

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

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Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

VOLUME 13 NO. 49

Best Wishes for a  
Happy & Healthy  
Holiday Season

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Find out the difference a year can make!

	Now	Next Year
Interest Rate	3.5%	4.0%
Home Price	\$500,000	\$500,000
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The Cost of Waiting to Buy is defined as the additional funds it would take to buy a home if prices and interest rates were to increase over a period of time.

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## SIERRA MADRE HONORS



2019 Citizen of the Year Margaret Quigley, right with Susan Henderson and Mayor Harabedian



The Mayor with (l to r) Business of the Year owners, Judith Brandley and daughter Lori representing Leonora Moss.. (Carol Canterbury 3rd right)



Above, Former Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, with the Public Service Awardee Lily Shaw, right, and SMPD Chief Jim Hunt left.

Below, SMFD Captain Brent Bartlett also a Public Service Awardee.



On Wednesday evening, the City of Sierra Madre and the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce honored 9 outstanding individuals who epitomize the 'spirit of Sierra Madre' through Volunteerism and/or going above and beyond the call of duty in their jobs with the city. This collage shares the moment. Mayor John Harabedian was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Photos courtesy the city of Sierra Madre, Tevin Voong, Photographer.



Exemplary Employee Awardees James McGowan, and Kenny Bullock, with the Mayor and Jose Reynoso, right.



The Mayor and Bob Spears recipient of the George Maurer Lifetime Achievement Award, along with wife Susan Spears



Above, the Mayor's Special Award was presented to representatives of the CLIMB independent living facility for residents with visual challenges.

Left, the Mayor poses with Diane Osti, who accepted the Wistaria Award on behalf of Danny Osti and Osti Tree Service.

Congratulations to all of the honorees who give so much to the community and through volunteerism and commitment help maintain the City of Sierra Madre as one of the safest and best places to live and work in the country!

MVNews

Is that Former Sierra Madre Mayor Joe Mosca and Dr. Matt Bosse chatting at the.....go to page 17 to find out.



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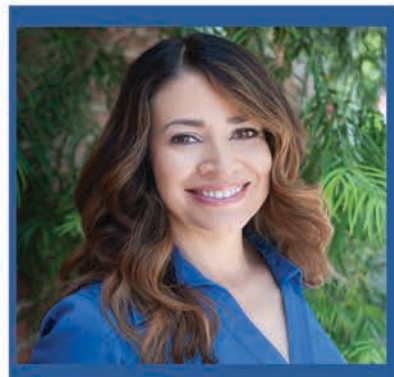
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## PREPARE Your Home for Winter

Use this list to prepare your home for winter

- **Check your home's heating and air conditioning system.** Most heating and air systems typically last 12 to 15 years.
- **Paint, caulk and seal exterior wood**
- **Seal your masonry and hard surfaces**
- **Check your drainage.** Make sure the soil around your foundation hasn't settled, creating areas for water to pool at your foundation.
- **Clean your gutters.** Once the leaves are pretty much off the trees, it's time to clean those gutters.
- **Clean your chimney and order firewood**
- **Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors**
- **Shut down the pool and the sprinkler system and drain outside faucets**
- **Prepare your lawn for winter** and set it up for a great spring
- **Make sure your attic doesn't become a critter hotel.** It's going to get cold out and your attic is the perfect winter home for squirrels and birds.
- **Get your patio furniture protected,** but make sure you wait until a clear, warm day to cover it so you don't trap moisture on it.

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## 2019 Nationwide Vigils & Events to #EndGunViolence

**Come together to remember over 700,000 Americans killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy.**

The Newtown Foundation • Newtown Action Alliance • Alliance for Gun Responsibility • American Association of Suicidology • American Gun Safety Association • Amnesty International USA • Bishops United Against Gun Violence • Blessed Ministries & Blessed Devotions • Brady Campaign • Stanislaus County California • Campaign to Unload • Ceasefire Oregon • CeaseFirePA • Center for American Progress • Coalition Against Gun Violence-A Santa Barbara County Coalition • Coalition to Stop Gun Violence • Community Justice Action Fund • Community of San Edilicio • Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence • CT Against Gun Violence • Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence • Episcopal Peace Fellowship • Equality California • Everytown Survivor Network • Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence • Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence • Franciscan Action Network • Gays Against Guns • Generation Progress • Georgetown for Gun Safety • Girl Scouts • Gun Safety Alliance • Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee • Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah • Gun Violence Prevention PAC • GunSenseVermont • Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation • Herndon Reston Citizens Against Gun Violence • Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence • Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence • International Health & Epidemiology Research Center • Jewish Women International Journey Award • Jr Newtown Action Alliance • Maine Gun Safety Coalition • March for Our Lives DC March for Our Lives Virginia • Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence • Michal Leadership Council • Million Hoodies Movement for Justice • Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America • National Council of Jewish Women • National Equality Action Team (NEAT) • NoRA • North Carolinians Against Gun Violence • Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence • On Earth Peace • Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore • Protect Minnesota Psychologists for Gun Violence Prevention • Purpose Over Pain • Rabbinical Assembly • Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association • Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence • San Diegoans for Gun Violence Prevention • Sandy Hook Promise • Silver State Equality-Nevada • Sisters of St. Francis Justice • Peace and Care for Creation Committee • Sr. of St. Joseph of Carondelet • St. Marks Episcopal Church Capitol Hill DC • States United to Prevent Gun Violence • Stop Handgun Violence • Survivors Empowered • Survivors Lead • Temple Micah • The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus • The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence • The ENOUGH Campaign • This Is Our Lane • Urban Word NYC • Vision Quilt • Washington National Cathedral • WAVE Educational Fund • Women's March and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

And attend a vigil or event at:  
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December 18 from 6:30-8:30 pm

At hundreds of locations nationwide, we will give voice to all **victims**  
and **survivors** of gun violence and together help #EndGunViolence in America.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/sgvvigil2019>





## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.



Sun	Ptly Cldy	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
Mon:	Sunny	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
Tues:	Ptly Cldy	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
Wed:	Ptly Cldy	Hi	50s	Lows	30s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	40s

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

December 10th, 2019 at 6:30PM  
December 24th, 2019 at 6:30PM Cancelled

## Planning Commission

December 5th, 2019 at 7:00PM Cancelled  
December 19th, 2019 at 7:00PM

Community Service Commission  
December 16th, 2019 at 6:30PM

Senior Community Commission  
January 9th, 2020 at 3:00PM

Library Board of Trustees  
December 25th, 2019 at 7:00PM Cancelled

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource Commission  
December 18, 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](mailto: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 &amp; Free on-air publicity for local events

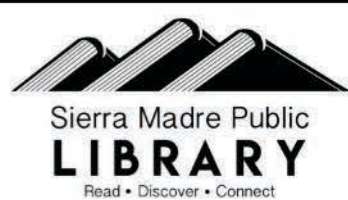
Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

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

Your event must:

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

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



This week at the  
Sierra Madre  
Public Library

## December 9—December 14

## Monday

Preschool Story Time 10:00—11:00 am

## Tuesday

Baby Rhyme Time 10:00—11:00 am  
Weekly LEGO Challenge 3:00—5:00 pm  
Virtual Reality 5:30—7:30 pm

## Wednesday

Parent Café 10:00—11:00 am  
Chair Yoga & Tea 11:00 am—12:00 pm  
Middle School Crafty Book Club 4:00—5:00 pm

## Thursday

Homework Help 3:00—5:00 pm  
Barks & Books 3:30—4:30 pm  
Cricut Workshop 4:00—5:00 pm

## Saturday

Chair Yoga & Tea 10:00—11:00 am  
STEAM Open House 10:00—1:00 pm  
Real Life Minecraft 1:00—3:00 pm

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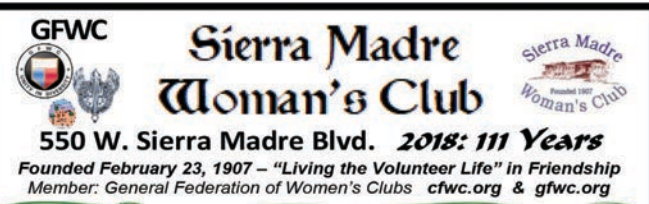
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GFWC Sierra Madre Woman's Club.org

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Sierra Madre  
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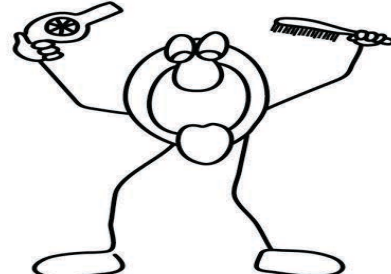
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# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

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## KATIE Tse....This and That



### THE SEAGULL WHO PLAYED "CHICKEN"

How has your week been? I don't know about you, but nothing particularly fascinating happened to me. Don't think I'm complaining, though. I'll take familiar and predictable any day. However, familiar and predictable don't make for interesting writing. If you read my column often, you know that when inspiration fails me, I can always rely on my mom's friend, Florence.

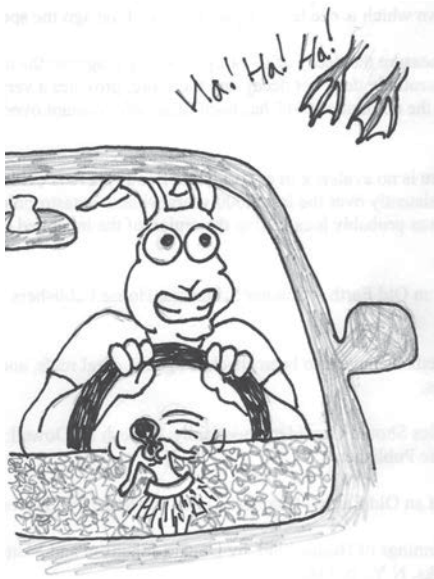
Not only is Florence a fabulous story teller, but she, herself, attracts funny situations. Like moths to a light, so humorous people and weird situations gravitate toward Florence. She doesn't have to try to make things happen. If you hang around her long enough, you, too, will get involved in something worth retelling.

