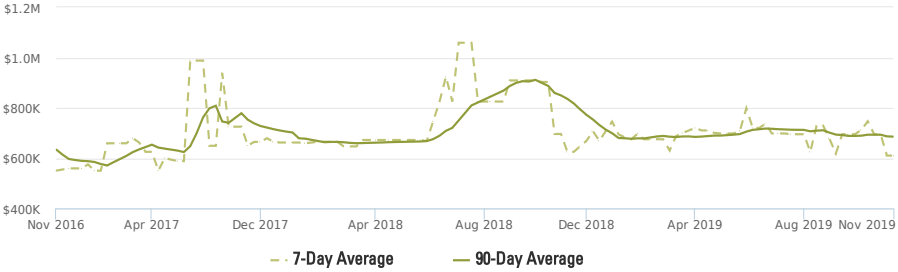
This answers "How's the Market?" by comparing rate of sales versus inventory.



Strong Seller's Market

The market has started cooling and prices have been flat for several weeks. Since we're in the Seller's zone, watch for changes in MAI. If the MAI resumes its climb, prices will likely follow suit. If the MAI drops consistently or falls into the Buyer's zone, watch for downward pressure on prices.

MEDIAN LIST PRICE



MARKET SEGMENTS

Each segment below represents approximately 25% of the market ordered by price.

Median Price	Sq. Ft.	Lot Size	Beds	Bath	Age	New	Absorbed	DOM
\$NaN	NaN	N/A	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
\$NaN	NaN	N/A	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
\$610,000	1,177	2.5 - 5 acres	2	2	45	0	0	105
\$610,000	1,177	2.5 - 5 acres	2	2	45	0	0	105



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