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HAPPY
Holidays

FROM THE
Webb-Martin Group

Sierra Madre
Market Report August - October 2020

Single-Family Homes - Averages | August - October 2020

3 BEDROOMS	3 BATHROOMS	2,142 SQFT	\$1,234,000 SOLD PRICE	\$605 \$ PER SQFT
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Condominium Homes - Averages | August - October 2020

3 BEDROOMS	3 BATHROOMS	1,449 SQFT	\$698,000 SOLD PRICE	\$492 \$ PER SQFT
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JUST LISTED

21 East Alegria Avenue
Sierra Madre 91024
21EastAlegria.com

4 Beds | 5 Baths | 2,527 sf
Listed for: \$1,189,000

IN ESCROW
MULTIPLE OFFERS

707 Woodland Drive
Sierra Madre 91024

2 Beds + Den | 1.5 Baths | 1,344 sf
707WoodlandDrive.com

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THE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE: THE WHAT, WHERE & HOW

By Kevin McGuire, MVNews

The Sierra Madre Planning & Community Preservation Department hosted a virtual Community Workshop on December 1, 2020 to learn more about the Housing Element update including projected housing needs and possible sites in Sierra Madre. The workshop was hosted by Vin-cent Gonzalez, Karen Warner, Lexi Journey and Clare Lin, with an opportunity for questions from the community.

Along with all other jurisdictions in Southern California, Sierra Madre is mandated by state law to prepare a Housing Element update for State certification.

So, what is the Housing Element?

It's an analysis of housing needs, considering all income levels, and provides strategies for meeting those needs. It is a vital part of a City's General Plan. The Housing Element update needs to cover eight years, so the current period is from 2021-2029. The Housing Element is comprised of five major components.

1. A review of the current Housing Element
2. Assessment of current housing needs
3. Identification of resources (land, financial and administrative)
4. Evaluation of constraints to housing
5. Housing Plan: Goals, Policy and Programs.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) regions have been tasked with providing 1.34 million housing units during this period. This is the highest the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) has ever been. Though not finalized yet, SCAG has determined Sierra Madre should produce 204 housing units broken down to the following income levels.

Income Category	Housing Units
Very Low Income (<50% Area Median Income for LA County (AMI))	79
Low Income (50-80% AMI)	39
Moderate Income (80-120% AMI)	35
Above Moderate (>120% AMI)	51
TOTAL	204

This is a RHNA increase of 270% for Sierra Madre, but still much less than most neighboring communities. It's important to note, that though the Housing Element recommends the housing needs in a community, it does not require the units be built.

So why Sierra Madre?

According to the State Department of Housing and Community Development, California needs approximately 200,000 housing units per year to robustly keep up with the booming population growth in the state. Because it hasn't been able to meet that demand, housing prices have sky-rocketed to the point where professionals such as teachers, nurses, and public safety officers, to name a few, cannot afford to own a home here. Less professionals in these areas impacts the economy so each region must do their "fair share" to accommodate these needs.

Potentially suitable, multi-family sites being considered includes:

- Site 1. Mariposa parking lots
- Site 2. Nine properties at 200 block W. Mariposa
- Site 3. Five properties on W. Mariposa Post Office parcels
- Site 4. Nine properties on Suffolk Ave.
- Site 5. Seven properties on East Montecito
- Site 6. One property at 491 W Sierra Madre.

Other potential sites include Church sites around Sierra Madre. A few of the options would require a vote to be eligible.

The City has conducted three public hearings to date to discuss potential site for the Housing Element update. The next steps for the Planning Commission will be to once again meet with City Council to report on community input and confirm sites strategy for Housing Element. Once approved, the Housing Element update will be sent to Housing and Community Development for final certification.

If you would like to view the workshop or have a property in mind for a potential housing site, visit

http://cityofsierramadre.hosted.civiclive.com/news/what_s_new/housingelement.

BRENT BARTLETT NAMED SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF



The City of Sierra Madre is pleased to announce Interim Fire Chief Brent Bartlett has been appointed to serve as Fire Chief for the City of Sierra Madre.

"I'm absolutely thrilled with the promotion of Chief Bartlett! He's proven himself repeatedly and especially this year with the Bobcat Fire while dealing with the pandemic," said Mayor John Capoccia. "As a long-time resident and Sierra Madre firefighter, he knows the town and department well. Sierra Madre is fortunate to have such a capable and well-known leader to head our Fire Department!"