Today's story includes one of the many animals Florence and her family rescued near their home in rustic Montebello. (Yes, Montebello was rustic once.) Although they didn't live near the ocean, a wayward seagull landed on their property. (It was probably pulled in by Florence's inherent magnetism.) They nursed it back to health, but it was never seaworthy again. So, it became a family pet. We'll call him Dean (think James Dean in "Rebel Without a Cause").

Among his many personality quirks, Dean had the habit of standing at the back end of their long driveway, waiting for an oncoming car. As soon as one appeared on the horizon, Dean took to the air and dive bombed right in front of the car's path. He had gotten very good at timing this, and knew just when to pull away at the last moment. Nine times out of 10, the driver would loudly slam on his breaks.

Perhaps it was the sound of the screeching breaks or the smell of burnt rubber that Dean enjoyed. Whatever it was, Dean got a kick out of the whole routine. I'd like to think that it was the drivers' good, animal-loving nature that kept Dean from becoming road kill, but more likely it was an automatic reaction to a large foreign body hurtling toward their windshield.

I'm sure Florence's family tried to break Dean of this nasty habit, but who's ever heard of a trained seagull? Probably equally difficult to explain were the explanation of the long, heavy tire marks in front of their driveway.



## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

*"Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light. From now on, our troubles will be out of sight."* Ralph Blane & Hugh Martin

Remember that? Judy Garland singing to Margaret O'Brien in the 1944 movie, "Meet Me In St. Louis." You probably do as this is a perennial favorite Christmas movie, along with "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street," "It's a Wonderful Life," and about 17 different versions of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." My least favorite version: Bill Murray in "Scrooged." I am admitting publicly that I like "Home Alone" from 1990 with Macaulay Culkin as the little kid who gets left behind when his family goes on vacation, takes on New York and various villains and wins! "The Polar Express" with Tom Hanks was wonderful. Of course, anything Tom Hanks does is pretty much great. And you can't forget "Elf" with Will Ferrell (2003) which is now a musical! But my all time favorite is "A Christmas Story" from 1983 where the kid gets his tongue stuck on the flagpole as he was double-dog dared to do it. You remember! And Ralphie wants a Red Ryder Air Rifle and everybody keeps saying, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid!"

I've been decorating. All my lighted houses are up on top of the bookcases but the first things I put up were my lighted deer and the star showers. The star showers add magic to just about any sort of outdoor lighting. I've got two of them outside that light up the whole front of the house and shine nicely on my reindeer. Right now my TV Christmas Music channel is playing Elvis singing, "Blue Christmas," and minutes ago, "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer!" Another shameful confession, I love that song!

We hope yours is being 'a merry little Christmas' this year, and that your heart is indeed light. As we were out walking Sierra Madre a few years ago, my Christmas decorations admiring walking buddy, John - who is now celebrating Christmas in heaven - and I, found a piece of paper on the sidewalk and this is what it said:

### A Child's Prayer of Thanks

Dear God,  
I'm thankful for all You give,  
For food,  
For love,  
A place to live,  
I thank You for my family too,  
And I want You to know  
That I love You.  
Amen.

I have kept this out in the kitchen ever since and think it expresses pretty much everything for which we can be thankful. Sierra Madre is such a beautiful place, with our own personal mountains available for good long 'look' moments. We have friendly people who smile and say Hello! when you pass them in front of Beantown or Starbucks. We have beautiful homes on every street, so many trees, and a splendid Christmas tree, crèche, menorah and dreidel in Kersting Court.

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of family, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime."  
Laura Ingalls Wilder

One of my favorite Christmas songs...written by me and my writing partner, David Wheatley, is "Think Joy!" from Star of Wonder - A Christmas Musical. The first and last verses are below here.

"Christmas! It's finally here! My favorite...favorite time of year!  
Think mistletoe and holly...children's faces jolly!  
Carols on the radio...happy smiles each place you go,  
Presents piled beneath the tree...some for you and some for me!

Best of all...the Christmas story,  
Jesus left behind His glory!  
A bright new star up in the sky,  
Shepherds see, and wonder why.  
Angels sing of peace on earth,  
It's time, at last, Messiah's birth!  
A stable filled with heaven's light,  
The world will change this Christmas night.

Christmas! It's almost here!  
My favorite...favorite time of year.  
Think....Joy!  
Think....Peace!  
Think....Christ!"

"May the simple joys of Christmas warm your heart, fill your home and last a lifetime."

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
Blog: [www.authordeanne.com](http://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.  
If you'd like a little preview, take a look at: <https://youtu.be/Ka1KYrONrd0>

## Visit our gallery for some holiday shopping

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### Creative Arts Group

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## SIERRA MADRE HOLIDAY PARKING

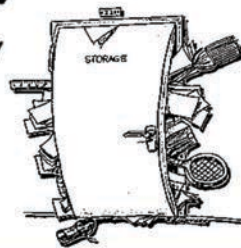
Christmas and New Year's Holiday parking exemptions are as follows:

Beginning at 2:00AM on Saturday, 12-14-2019, there will be a city wide exemption for parking violations relating to Permit Parking and Overnight Parking. This exemption will extend until 5:00AM on Thursday, 01-02-2020 in observance of the holidays. Please note, there will be officers staffing the SMPD, 24/7 to handle enforceable parking issues and safety violations during these times.

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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Castle Green Holiday Tour



The wonder of Pasadena's golden era awaits, as the Castle celebrates the holidays. This year's Holiday Tour will be on Sunday.

Built in 1898, the Castle was designed by architect Frederick I. Roehrig with influence of Moorish, Spanish and Victorian elements, and has turn of the century glamour and charm. Today, the Castle has become one of the most cherished historic buildings in Pasadena.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy your own Self-Guided tour of the magnificent building; including over 25 private condominiums, the Penthouse and our iconic Bridge. You will take a step back in time at the historic Castle Green while roaming the 120 year old halls and grounds.

Our preferred caterers will be providing delicious holiday bite size treats (while supplies last).

Gates open at 1:00 pm – the event goes until 5:00 pm. Please note that there will be no elevator service. For more information and tickets online visit: [castlegreen.com/tour](http://castlegreen.com/tour). Tickets will also be available the day of at the gate at \$35.00 each.

## Tis the Season for Holiday Scam Calls

Due to an increase in fraudulent calls, Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) wants to advise you to be especially vigilant about scam calls demanding payment for your utility bill.

PWP will never call customers asking them to make payment over the phone. If you receive one of these calls, be advised that scammers are attempting to solicit money or personal information from you. They may demand that customers go to a nearby convenience store, like Rite Aid or CVS, and purchase gift cards in order to make a payment. It's helpful to know the legitimate ways that PWP will contact you. If a utility bill is delinquent, PWP will inform the customer by mailing a notice to the account holder address. Two delinquency notifications will be sent to a customer before their electric or water service is disconnected for non-payment. Customers are always welcome to call the PWP Customer Service line at (626) 744-4005 to make a payment. This is a secure and valid way to access your account and is not the same as a representative calling customers to demand immediate payment. Here are some recent scam attempts:

- An unidentified caller is claiming to be a PWP representative threatens to turn off water or electric service unless immediate payment is made over the phone.
- A scammer is using spoofing technology to make PWP's Customer Service number, (626) 744-4005, appear as their contact information or calling from a toll free number (866) 305-4992. Additional information is available at: [PWPweb.com/Fraud](http://PWPweb.com/Fraud).



## Pasadena Museum of History Holiday Open House

Join The Pasadena Museum of History for a free event this Sunday with holiday cheer and a vintage vibe as they celebrate the season with the opening of the exhibit Starting Anew: Transforming Pasadena, 1890-1930. The event will take place 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will also feature vintage music performed by historian/showman Galen Wilkes. Don't miss a peek into the Fenyes Mansion adorned with touches of Edwardian style holiday décor. Be sure to visit the Finnish Folk Art Museum for more traditional holiday festivities, hosted by The Finlandia Foundation. Drop by the Museum Store for a treasure trove of unique and thoughtful gift items for your holiday shopping. There will also be refreshments.

The exhibit features historic images, documents, artwork, clothing, and ephemera,

many selected from the Museum's collection – along with research compiled over decades by scholars, museum staff, and volunteers – illustrate the scope of these vibrant decades in Pasadena's history. The exhibition also features the legacy of Museum benefactors Eva and Adalbert Fenyes. After arriving in Pasadena as newlyweds in 1896, this sophisticated couple quickly embraced the city as their new home. They purchased real estate, developed businesses, and contributed to the cultural and artistic development of Pasadena. Their 1906 Beaux Arts mansion is an important component of the exhibit story line, providing visitors with a glimpse into what life was like on Pasadena's Landmark Millionaire's Row in the early 1900s.

Starting Anew is dedicated to the memory of Pasadena Museum of History Project Archivist Julie A. Stires and Pasadena Museum of History Volunteers Sid Gally and Carol Watson.

Pasadena Museum of History is located 470 W. Walnut Street. For more information call 626.577.1660 or visit: [pasadenahistory.org](http://pasadenahistory.org).

## Cathy Billings Named South Pasadena Library Director

Cathy Billings, associate library director since 2017, has been named as the City's new library director, City Manager Stephanie DeWolfe announced last week.

Billings succeeds longtime director Steve Fjeldsted, who retired in June. Billings has more than 30 years of experience in library science. Prior to joining the South Pasadena team, she served as Senior Library, Arts & Culture Supervisor for the City of Glendale's art and music library, the Brand Library & Art Center. "Cathy's extensive experience and knowledge of the South Pasadena community make her a perfect fit to take over the top library post," DeWolfe said. Billings holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington. Her career has included stints at a nuclear research facility library in Switzerland, the New York-based Center for Fiction, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

"It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to lead a team of staff who are so inspired by their work and committed to meeting the needs of South Pasadena library users," Billings said. "I am



Cathy Billings

eager to continue the progress we have made in implementing the recommendations from the Library Operations Study and 2017-2022 Strategic Plan." Billings continued: "My goal is to ensure the South Pasadena Public Library continues to be a cornerstone of community life. In the coming months I look forward to further engagement with the individuals and groups that the library serves." In her time as associate director, Billings helped implement significant improvements to the South Pasadena Library, including an upgraded public catalog interface, a Facebook page, automated email due-date reminders, new Summer Reading Program software, a new public service desk and new public computer workstations, and a self-check kiosk.

View of east Colorado Street 1900's (PMH Collection)

## Christmas in Hawaii with "Kimo" West



### TONIGHT IN ALTADENA

Grammy-nominated 'slack key' guitar artist Jim "Kimo" West brings his annual Hawaiian Holiday Show to the Coffee Gallery Backstage Tonight along with traditional hula dancers and special guests

Drawing on material from his two acclaimed holiday slack key CD's, Kimo will present his island-style take on holiday classics along with storytelling and some mighty fine guitar playing. Kimo was recently nominated in the 61st Grammy Awards and he is a four-time Han Hoku Hanohano ( the Hawaiian 'Grammy' ) Awards nominee as well as a two-time recipient of the LA Treasures Award. Additionally, his work with musical satirist, "Weird Al" Yankovic has resulted in a Billboard #1 CD, five Grammy's and many gold and platinum sales awards not to mention many world tours.

The show starts at 7: p.m. the Coffee Gallery Backstage is located 2029 N. Lake Ave. Altadena. For reservations call 626.798.6236. No payment necessary when you make telephone reservations.

## Christmas Luncheon at the Senior Center

Oh what fun it is to attend the annual Christmas luncheon at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.

On Wednesday, Dec. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. the center's Scott Pavilion will be adorned with jolly décor and overflow with holiday spirit as guests feast on a fun and festive meal with their families and friends. Doors will open at 11:45 a.m.

Live music of the season will be performed, and Santa will be on hand to spread Christmas cheer.

The cost is only \$10 for members of the Pasadena Senior Center and \$12 for non-members of all ages. Prepaid reservations must be made at the Welcome Desk or at [www.pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://www.pasadenaseniorcenter.org) no later than Saturday, Dec. 21.

For more information call (626) 795-4331.

## Live on Green! Festival at the Pasadena Convention Center



N8tive Hoop

Live on Green!, a three-day event celebrating thousands of inspiring stories of hope will take place December 29-31 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Featured Dance Groups Include Native American Hoop Dancers N8tive Hoop, Sue B. Dance Company, Ballet Folklorico Los Angelitos Youth Dance Group and Mariachi Nuevo Amancer Group.

Operation HOPE pavilion visitors will be entertained and engaged by inspiring stories of HOPE from organizations including the National Women's History Alliance – celebrating the diverse and historic accomplishments of women and the Pasadena NAACP – celebrating its 100th anniversary. The HOPE Squad organization will be sharing vital information for kids and parents about its incredibly successful peer to peer teen suicide prevention program.

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust will share touching, heart-warming survivor stories produced by student film makers, while the ANCA-WR and Armenian artists from throughout Southern California will present a moving, uplifting "Tribute to Thanks to America." These are just a few of the groups who will be fostering hope through their participation.

The free family festival brings to life the history, artistry and pageantry of the iconic Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game with displays, memorabilia, photo-ops, virtual tours, meet & greets and the opportunity to experience what it is like to drive a Rose Parade float by climbing into the driver's seat of one.

At the "Let Us Entertain You" stage guests will enjoy a jam-packed line up of non-stop entertainment that includes jazz, pop, rock, and country performances along with traditional folk and choral along with dance performances that range from the Native American

Hoop Dancers N8tive Hoop to the precision-like tap dancing of the Sue B. Dance Company. And you won't want to miss the performances by the Ballet Folklorico Los Angelitos Youth Dance Group or the Mariachi Nuevo Amancer Group!

You'll want to visit the Eubanks Equestrian pavilion where the history of equestrians in the Rose Parade is shared highlighting all the riders and performers, different breeds of horses, tack and wardrobes.

On the Culinary Cues stage you'll enjoy Celebrity Chef and cookbook author, Jamie Gwen, GE's Great American Grandma— Ally Phillips, who'll be sharing her Bohemian Bold style, Chef Saul Jauregui and Chef / Restaurateur Zov Karamardian along with a host of others.

This year in the Coaches' Challenge Family Fun Zone kids of all ages will have the opportunity to experience the first ever WeatherFest event in Southern California hosted by PlanIt Now in partnership with NOAA and the National Weather Service. Our littlest visitors can also enjoy a variety of games, crafts and activities. Don't miss out on our Inflatable Zone, toddler play area, face painting, balloon twisting and a new Kids Cooking Camp!

Mark your calendars now and be sure to SAVE THE DATES for the 3 full days of fun ahead! We are a quick walk from the Metro Gold Line, Del Mar Station. Take a break for a delicious meal at one of the dozens of restaurants that surround the event and come back for more FREE fun until closing each day!

Start the party early with fun-filled days of discovery and entertainment from 10:00AM to 6:00PM on December 29th to December 30th and from 10:00AM to 4:00PM on December 31st!

For directions and a schedule of events visit: [LiveOnGreenPasadena.com](http://LiveOnGreenPasadena.com)

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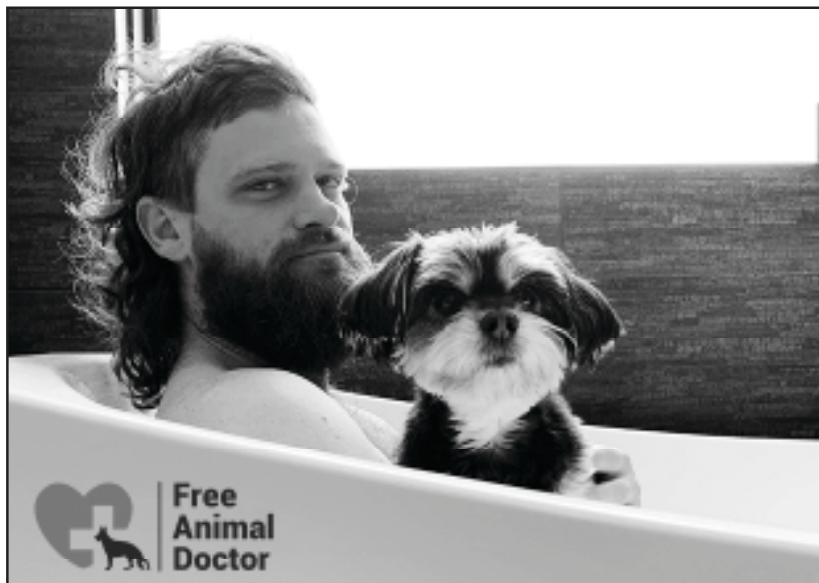
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# ARCADIA - MONROVIA - DUARTE

## ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, the Police Department responded to 834 calls for service, of which 96 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 24:  
1. Shortly before 12:44 p.m., an officer responded to the 1600 block of Rodeo Road regarding an animal bite report. The victim and his dog were attacked by two loose dogs. The victim sustained injuries to his hand and the victim's dog was bit multiple times. The owner of the loose dogs was unaware the dogs were able to escape. The investigation is ongoing. Arcadia Fire responded to provide treatment to the victim.  
2. At approximately 6:00 p.m., an officer responded to the parking lot of the Westfield Santa Anita, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a theft report. The officer discovered an unknown suspect stole the victim's rear passenger wheel from his Honda Civic. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Monday, November 25:  
3. Just after 5:36 a.m., an officer responded to A&A Building Material Company, 310 North Santa Anita Avenue, regarding a vandalism report. The officer determined unknown suspect(s) smashed a front window to the business for no apparent reason. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.  
4. At approximately 1:30 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 2500 block of South Fourth Street regarding a fraud report. The victim stated an unknown suspect opened a false bank account using the victim's personal information. Then the suspect transferred \$13,000 from the victim and his wife's personal account into the fraudulent account and withdrew the money. The victim does not know how the suspect obtained his personal information or the identity of the suspect. The investigation is ongoing.

Tuesday, November 26:  
5. Around 2:20 p.m., an officer responded to Macy's, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a grand theft report. Surveillance footage revealed the lone female suspect stole \$1,434.07 worth of clothing and shoes on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:39 p.m. The investigation is ongoing. The suspect is described as a Hispanic female, 25 to 35-years-old, wearing a brown shirt, black pants, and brown boots.  
6. Just before 3:52 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 100 block of West Las Flores

Avenue regarding a burglary report. Sometime between November 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup>, unknown suspect(s) shattered a rear sliding glass door, tampered with the alarm system, ransacked the home and fled with a vehicle registration sticker. The investigation is ongoing.