Chief Bartlett brings 20 years of fire service experience to his role as Chief and has spent the past nine months serving as the City's Interim Fire Chief. Prior to his career in fire service, Bartlett served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry squad leader during Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Upon returning from his service, Bartlett joined the City of Sierra Madre as a volunteer firefighter. He worked his way through the ranks from volunteer firefighter receiving promotions to Engineer, Captain, and eventually Interim Chief.

"It is an honor to be appointed with this opportunity to serve this community of neighbors, friends, and family, in the town that has been my home for 26 years. It's been said, 'If you want to create change, you can't do it riding backward. You have to find a way to move yourself forward,'" said Bartlett. "I am grateful to have been surrounded by good leaders, who have taught me along the way, and I am looking forward to the great things the dedicated ladies and gentlemen of this department will aspire to. Thank you for

placing this trust in me. I am committed to serving you wholeheartedly."

Bartlett holds numerous California State Fire Marshall (CSFM) certificates, including CSFM Fire and Chief Officer certificates. In addition, Bartlett will be completing the Executive Chief Officer certification early in the upcoming year. Bartlett's education background also includes an Associate Degree in Fire Technology and he is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership Studies through Humboldt State University.

"Chief Bartlett has shown remarkable poise as well as consistent and steady leadership under extraordinarily difficult circumstances during his time as Interim Chief," said City Manager Gabriel Engeland. "Chief Bartlett led the City's response to the Bobcat Fire and his management in the Fire Department during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has helped to keep Sierra Madre residents and employees safe."

To add to Bartlett's extensive fire service career in the City, he is also a familiar face in town. Bartlett has been a resident of Sierra Madre for the past 26 years and has been very involved in the community through Sierra Madre Little League, Sierra Madre Girls' Softball, and Sierra Madre Elementary School PTA.

Outside of his service to the community, Bartlett and his wife Roxi have two adult children. In their leisure time, they enjoy hiking, camping, and spending quality time with their family.

He truly dedicated to Sierra Madre and you never know when or where you might see him!



The Spirit of Sierra Madre could not be hampered this past Saturday. Normally the Winter Festival, complete with snow would have been held. With the new round of public safety restrictions, all events were cancelled. However, two visitors from the Pack Station, 'Moonshine' and 'Heasley' took a socially distanced stroll through town on Small Business Saturday. They also stopped to chat with Santa who was in the Bandshell and caught the attention of two well masked, socially distant children who were out for a walk with their parents. Nice safe surprise for everyone. Hmm, I wonder if Chief Bartlett ran into Santa too?

DECEMBER 8th CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING TO BE HELD ONLINE ONLY DUE TO NEW COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS.
SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 4

Sierra Madre ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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A WORD FROM THE CHIEF



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Tis' the season to be jolly, and it also a time when thieves who are not feeling the holiday spirit may look for opportunities to steal someone's property. It's well known that crime spikes this time of year – and although many of us know the basics around holiday theft prevention, here a few safety tips some of us may not consider.

Be extra careful with the Cyber shopping. “Porch Pirates”, or individuals who like to steal deliveries zero in during the Holidays. Make sure to take extra care with delivered goods. Consider making neighbors aware of expected packages and keep an eye out for that Amazon vehicle for your neighbors.

Break down shipping boxes. Once you receive your packages and remove the goods, take a few minutes to break down the shipping boxes into smaller pieces so they can be discarded discreetly. Large boxes from popular brands left curbside can clue thieves into what's inside your home.

Mums the word on social media. It is so tempting to share how you spent all day shopping for gifts, however, it's best not to. Many burglars used social networks last year to find out when people were not home.

Dispose of debit card receipts carefully. While rushing to complete a purchase or pay a restaurant check, it's easy to leave duplicate receipts behind. What's printed on these seemingly simple pieces of paper contain information that a savvy identity theft criminal might find useful.

Consider using one credit card. Try and use only one credit card for holiday shopping. That way, if it's lost or stolen, you only have to cancel one. Also, it makes tracking and paying attention to charges much easier.

Place valuable items in your trunk before your next stop. Most people know not to leave packages in plain sight in the car, but thieves pay attention to what gets loaded into trunks too, especially during the holidays. If your shopping spree takes you to multiple locations in a day, whenever possible transfer goods to your trunk before you arrive at your next stop. With the right tool or “shaved key” in hand, opportunistic criminals can empty your trunk in a matter of seconds.