Wednesday, November 27:  
7. Around 5:30 a.m., officers responded to Westfield Santa Anita, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a male suspect who was refusing to leave. The suspect became uncooperative, violent, and stated he had consumed "2 tabs of acid." A struggle ensued and the suspect bit one of the arresting officers. Arcadia Fire responded and transported the suspect to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for treatment. The officer did not require medical attention. The suspect has been identified as an 18-year-old male from Arcadia.  
8. Shortly after 9:27 a.m., an officer responded to a parking structure at 1128 West Duarte Road regarding a vehicle burglary report. Sometime during the previous evening, an unknown suspect smashed the driver's side front window and fled with sunglasses. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Thursday, November 28:  
9. Before 9:08 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 100 block of California Street regarding a driving under the influence report. While a hit and run collision was being investigated, an assisting officer contacted a man changing a tire on his vehicle with fresh collision damage in the area of the collision. Upon contacting the driver, the 24-year-old male from Irwindale admitted to being under the influence and causing the collision. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.  
10. Around 7:54 p.m., officers responded to a residence in the 200 block of West Lemon Avenue regarding an audible alarm activation. Officers discovered unknown suspects smashed the rear sliding glass door, ransacked one room, and fled emptyhanded. The investigation is ongoing.

Friday, November 29:  
11. At about 10:40 a.m., an officer responded to 24 Hour Fitness, 125 North First Avenue, regarding a theft from vehicle report. The officer determined the unknown suspect entered the vehicle by unknown means, fled with the victim's wallet, and discovered the suspect made fraudulent charges on the stolen credit cards. The investigation is ongoing.

## MONROVIA HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST

The very popular annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest is right around the corner! As part of the program, residents who decorate their homes for the Holiday Season have the chance to be recognized by the City in several decoration categories!

### How to Participate

Applications are now available! Click the link below or pick up a paper copy at the Monrovia Community Center. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13. All applicants will be entered in the Holiday Home Decorating Contest Map.

### Holiday Home Decorating Contest Application

Deadline to Apply: Friday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m.

The contest judging will take place on Monday, December 16, after 5:00 p.m. Note that decorations must be visible from the street, as judges do not exit the vehicle to view decorations.

Award winners will receive a yard sign to display and be recognized during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 17, at City Hall in Council Chambers.

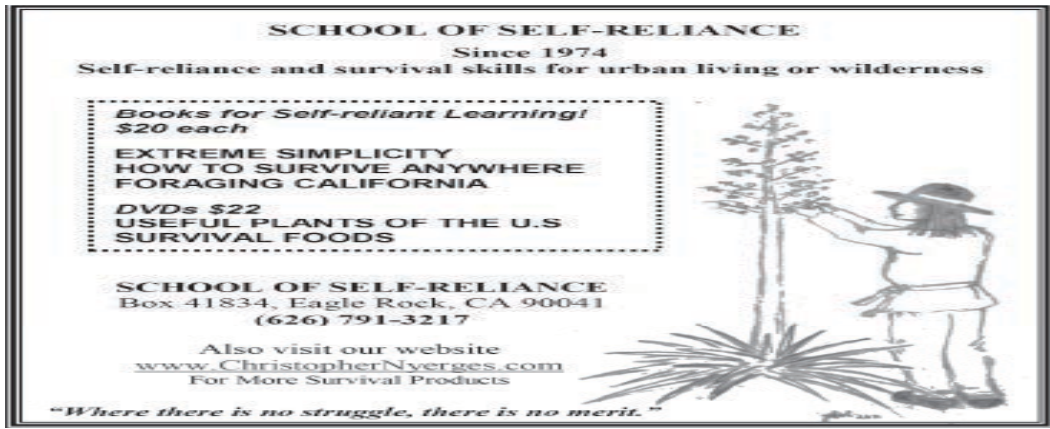
### Contest Categories

The 8 categories that will be judged as part of the contest include:

Best Still Display	Decorations with no movement
Best Outdoor Display	Best overall outdoor decorations
Most Effective Use of Lighting	Best outdoor lighting display
Best Neighborhood Effort	Street(s) with many homes decorated in a similar theme
Children's Choice Award	Best display that depicts a youthful theme
Santa's Workshop Award	Best depiction of Santa's Workshop in decorations
Holiday Spirit Award	Most festive display
Judge's Award	Judges' choice

### Questions

For additional information, please contact the Community Center at (626) 256-8246. We can't wait to see the decorations this year



# ALTADENA - SO. PASADENA - SAN MARINO

## ALTADENA CRIME BLOTTER

**Sunday, November 17th**  
Between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM – A vehicle burglary occurred in the 2600 block of New York Drive. Suspect(s) entered the vehicle via unknown means. Stolen: pink iWatch, black Louis Vuitton wallet, and keys.  
2:08 PM – A petty theft from an unlocked vehicle occurred in the 300 block of Figueroa Drive. Stolen: brown wallet, credit cards, and currency.  
**Monday, November 18th**  
1:01 AM – Michael Carlin, 59 years old of Los Angeles was arrested in the area of Mountain View Street and Casitas Avenue for possession of a controlled substance.  
3:00 AM – A theft from a vehicle occurred in the 200 block of E. Sacramento Street. Stolen: catalytic converter to Ford F350. Investigation is on-going.  
9:30 PM – A domestic violence incident occurred in the 4300 block of Rising Hill Road. Suspect has been identified.  
**Tuesday, November 19th**  
1:30 PM – A vehicle was reported stolen from the 2200 block of Washington Boulevard. Vehicle described as a black 1999 Honda Accord. \*Vehicle was recovered by LASD Altadena.  
4:00 PM – A petty theft occurred

in the 2900 block of N. El Nido Drive. Stolen: black Samsung cellphone.  
Between 7:00 PM and 1:00 AM (Wednesday) – A commercial burglary occurred in the 2400 block of Lake Avenue. Suspect(s) entered the business by shattering a window and cutting a hole through an adjacent business wall. Stolen: prescription medication.  
**Thursday, November 21st**  
7:31 PM – A domestic violence incident occurred in the 2000 block of Lake Avenue. Suspect has been identified.  
**Friday, November 22nd**  
Between 12:30 PM and 11:30 PM – A residential vandalism occurred in the 500 block of E. Marigold Street. Damage: shattered front door glass panels.  
Between 7:00 PM and 12:00 AM (Saturday) – A vehicle vandalism occurred in the 600 block of E. Las Flores Drive. Vehicle damage: front shattered window and windshield.  
Between 7:00 PM and 12:30 AM (Saturday) – A vehicle vandalism occurred in the 100 block of E. Palm Street. Vehicle damage: broken driver side mirror, front grill, front bumper, and front lights. Suspect has been identified.

## TOYS FOR TOTS DROP SITE SAN MARINO FIRE DEPARTMENT

This holiday season, the San Marino Fire Department is proud to support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Now through December 13, 2019, the San Marino Fire Department is collecting new, unwrapped toys and books for children ages 0-12 years. Last year, the Los Angeles County North-Pasadena Toys for Tots Program distributed 140,116 toys to 63,249 children. San Marino residents may participate this year by bringing new, unwrapped toys to the San Marino Fire Department located at 2200 Huntington Drive, San Marino, CA 91108. For more information, or to give a monetary donation, visit the Toys for Tots website. Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS



recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity is the fund raising, funding and support organization for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation was created at the behest of the U.S. Marine Corps and provides support in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, who directs the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation has supported Toys for Tots since 1991.

## MANDATORY ORGANIC RECYCLING

South Pasadena officials reminder, Is your business or multifamily complex compliant? The City of South Pasadena, in conjunction with its trash hauler, Athens Services, has established an organic waste recycling program in compliance with Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826), which calls for mandatory commercial and multifamily organics recycling to be phased in. This law phases in the mandatory recycling of commercial organics over time, with the minimum threshold of organic waste generation decreasing over time. January 1, 2019 - generators of 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste per week California disposes of approximately 30 million tons of waste in landfills each year, of which more than 30 percent could be used for compost or mulch. Mandatory recycling of organic waste is the next step toward achieving California's aggressive recycling and greenhouse gas emission goals. Assembly Bill 1826 addresses this issue by requiring businesses generating 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste per week to arrange for organics recycling services for the

following types of organic waste: food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper. Multifamily complexes with 5 or more units must also arrange for organics recycling services for the same material with the exception of food waste and food-soiled paper. Organics recycling can be accomplished by: Subscribing to Athens Services' source separated organic waste collection and recycling service which is provided in wheeled 64-gallon carts or larger compactors; and/or Self-hauling organic waste off site for recycling. To subscribe to Athens Services' organic waste collection service, call: (888) 336-6100. Exemptions may be issued if any of the following criteria are met: Lack of sufficient space to provide additional organic material recycling bins. Existing business actions (such as food donation) that result in the recycling of a significant portion of its organic waste. The business generates less than one-half (0.5) of a cubic yard of organic waste per week.

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## ALL SAINTS CHURCH WITH THE PASADENA SYMPHONY

The Pasadena Symphony’s annual Holiday Candlelight concert returns to All Saints Church on Saturday, December 14. Having sold out for the past eight years, the symphony offers two performances to meet community demand at 4:00p.m. and 7:00p.m. The architecturally exquisite and acoustically sonorous All Saints Church, Pasadena’s equivalent of a European cathedral, provides the perfect setting to hear your holiday favorites - all performed by candlelight. Audiences are going to love each and every moment of this cherished holiday tradition.

Back by popular demand, Pasadena Symphony Music Director David Lockington will conduct an array of choruses including the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus, the Donald Brinegar Singers and the L.A. Bronze Handbell Ensemble, set against the backdrop of the Pasadena Symphony. Special guest Sarah Uriarte Berry will accompany the orchestra as vocalist. With countless Broadway credits under her belt including Belle in Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Diana in the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning Next To Normal and Les Miserables’ Eponine, Berry is sure to bring an unforgettable performance.

This year’s program has something for everyone to ring in the holiday season, from traditional holiday classics to popular standards. Hear Deck the Halls, Joy to the World, It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, Sleigh Ride, Hallelujah! and many cherished favorites. The venue offers fully assigned individual seating throughout All Saints’ glorious interior, ensuring that the audience can enjoy their experience with ease and have a well-deserved break from the hustle and bustle of the season. Top off your holidays with lasting memories for the whole family at this time-honored tradition.

Tickets to Holiday Candlelight with the Pasadena Symphony are limited and will sell out. Seats start at \$20 and may be purchased either at pasadenasympphony-pops.org or by calling the box office at 626.793.7172.

## YOUTHFUL VOICES BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO RETIRED TEACHERS



Durfee School Advanced Chorus will perform at Retired Teachers meeting. The California Retired Teachers Association #71 (CalRTA) will be entertained by the Durfee School Advanced Chorus at its Friday, December 13, luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will take at the Senior Center Building in Arcadia Park (county park), 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, next to the Lawn Bowling Greens. The cost of the luncheon for members and guests is \$13. For those who pay at the door, the cost is \$14. Please call John Gera at (626)286-0714 for reservations by the December 6 deadline.

Under the direction of Suzanne Brown, the 23-member Durfee Advanced Chorus is an eighth-grade choral group that has received Excellent ratings at competitions and has performed annually at the L. A. County Fair. Director Brown brings to her 7th and 8th grade students her wide experience of teaching music in Pennsylvania schools, performing locally as a trombonist with a PCC faculty group, and acting as cantor and pianist at Saint Rita’s Church in Sierra Madre.

## SUPERVISORS FAST-TRACK HOMELESS HOUSING PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Su-pervisor Kathryn Barger with co-author Supervisor Janice Hahn to initiate a strike team of county agencies and private sector partners to develop a plan with concrete, measurable and attainable housing solutions to tackle the homelessness crisis.

“We’re at a critical junction in our efforts to combat the humanitarian crisis on our streets,” Barger said. “Our current approach to building housing is unsustainable, unaffordable and inefficient. My motion organizes and streamlines the County’s work to construct interim and permanent housing.”

“There are people dying on our streets and our current strategy is not good enough,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn. “We need to address homelessness with the same level of urgency as we would a natural disaster. That means changing our strategy, turning our attention to shelters and emergency housing as well as continuing to build new affordable and permanent supportive housing.”

The motion directs the CEO to develop an Urgent Housing Plan and identify all sources of capital funding to support it. Additionally, the motion calls for the CEO to collaborate with a private sector housing expert to spearhead the plan.

“The government is not the expert in building housing,” Barger added. “Our partners in the private sector know how to get the job done quickly and affordably. With the help of a strike team composed of County Departments, I’m confident the private sector expert will think critically and creatively to construct housing rapidly.”

The motion cites successes in other jurisdictions, such as the City of San Diego, where local leaders have pushed for immediate housing solutions, like Sprung structures, modular and pre-fabricated units, to serve as bridge housing. These facilities serve as a temporary stay for people transitioning into permanent housing while they receive supportive services from health counselors, substance abuse counselors, case managers and outreach specialists.

The initiative also calls for a robust communications and outreach strategy to engage with impacted communities and emphasizes increased transparency and accountability concerning the development of homeless housing. Beginning December 10, the Board of Supervisors will receive bimonthly public updates on the progress of the Urgent Housing Plan.

The motion, found here, directs the CEO to:

- Develop a process by which all steps necessary to implement the urgent housing plan, including permitting, zoning and approval processes, are streamlined and expedited, work-ing in consultation with LACDA, DPW, Planning, Fire, HI, Sanitation Districts, DPH and others, as appropriate. Also consider appropriate exemptions to Title 22.
- Identify ongoing and one-time funding for capital projects to be used for the development of homeless housing.
- Identify a housing expert from the private sector to provide oversight for the development and implementation of the plan.
- Develop a robust communications and outreach strategy to engage with communities impacted by the implementation of the plan.
- Schedule bimonthly set item on the Board’s agenda for status reports beginning on December 10, 2019.

## FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



As we head into the thick of the holiday season, you’re likely spending more time than usual surrounded by family and friends.

The holidays offer an opportunity to visit with loved ones you rarely see and get caught up on what’s been happening in everyone’s life. And though it might not seem like it, the holidays can also be a good time to discuss estate planning. In fact, with everyone you love—from the youngest to the oldest—gathered under one roof, the holidays provide the ideal opportunity to talk about planning.

That said, asking your uncle about his end-of-life wishes while he’s watching the football game probably isn’t the best way to get the conversation started. In order to make the discussion as productive as possible, consider the following tips.

1. Set aside a time and place to talk  
Trying to discuss estate planning in an impromptu fashion over the dinner table or while opening Christmas gifts will most likely not be very productive. Your best bet is to schedule a time separate from the festivities, when you can all focus and talk without distractions or interruptions.

It’s also a good idea to be upfront with your family about the meeting’s purpose, so no one is taken by surprise, and are more prepared for the talk. Choose a setting that’s comfortable, quiet, and private. The more relaxed people are, the more likely they’ll be comfortable sharing about sensitive topics.

2. Create an agenda, and set a start and stop time

To ensure you can cover every subject you want to address, create a list of the most important points you want to cover—and do your best to stick to them. You should encourage open conversation but having a basic agenda of the items you want to address can help ensure you don’t forget anything.

Along those same lines, set a start and stop time for the conversation. This will help you keep the discussion on track and avoid having the conversation veer too far away from the main points you want to discuss. If anything significant comes up that you hadn’t planned on, you can always continue the discussion later.

Keep in mind that the goal is to simply get the planning conversation started, not work out all the specific details or dollar amounts.  
3. Explain why planning is important  
From the start, assure everyone that the conversation isn’t about prying into anyone’s finances, health, or personal relationships. Instead, it’s about providing for the family’s future security and wellbeing no matter what happens. It’s about ensuring that everyone’s wishes are clearly understood and honored, not about finding out how much money someone stands to inherit.

While some relatives might be reluctant to open up, being surrounded by the loved ones who will ultimately benefit from planning can make people more willing to discuss these sensitive subjects.

Talking about these issues is also a crucial way to avoid unnecessary conflict and expense down the road. When family members don’t clearly understand the rationale behind one another’s planning choices, I’ve seen it breed conflict, resentment, and costly legal battles.

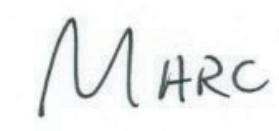
4. Discuss your experience with planning  
If you’ve already set up your plan, one way to get the discussion going is to explain the planning vehicles you have in place and why you chose them. Mention any specific questions


or concerns you initially had about planning and how you addressed them. If you have loved ones who’ve yet to do any planning and have doubts about its usefulness, discuss any concerns they have in a sympathetic and supportive manner.

For the love of your family  
Though death and incapacity can be awkward topics to discuss, talking about how to properly plan for such events can actually bring your family closer together this holiday season. In fact, our clients consistently share that after going through our estate planning process they feel more connected to the people they love the most. And they also feel clearer about the lives they want to live during the short time we have here on earth.

When done right, planning can put your life and relationships into a much clearer focus and offer peace of mind knowing that the people you love most will be protected and provided for no matter what.


Most importantly this holiday season, enjoy being in the moment and strengthening your bonds with the important people in your life.

  
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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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## DUARTE BOXING COMPETITORS TAKE HOME FIRST PLACE WINS AT 2019 SILVER GLOVES STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

DUARTE, CA, On Saturday, Nov. 30, Carlos Mejia and Marcos "Boo Boo" Ramirez, representing the Duarte Boxing Club, brought home gold medals for the 2019 Silver Gloves State Cham-pion-ships, held in Compton, CA.

This was Mejia's (154lb weight-class) and Ramirez's (175lb weight-class) first time competing in the Silver Gloves State Cham-pion-ship. Both boxers are only 14 years old, and, notably, Mejia has been only box-ing for about a year.

Mejia and Ramirez will advance to the Silver Gloves Regionals in January to compete against fighters from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Nevada. Regionals will also be held in Comp-ton, CA.



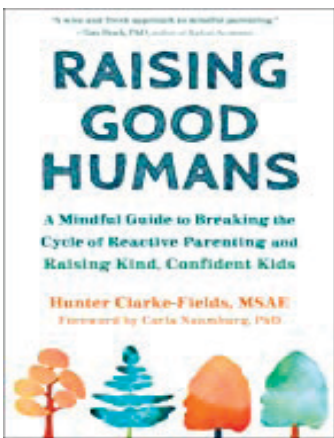
## Jeff's Book Pics

By Jeff Brown

### RAISING GOOD HUMANS: A MINDFUL GUIDE TO BREAKING THE CYCLE OF REACTIVE PARENTING AND RAISING KIND, CONFIDENT KIDS

by Hunter Clarke-Fields

"A wise and fresh approach to mindful parenting," Tara Brach, author of Radical Ac-ceptance. A kinder, more compassionate world starts with kind and compassionate kids. In Raising Good Humans, you'll find powerful and practical strategies to break free from "reactive parenting" habits and raise kind, cooperative, and confident kids. Whether you're running late for school, trying to get your child to eat their vege-tables, or dealing with an epic meltdown in the checkout line at a grocery store—being a parent is hard work! And, as parents, many of us react in times of stress with-out think-ing—often by yelling. But what if, instead of always reacting on autopilot, you could respond thoughtfully in those moments, keep your cool, and get from A to B on time and in one piece? With this book, you'll find powerful mindfulness skills for calming your own stress response when difficult emotions arise. You'll also discover strategies for cultivating respect-ful communication, effective conflict resolution, and reflective listening. In the process, you'll learn to examine your own unhelpful pat-terns and ingrained reactions that reflect the gener-ational habits shaped by your par-ents, so you can break the cycle and respond to your children in more skillful ways. When children experience a parent reacting with kindness and patience, they learn to act with kindness as well—thereby altering generational patterns for a kind-er, more compassionate future. With this essential guide, you'll see how changing your own "autopilot reactions" can create a lasting positive impact, not just for your kids, but for generations to come. An essential, must-read for all parents—now more than ever.



## CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



### UNUSUAL QUESTIONS

[Nyerges is the author of "Self-Sufficient Home," "Extreme Simplicity," "How to Survive Any-where," and other books. He can be reached at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com).]

I occasionally meet some very unusual people. Once, after I had given a lecture about the native uses of wild plants, a man stood by and began to chat with me. I'd never met him before. He declared that he knew I was "Il-luminati" because he said I never used money.

"Who told you that?" I asked him.

"You eat wild foods so you don't have to buy food. And you bicycle so you don't pay for fuel," he declared, as if he was in on some deep secret.

I began to laugh because what he was saying was ludicrous, and since I'd never met that man before, he couldn't have known anything about me except the occasional tid-bits that he'd read in the paper.

"How do you think I got here?" I asked the stranger. "I didn't bicycle. It's too far, plus look at all the supplies I brought with me." I pointed with my hand to the table of books and plants and various sandals and brushes I'd made from yucca leaves.

He looked skeptical. "I know you're part of a group that works outside the system," he told me, knowingly.

"Really?" I responded. "What group is that? I wish I could live without money. Maybe the Illuminati can start providing me with money," I declared, hoping that by making this a joke, the man would just go away. I could tell he was not convinced, and that he be-lieved some-thing about me, or heard something about me, that made him think that I could maneuver through daily life without the necessity of money.

I wanted to pack everything up and depart, but didn't want to just ignore the man. "Do you really believe that there is a group called the Illuminati, living somewhere?" I asked him.

"Yes, of course," he replied.

"Well, whoever they are, don't you think they eat food? Don't you think they have to buy food like everyone else?" I paused to let that sink in.

"And if they manage to operate outside of the system, without the need for money, then they're probably living in some remote forest, or island, where they produce everything they need. How else could they not use money?"

"Oh," the man said, ponderingly.

"Anyway, I'm not Illuminati – whatever that is – but thank you for thinking I was," and I departed as the man smiled and shook my hand.

Another time in a similar situation, a young girl asked me what I thought we should do about all the people who are ruining the world.

"What people are you referring to?" I asked, even while I knew in my heart that I also don't like people ruining the world.

"You know, everyone polluting, polluting the landscape, paving over the wild areas."

"Oh," I said. "I can see how you feel." Then, I paused for just a bit because I wanted to make a point without actually disagreeing with her.

"Do you live in a house?" I asked her.

"Yes, of course," she replied.

"What was there on that land before your house was there? Didn't that land have to get cleared or paved so you could have a place to live?"

"Well, yes," she replied. "But I still like to see wild areas left untouched."

"Yes, so do I," I replied. "And do you wear clothes, and buy appliances, and food, and things that you need?"

"Of course," she said, wondering where I was going with that.

"So, do you track what happens to all the wrappers and boxes and plastic after you've discarded things?"

"Oh, we recycle at home," she proudly declared.

"Yes, that's good," I said. "So do I. But you probably don't and can't recycle every-thing. In other words, every single time we buy anything, it had to be manufactured, somewhere, and that often meant industrial pollution. And since we don't recycle eve-rything we use, lots goes into the landfill, using up otherwise beautiful land to store trash."

"Oh," she said. By then a few adults were listening, and one spoke up, telling me I was being a bit hard on the young girl. "OK," I said to the adult, "I'll offer some positive ide-as. I'm actually very much on her side. I regard myself as an environmentalist too."

I turned to the girl and told her that I try to always buy from yard sales and thrift stores, where possible, because that way I'm not creating new trash from the manufacturing cycle. I use things up, and I fix things when they break. But the biggest thing I try to do is to not get into a habit of acquiring useless trinkets that clutter up my life. I like being a minimalist. It's amazing how well you can live when your life and your living space is not cluttered up with piles of things that you really don't need.

"Everyone likes and wants all the toys and technologies that our modern society pro-duces, and just about everyone hates the trash and pollution, forgetting that we're part of the problem. One solution is to just use less, and live lightly." By now, the few adults standing around had gotten into the conversation and were all sharing positive solutions with the girl, which was good. My goal was to get her into a state of mind where she chooses to lives a life that is less impactful on the environment, and get out of the habit of blaming others for the woes of our world.

Those are just two examples of interesting people I've met in the last few years.

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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Clairbourn School 8400 Huntington Drive San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172 FAX: 626-286-1528 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jhawes@clairbourn.org">jhawes@clairbourn.org</a>	Sierra Madre Middle School 160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom E-mail address: <a href="mailto:newsom.garrett@pusd.us">newsom.garrett@pusd.us</a>
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The Gooden School 192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-2410 Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner website: <a href="http://www.goodenschool.org">www.goodenschool.org</a>	Wilson Middle School 300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln E-mail address: <a href="mailto:resseln@pusd.us">resseln@pusd.us</a>
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Monrovia High School 325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016	Monrovia Unified School District 325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016 (626) 471-2000 Website: <a href="http://www.monroviaschools.net">www.monroviaschools.net</a>
	Duarte Unified School District 1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010 (626) 599-5000 Website: <a href="http://www.duarte.k12.ca.us">www.duarte.k12.ca.us</a>
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### CAT OF THE WEEK

#### Katnip News!



Adorable MANGO!

Yes, this 4 mo. old boy is a cutie and a sweetie! He's FIV+ but that's not a problem as long as he's properly cared for. Mango will definitely perk up your life and fill you with happiness! All he wants for Christmas is for Santa to bring him a forever home! He has a video on our website and more pictures. Mango will come vetted and neutered. See [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org) and click on the More Cats page.



### Pet of the Week

Bridget has the best puppy dog eyes! Although she's three years old, she still has the energy of a puppy. Bridget LOVES to play - with people, with other dogs, with anyone who wants to have fun. While a lot of dogs love meal time, or cuddle time, her favorite time of day is play time. She's had a blast participating in doggy play group with the other shelter dogs, but she'd love a home where every day is nothing but fun and games!

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View photos of adoptable pets at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org). Adoption hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email.



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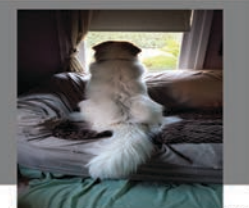
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**WHERE**

at The Kensington  
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(626) 355-5700



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## HOW TO MANAGE A LOVED ONE'S SOCIAL MEDIA AFTERLIFE

Dear Savvy Senior:

How do I go about changing or canceling a person's social media accounts when they die? My sister passed away several months ago and her social media accounts are still active. Inquiring Sister

Dear Inquiring:

I'm sorry for your loss. This a question that's become more frequent in recent years as most Americans have participated on some type of social media platform. Here's a run-down of how you can change or cancel some different social media accounts after a loved one dies.

Facebook

Let's start with the biggest and most frequently used social media platform on the Web today. When someone with a Facebook profile dies, there are two different things someone with authority over their account can do. You can either "memorialize" it or "delete" it.

A memorialized account serves as a place where friends and family can share stories, photos or memories to celebrate the deceased person's life, with the word "Remembering" shown next to the deceased person's name. Once an account is memorialized, content the person shared is still visible on Facebook to the audience it was originally shared with, however, the user's profile will not show up in public spaces such as people you may know, ads or birthday reminders.

If you don't wish to memorialize your sister's profile, you can also have her account permanently deleted from Facebook.

Facebook allows users (when they're alive) to choose a "legacy contact," which is a person chosen to look after their account once they've passed away, or users can request to have their account permanently deleted after they die. (To do either of these tasks, click on "Settings" on the top right of Facebook, then click on "General" on the left-side menu and then on "Manage Account.")

If your sister didn't set up a legacy contact before she passed, you can submit a memorialization request at Facebook.com/help – type in "How do I report a deceased person on Facebook that needs to be memorialized?" in the search bar. You'll be asked to provide proof of death by providing a copy of either an obituary, death certificate or memorial card.

Or, if you would rather have her account deleted go to Facebook.com/help, and type in "How do I request the removal of a deceased family member's Facebook account?" This also requires proof of death plus verification that you're an immediate family member or executor of the account holder.

Instagram

Instagram's policy on a deceased users' account is similar to its parent company, Facebook. A deceased users' account can either be memorialized or removed, which you can request at Help. Instagram.com/264154560391256.

Like Facebook, to memorialize an Instagram account requires proof of death, but to remove an account you'll also need to provide verification that you're an immediate family member.

Twitter

If your sister was a Twitter user, Twitter will work with anyone who is authorized to act on behalf of her estate, or with a verified immediate family member to have an account deactivated. To request the removal of your sister's account, go to Help.Twitter.com/forms/privacy.

After you submit your request, Twitter will email you with instructions for providing more details, including information about the deceased, a copy of your ID, and a copy of the deceased's death certificate.

LinkedIn

If your sister also had a LinkedIn profile, the only option is to delete her account. To request this, see LinkedIn.com/help/linkedin/ask/ts-rdmlp. You'll need to provide her name and URL to her LinkedIn profile; the relationship you have to her; her email address; date she passed away; link to an obituary; and company she most recently worked for.

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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# SENIOR HAPPENINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...December Birthdays\*



Maria Decker, Nancy Dorn, Prudence Levine Pat Karamitros, Joan Hufnagel, Mary Alice Cervera, Carol Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Lottie Bugl, Pat McGuire, Sheila Wohler, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Cindy Barran, and Melissa Stute.

\* 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.