Also, please remember to lock your car and home, and if going on vacation, request a vacation check through Sierra Madre Police Department.

Happy Holidays, and please stay safe and healthy!

Rodrick Armalin
Chief of Police, Sierra Madre Police Department
(626)355-1414

Virtual Drag BINGO with Peachy



DATE: **Saturday Dec 5**

TIME: **6pm - 8pm**

via ZOOM
from your own home

PRICE: **\$15 per card**

purchase cards here

SPONSOR:



Drag Queen Bingo is sponsored by the Friends of Sierra Madre Public Library. All proceeds will be used to support programs, services and acquisitions of the Library. For more information, please visit us at our website www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org, our Facebook Page, or call 626-355-7186

Who Has The Best Holiday Decorations? Is It You? Or Your Neighbor?

THE MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS & THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE want to know!

The Mountain Views News is reviving their Best Holiday Decorations contest this year in Sierra Madre and the City of Sierra Madre is joining with us. So, now is the time to go all out with your holiday decorations.

Our Photo Santa will be driving around town looking for the the best of the best! PLUS.....we will give you the chance to vote for the People's Choice!



Decorations must be completed by Saturday, December 19, 2020.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED! PHOTO SANTA WILL DRIVE UP AND DOWN EVERY STREET IN SIERRA MADRE LOOKING FOR THE BEST!

VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE! Drive around town and tell us what address you think is the best!

Voting will begin on December 19th through December 24th.

Winners will be featured in the Special Holiday Edition on December 26, 2020.

Where Your Community News Come First

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino



Wistaria Thrift Shop

INVITES YOU TO THEIR 2020 ANNUAL

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

Holiday Decorations, Gifts, Toys, Jewelry & Surprises
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December 3, 4 & 5
Thurs. / Fri. / Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In Both Essick House / Shop
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Req'd: Masks, Temp Chks & Social Distancing
Max: 14 Shoppers In House; 4 in Shop @ a time

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Proceeds Benefit our 2020-2021 28 Community Charities & Scholarships

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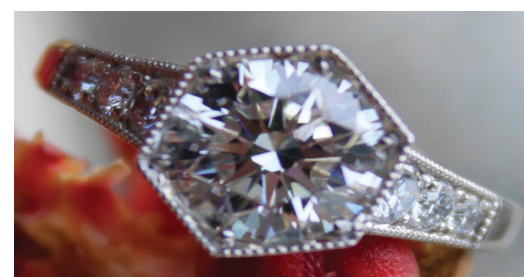
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JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER EVENTS

- 08** DEMENTIA COMMUNICATION SKILLS "A GLIMPSE INTO THE POSITIVE APPROACH TO CARE" PRESENTED BY LEANDRASIMS, OUR MEMORY CARE DIRECTOR AND PAC CERTIFIED TRAINER
- 10** MANAGING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PRESENTED BY HEALTHPRO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO LIVE WITH AND TREAT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
- 14** VIRTUAL SESSION- CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP WITH LISA BRICKER THE KENSINGTON ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
- 17** TIPS FOR MANAGING YOUR LOVED ONE'S CARE JOIN US TO LEARN HOW TO BE CONNECTED, PREPARED, AND ORGANIZED WHEN MANAGING CARE GROUP
- 28** VIRTUAL SESSION- CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP WITH LISA BRICKER THE KENSINGTON ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MANAGING CARE GROUP

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA PASADENA ALTADENA MONROVIA

City of Sierra Madre

ORDINANCE 1432

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA AMENDING SECTION 17.08.020 (WORDS, TERMS, PHRASES DEFINED), SECTION 17.20.015 (DEFINITIONS), AND CHAPTER 17.68 (PARKING), OF TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, Chapter 17.68, titled “Parking” was adopted in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a General Plan Update in July 2015 and as part of the General Plan Implementation Program, the City is currently in the process of amending various ordinances in the Municipal Code, including the Parking Code; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to update the Sierra Madre Municipal Code’s residential and non-residential parking standards.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission on February 1, 2018, September 1, 2019, February 6, 2020, and August 6, 2020 conducted duly noticed public meetings at which time it heard and considered public testimony being received and made part of the public record; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly given of the public hearing on the matter, which public hearing was held before the Planning Commission on September 3, 2020, with all testimony being received being made part of the public record.