**Free Legal Consultation:** Wednesday, December 18th 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.

## 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

## SENIOR CINEMA

**SCROOGED** December 4th "Scrooged" PG-41; 1 hr. 41 min.

A selfish, cynical television executive is haunted by three spirits bearing lessons on Christmas Eve



## "THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS"

December 18th "The Journey that led to Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", a timeless tale that would redefine Christmas



## DECEMBER EXCURSION LA ZOO LIGHT SHOW (LOS ANGELES) DECEMBER 17TH 5:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. \$25 PER PERSON

- \* As this is a rain-or-shine event, consider bringing an umbrella in case it rains.
- \* Lots of great food and drinks are available at the Zoo;
- \* Spending money is optional for your purchase of lunch & souvenirs;
- \* Level of Walking: High

Glowing animals welcome you on an unforgettable nighttime journey that includes the world's largest illuminated pop-up storybook, a magical disco ball forest, giant glittering snowflakes, and a twinkling tunnel filled with dynamic swirls of color. L.A. Zoo Lights is a not-to-be-missed holiday light experience and has grown brighter every year since its debut in 2014. This year's event features more light animals than ever before, spectacular new additions – both hand-crafted and high-tech – and returning favorites.

Take a self-guided 60- to 90-minute stroll through a large area of the Zoo filled with wildlife-inspired displays, dynamic lights and projections, immersive interactive experiences, fabulous photo ops, and seasonal magic. Enter a fantastical realm to discover more light animals than ever before – with tigers, lions, macaws, monkeys, meerkats, and flamingos "decorating" the Zoo just for you!

\*\*Last Registration Date is Tuesday, December 10, 2019\*\*

## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FOOL AND BEING FULL



One thing truly amazes is how fast Thanksgiving goes. Here I am in the living room

relaxing in my easy chair just one day after Thanksgiving.

My ears are still ringing with all the chatter that went on around our Thanksgiving dinner table. It is so beautiful to get together with family to celebrate.

As I was sitting in my chair, I noticed I was feeling rather stuffed. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is an expert at stuffing turkeys. I am the turkey she stuffs the best. She never takes credit for it because all through the dinner, she asks me, "Don't you think you've had enough?"

She has yet to understand that, especially at a Thanksgiving table, I don't "think." I am not there to think but to stuff myself with all of the deliciousness on the table.

The week before Thanksgiving, I had a doctor's appointment. I discussed an issue with my nurse, which was, "Is a pumpkin a vegetable?"

We had a very lively discussion. She brought in another nurse, which made the debate even more energetic. In the end, we all came to the same conclusion; a pumpkin is a vegetable. If anybody should know this, it would be a nurse.

So, on Thanksgiving, I had my prized vegetable, pumpkin pie, and stuffed myself with it. If this is what vegetables are like, I could eat vegetables all my life, along with carrot cake for dessert.

The only problem, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, does not agree with this. She has an entirely different point of view. As far as she is concerned, pumpkin is not a vegetable and especially pumpkin pie.

I groaned a little bit and rubbed my stomach. Then she said, "Don't you think it's rather foolish to stuff your-

self so much on Thanksgiving?"

Thinking about this, I began to wonder if being full and being a fool is similar?

So, not in such a thinking mode as I should be, I asked my wife. "What is the difference in being full and being a fool?"

"Well," she said rather thoughtfully, "A fool does not know when he crosses the line to becoming full."

I had to think about that for a little while. Therefore, if I do not think I am full, then I am a fool and keep on eating. For the life of me, I cannot figure out how that can be a foolish thing to do.

I asked my wife. "How can being full make you a fool?"

"Just go and look in the mirror," she replied.

Being in such a full state that I was in, I did not have the energy to go to the bathroom and look in the mirror.

From the kitchen area, I heard my wife say, "A fool never knows when to quit eating."

I guess I've been a fool for most of my lifetime. My motto, especially around the Thanksgiving table, is, "Just one more piece."

At the time, I did not realize that "one more piece" makes me cross the line into being a very foolish person.

Maybe that is just what life is all about. You don't know that you've had enough until after you have eaten "one more piece." My problem is, when do I stop?

Is it that foolish to become full at a Thanksgiving dinner? After all, what is Thanksgiving dinner for if I do not leave the table full?

I came by this legitimately. It goes back to my maternal grandmother.

We would all gather at grandma's place for Thanksgiving dinner, and

boy could she stir up a Thanksgiving dinner. She had on the table everything you could ever imagine eating for Thanksgiving. Some things on the table I did not recognize, but, being at grandma's table at Thanksgiving time, I ate it.

After we were at the table for a while, people started to leave. Grandma always would say, "Please, just one more bite before you go. There's plenty left."

Of course, being at grandma's Thanksgiving table, she made the rules, and we abided by them out of deep respect. None of us had to be overly convinced to stay for just one more bite. We all left being as full as we possibly could be under her instructions.

I do not think being full is the same as being a fool. In my calculations, not stuffing yourself at grandma's Thanksgiving table would make you a fool. Who wants to be that kind of a fool? Remember, grandmas are never wrong!

A real fool would be someone leaving grandma's Thanksgiving dinner without being full. Believe me, I am not that kind of fool.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, it is my purpose to eat as much as I can to become as full as I can be. After all, on New Year's Day, I am going to make a resolution not to eat so much at each meal. That is then, but now I indulge myself to such an extent that I am genuinely full.

As I thought of this, I remembered what Solomon said. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20).

A wise man will walk to the table of the Lord and stuff himself with God's goodness until he is full and overflowing. That sure is not being foolish.



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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



### IS IT EASY TO FORGET?

It's really easy to forget how privileged we are living in this paradise. It's easy to complain about how much traffic there is and how just getting home avoiding the detours and the construction has made each day a perilous adventure. Although I had a very nice Thanksgiving Holiday I was in a kind of angry state when my wife and I, accompanied by my son and his girlfriend, hit the road on Saturday to begin a short Palm Springs Vacation. True, the ride was beautiful as the mountains were snow-covered and majestic. Still, there was traffic and a long slowdown near Redlands and there was this pain associated with my hernia that I was trying

to forget and of course other things bothered me.

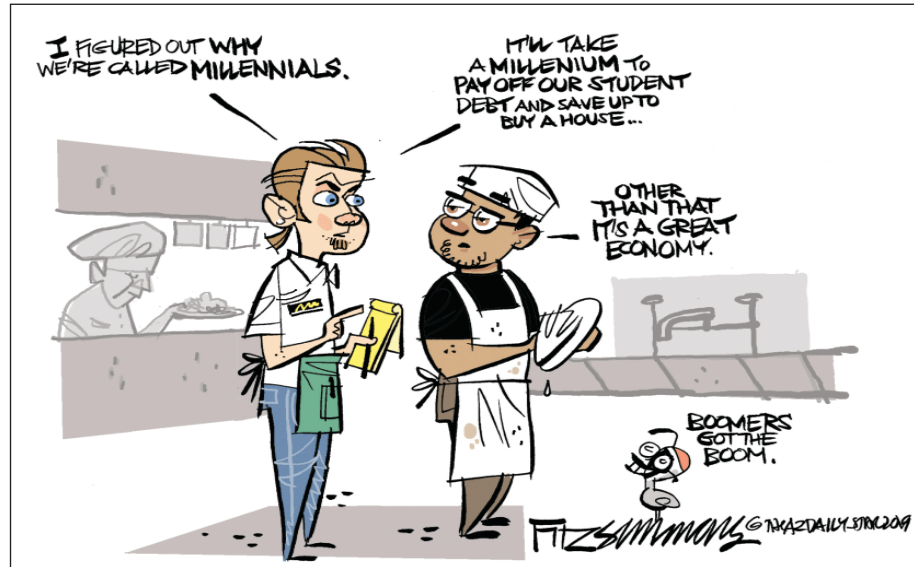
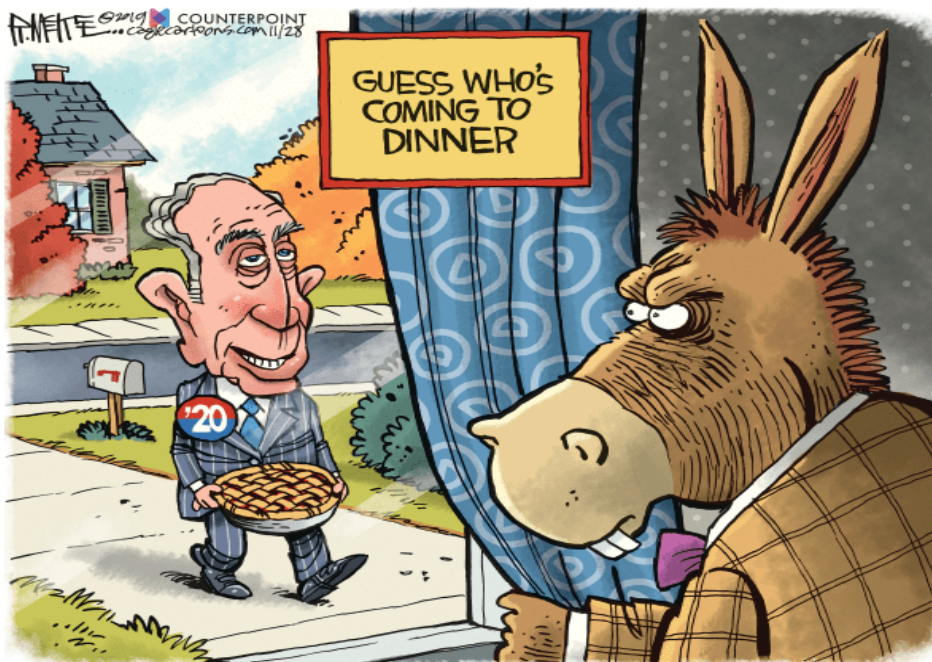
On the way out there, once we reached the Palm Springs Highway, we thought of stopping and going up the Palm Springs tram-way but the idea frightened my son's girlfriend. I should let you know that both my son and his girlfriend are Learning Disabled adults who have difficulty finding many things they can enjoy. Both of them have their own particular fears and limitations which continually get in their way. Be that as it may, they both love animals. My wife thought the night experience at the Living Desert Zoo was something they could and would both enjoy.

As usual she was right. The zoo was all lit up at night. Please understand that this is not a typical zoo made up of animals in cages. This is a huge vast area of desert land in which the animals roam about freely appearing and disappearing according to their own whim. Near each enclosed area were life size statues that captured the animals in motion and, just when you thought you were looking at statues, real-life giraffes would appear. It was all pretty great but the statue that really got to me was a huge wolf (maybe it was a coyote) standing on his hind legs with his mouth wide open seemingly howling into the night.

The zoo was fun; but the fun was easy to forget. In the morning I awoke, still thinking about the wolf-coyote howling in the night. For one of the first times in my life I tried to write a poem on a scrap of paper I found. LISTEN CLOSELY -CAN YOU HEAR IT -IT'S A HOWL IN THE NIGHT- IT'S SOMEONE BEING BORN- -WITHOUT SEEING THE LIGHT. I won't bore you with the rest of the poem but it captured my feeling. I am frustrated and often angry without much sense of why. Early in the morning I went down alone to the hot tub and found myself surrounded by Trump fans. Somehow I ended up sharing my story about wanting to howl into the night and these middle-Americans from Montana surprisingly related to what I was saying. They too wanted to howl and when my wife came down and joined us in the hot tub we were invited to visit them at their ranch-- they would even pick us up at the airport. We probably will never visit but I was delighted but I forgot the delight when my son and his girlfriend came down to the pool. The pool was only 4 feet deep but my son's girlfriend was so afraid she could not even get into the water. My wife and I tried coaxing her in and were unsuccessful and left the two of them outside the pool. My wife and I looked at each other commiserating silently on how hard it was to be around her. We ignored them for a while and then, to our surprise, noticed the two of them dancing in the shallow water. I felt so proud of my son, realizing that despite his disabilities, he had hooked up with someone he could help, and experience his own abilities, and maybe love. While I was thinking about my son my wife said "Can you imagine how hard that is for her?" It's easy to forget.

I do wish I was different but so often I have plans for other people that are simply inappropriate and I forget my good feeling and clam up and feel misunderstood and want to go howling into the night.

One final note. I was told last night by my son that his girlfriend has been told something frightening by her Social Worker. He did not want to discuss it but finally told us that if she doesn't start taking better care of herself she is going to end up being moved to a group home. Imagine. They have been semi-together for fourteen years but live apart and see each other only on weekends. I don't like to even imagine the pain they are going through while you (I mean I) are judging them. It's easy to forget what it's like inside other people and when you do feel it maybe you try and forget it but sometimes it's not that easy to forget and you want to just howl into the night and maybe even move to Montana and just worry about yourself. I think it's better to howl into the night and keep trying.



## LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN

### TOM PURCELL

### OK TAIL-END BOOMERS



I don't blame millennials and Gen Z for mocking baby boomers with the trending "OK boomer" meme.

I've had my issues with baby boomers, too.

"OK boomer," reports dictionary.com, "is a viral internet slang phrase used, often in a humorous or ironic manner, to call out or dismiss out-of-touch or close-minded opinions associated with the baby boomer generation and older people more generally."

It's sarcasm used to tell baby boomers that they're too critical, condescending and dismissive toward younger folks' anxieties and concerns. I feel those younger folks' pain.

Technically, I'm a boomer, born near the tail end of that generation, which began in 1946 and concluded in 1964 – but that 18-year span is far too lengthy to accommodate a single generation.

Sociologist and author Jonathan Pontell argues that Americans born between 1954 and 1965 are actually part of their own Generation Jones.

Boy, is he right. I have little in common with front-end boomers.

When front-end boomers were indulging in drugs and free love, we tail-enders were doing our homework.

While they were traveling the country in VW Beetles and partying at Woodstock, we were doing our chores.

While they dreamed of changing the world, we dreamed of getting collegiate business degrees and good-paying jobs.

Front-enders have criticized, dismissed and condescended to us tail-enders for years.

It's human nature: Older people always complain that younger people aren't doing things right.

If you're young, don't be so sensitive. Who else do old fogies have to complain about?

I know younger generations worry about their six-figure college loans, climate change and many other issues – I know you blame preceding generations for these woes.

But this tail-ender doesn't see gloom and doom. Sure, we need to address lots of things, but the truth is there's never been a better time to be alive – there is evidence that the world is doing better than ever. Our economy, envy of the world, is expanding.

Technological innovation, already massive, is increasing rapidly. I can't wait to see the solutions – for disease, poverty, climate change – it will bring in the not-so-distant future.

According to Cafehayek.com, today's typical middle-class American lives better than billionaire John D. Rockefeller did 100 years ago.

He didn't have air conditioning, sophisticated medical treatments, safe, fast travel and limitless dining and entertainment options.

He certainly didn't have social media to create humorous retorts that silence whole generations.

Here's more to be hopeful about: Bill Gates' charity reported in 2018 that childhood deaths fell from 12 million in 1990 to 5 million in 2017. More than 90 percent of children now attend primary school. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty declined from one-third in 1990 to one-tenth.

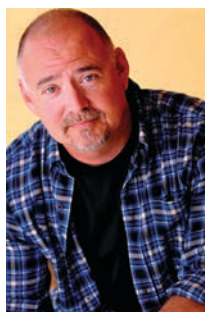
Younger generations have much to look forward to. They'll do lots of good work with powerful tools. We all should agree on that.

Hey, I'm a tail-end boomer who's heard plenty from my elders about shortcomings. If you're young, I hope you'll take my well-intentioned optimism about your generation in that spirit, rather than dismiss it with a trendy catch-phrase.

But I can understand why you might meet my optimism with a quick "OK tail-end boomer." I just hope you'll be as understanding when your generation one day goes codger and your children's generation dismisses your generation with a humorous catch-phrase of their own.

### BLAIR BESS

### IF TRUMP IS SO INNOCENT, WHY IS HE STILL HELPING RUSSIA?



Democrat and Republican members of the Senate Intelligence Committee recently announced that no direct evidence of a conspiracy between Russian intelligence operatives and Trump campaign officials has

been uncovered by their investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Despite the president's mistaken belief that he has been fully-exonerated (he hasn't), the more pressing issue is whether he'll finally accept the U.S. intelligence community's well-documented conclusion that Russian operatives did everything in their power to shape American public opinion and exert influence over voters.

Based on newly-disclosed actions taken by his administration, it appears that he either doesn't or (more likely) doesn't want to. The Daily Beast reports that two teams of federal officials whose mandate was to fight foreign election interference are being dramatically downsized. This will leave the U.S. woefully unprepared to address election threats in 2020. Apparently, the president is quite pleased by the past work-product of his comrades in the Kremlin and expects them to deliver once more.

The U.S. Intelligence Community's Worldwide Threat Assessment, presented to Congress a few weeks ago, states "we anticipate that all our adversaries and strategic competitors will increasingly build and integrate cyber espionage, attack, and influence capabilities into their efforts to influence U.S. policies and advance their own national security interests."

That appears to be confirmed in reports from multiple media outlets detailing attempts to use Facebook and Twitter to launch disinformation campaigns. According to Politico, Twitter recently removed 2,617 "malicious accounts" that may have originated in Iran. Facebook announced that it had suspended 783 Iranian pages and accounts on its platforms, including Instagram, for "engaging in coordinated inauthentic behavior."

Twitter has suspended 418 accounts that appear to emanate from Russia for mimicking behavior similar to that exhibited by the Internet Research Agency – the Russian troll farm responsible for many of the propaganda campaigns that raged during the 2016 election. It also took down 2,000 accounts located in Venezuela that have engaged in a "state-backed influence campaign targeting domestic audiences."

No reasonable (emphasis on reasonable) leader could possibly ignore ongoing assaults on the hearts and minds of the American people. Nor would he ignore

the advice of his hand-picked intelligence chiefs. Yet, this leader does. Because his friends in the Motherland continue to employ cyber warfare as an ongoing offensive strategy, quite possibly designed to bolster his stranglehold on the White House. It should come as no surprise then that the Trump administration is taking steps to ensure that this barrage of disinformation continues to rain down on the American people unimpeded.

Not so within the Putin Regime. They're very much afraid that outside forces will employ tactics like those used against, causing the Russian people to rise and challenge Putin's leadership.

Legislation passed in 2015 by the Duma, the lower chamber in the Russian Parliament, requires that personal data of Russian citizens be stored on servers located in Russia. This should not by any means be construed as a measure designed to protect that country's citizens. Instead, it is an attempt to circumvent external servers that power Facebook, Twitter and Google, allowing security officials to monitor dissident activities and deny the Russian people access to sites where the free-flow of information and speech might threaten those in control.

Officials at the highest levels of the Russian government and our own are in both instances taking steps to solidify their positions of power. In the case of Putin and company, attempts are being made to close the floodgates to information, while Team Trump is doing everything it can to leave them wide-open.

Clearly, the president fears that concerted efforts on the part of our intelligence community to prevent our adversaries from tampering with elections, sowing discord, and spreading disinformation might cause the Trumpian knot to unravel. And the legitimacy of his presidency to be called into question yet again.

Whether Trump directly engaged or conspired with outside forces to corrupt the results of the 2016 presidential election is still unclear. Results of both the Mueller investigation and a more vigorous investigation by the Democrat-controlled House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence may paint a more accurate picture once their work is finished.

Believing he has been vindicated by the Senate Intelligence Committee, President Trump continues to grow more emboldened. Which, to use one of his favorite expressions, is "sad." And a mistake. Because his administration's recent efforts to stymie future cyberattacks call into question whether there really is "No collusion." And that will only cause government watchdogs to sniff around his administration more aggressively.

























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In Escrow

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In Escrow

Azusa – Sierra Palms Community  
829 E Ponderosa Drive | 3br/2ba/1,181sqft  
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