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2020, the City Council remanded Ordinance 1432 back to the Planning Commission to allow staff to present new information that was not previously considered by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2020, the Commission reviewed the staff analysis which included (1) parking case studies, (2) analysis of on-street and public parking facilities, and (3) comparative city parking matrix for sample use classifications; and

WHEREAS, at the November 5, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission forwarded an amended report and recommendation to the City Council for consideration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The Recitals above are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. Amendment. The City Council recommends the adoption of the proposed ordinance, attached to the staff report as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, amending Section 17.08.020 (Words, Terms, Phrases Defined), Section 17.20.015 (Definitions), and Chapter 17.68 (Parking) of Title 17 (Zoning) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. The Municipal Code Text Amendment is consistent with the Goals and Objectives of the 2015 General Plan Update, specifically Implementation Measure 5 – “The City shall develop a plan that addresses parking, walkability, and pedestrian activity in the core area.” The amendments also update parking standards overall to ensure the use, activity, and operations of residential and non-residential uses provide adequate parking facilities for the intended use. The proposed amendments will also maintain an area in the City for commercial development through the review and update of appropriate parking standards and regulations for new construction; General Plan Policy 34.2 requires that new construction adjacent to a parking area be designed to have access from the parking area as well as the street; Policy L34.3 directs identification of opportunities to improve pedestrian access from public parking area to commercial uses, particularly the access from the lot on Mariposa Avenue to the commercial uses on the south side of Sierra Madre Boulevard. Policy L35.3 encourages the accommodation of commercial uses intended to attract visitors such as restaurants and specialty retail services, and encouraging businesses that attract more people to the downtown area.


SECTION 4. CEQA. The Planning Commission finds the adoption of this amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301, of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations and is also exempt from review because it does not meet the definition of a project under CEQA Guidelines sections 15061, subdivision (b)(3), and section 15378, subdivision (a) and subdivision (b)(5). The proposed changes to Chapter 17.68 have no potential for resulting in physical changes to the environment because the amendments are intended to establish standards to ensure the use, activity, and operations of residential and non-residential uses provide adequate parking facilities for the intended use. Any particular proposed project will be required to undergo the City’s entitlement process and appropriate review under CEQA.

SECTION 5. Severability. If any sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any part hereof or exhibit hereto is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof or exhibit thereto. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that anyone or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraph, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published or posted in accordance with California Government Code Section 36933, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and his/her certification, together with proof of the publication, to be entered in the book of Ordinances of the City Council.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its adoption pursuant to California Government Code Section 36937.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON this 10th day of November, 2020.




December 5th Best Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library are gathering books and DVDs for the December Drive-Thru Book Sale. It will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the library, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre. Featured will be large grocery bags filled with books from the genres of History, Biography, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Home and Garden, Mystery/Thrillers, Kids and Young Adults for only \$5.00. In addition, there will be some DVD bags with 8 films of Romance, Action, Drama, Comedy or Kids, also for \$5.00 each.

Enter the library parking lot from 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd. and give your order to the friendly Girl Scouts under the canopy. Drive on to the large container where masked and gloved volunteers will fill your order and load it. No need to leave your car! Exit the lot on Montecito Ave. It’s that easy.

This sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library. All proceeds will be used to support programs, services and acquisitions for the library. For more information, please visit us at our web site www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org, our Facebook page; or call 626-355-7186. See you at the sale and thank you for helping the Friends support our wonderful library.



SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

November 22, to November 28, 2020

During this period the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to 241 Calls for service

Failure to Yield

On 11-23-20 at 12:15AM, officers on patrol attempted a traffic stop of a vehicle for violations. The vehicle fled and a vehicle pursuit was initiated. The driver of the vehicle drove at a high rated speed with disregard for the safety of the public through

Sierra Madre. The pursuit continued on the west bound 210 freeway, to the city of Glendale where the subject ultimately collided into a parked vehicle and fled on foot. A perimeter was set up and the driver was located and arrested with the assistance of Pasadena Police Air support, Glendale PD and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Dept., Crescenta Valley Deputies. The driver was arrested for several moving violations and warrants. The driver was taken to Pasadena Jail and booked. Case to DA’s office for filing.

D.U.I.

On 11-23-20 at 9:45PM, officers responded to a solo overturned vehicle collision in the area of Lima St. and Orange Grove Ave. The driver was seen running away from the scene of the accident. Officers later contacted the driver at the front of his residence. The driver appeared intoxicated and officers conducted a Standard Field Sobriety Tests. The driver was arrested and cited for D.U.I. and hit and run for property damage. Case to DA’s office for filing

Physical Altercation

On 11-25-20 at 9:30AM, officers observed a male subject laying on the sidewalk lighting an item on fire. Officers made contact with the subject and asked for his name. Subject provided officers with a false name. While conducting a search of the subject he began pulling away and a physical altercation occurred making it necessary to place the subject on the ground. While attempting to handcuff the subject on the ground, he became more combative and made attempts to take the officer’s taser away from him. The officers were able to gain control and place the subject under arrest and take him to the Pasadena Police Jail for booking. Case to DA’s office for filing

Fire Dept. Assist

On 11-26-20 at 3:45PM, officers responded to a structure fire in the 300 block of Sycamore Ln. Officers assisted with the evacuation of nearby residents and traffic control. There were no reported injuries.

Theft from a Vehicle

Officers were dispatched to the 00 block of E. Carter Avenue regarding a vehicle burglary that occurred at on 11-27-00 at 7:00PM. Further investigation revealed the vehicle was left unlocked and a radiator was taken from the backseat of the vehicle. Case to Detectives

PLEASE

STAY SAFE!

SOCIALLY DISTANCE!

WEAR A MASK!

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

“That First Noel’s come ‘round again,
Just like it does each year,
To tell us it’s Christmas, finally it’s Christmas,
Joyfully it’s Christmas,
The best time of the year, the best time of the year...”

This year Christmas decorations were all over town even before Thanksgiving! Everyone seems to agree with me that “We need a little Christmas, right this very minute!” and they’re making it happen.

This song up at the top goes on to tell us that the tree is in the window, the wreath is on the door (pre-lit from Costco with colored lights on a timer), and about a million ornaments are scattered on the floor! Most probably you’re way past that stage. Your tree is up and gorgeous. You finally untangled the lights and put the angel up on top. But here’s the question you’ll be facing in a few days when the presents are all unwrapped and everything you got everybody was exactly what they wanted: Why is it that putting up Christmas decorations is so much more fun than taking them down? Also, why is it that the Christmas decorations that seem so few and so light as you take them out of the plastic crates have doubled (like wire hangers) in size and tripled in weight and you can’t remember when on earth you carried all those to the living room.

Playing Christmas music and rediscovering each cute little Christmas item is such fun and then deciding where to put each one is high adventure. I’m especially partial to all my little lighted houses. My mother started collecting them many years ago and gave her collection to me. I have added to it over the years and now think I have about twenty of them. They look fantastic on top of the bookcases, and the tall cabinet. The most interesting part of putting these things up is, of course, not falling off the step ladder. The second most interesting part is figuring out how to get them all plugged in somewhere. The ones on top of the bookcase in my office even turn on and off with the wall switch, which is fabulous.

Every Christmas I am reminded of Santa’s Band, which was John’s favorite Christmas decoration. Many years ago he went to Costco and came home with his eyes alight and excitement spilling out of his every word as he described this wonderful band of little musicians attached to bells and electrically driven so every time you turned it on, it played a Christmas carol. They had quite a repertoire and the band leader, of course, was Santa. John went to Costco several times and came home each time with more stories of the glories of Santa’s Band. I finally took his hand, looked deep into his eyes and said, “You know, honey, you can buy Santa’s Band yourself, with your own money!” He had never thought of that. Back he went and Santa’s Band decorated the top of one of our bookcases every year from then on. Yes, it got up there after I spent an hour untangling all the wires, bells and little people, but he loved it. Apparently, all our children loved it, too, and there was lively discussion over who should have Santa’s Band after John started celebrating Christmas in heaven. Our daughter, Patti, ended up with it and I was happy to hand it over and let her untangle all those wires and bells.

We all have special nostalgic goodies that fill our hearts with memories and happy thoughts. Pictures of our children taken in Sunday School, our grandchildren’s little hands and feet on ceramic tiles, tiny felt Christmas stockings with everyone’s name on them, glued on with glitter. I even have some little glass ornaments which were my Aunt Helen’s, dating from the 1930s.

When we were first married, we rented a lovely house with a high beamed ceiling up on Canon Drive, right behind where Christian author, Fay Angus, lived, and when our first Christmas together arrived, I was about hysterical with excitement. We went down to the railroad yards where trains were coming in from wherever they loaded on those trees, I have a feeling it was the Pacific Northwest. Railroad workers pitched them off the cars and anyone who was standing there could pick out whatever tied-up tree they wanted. I don’t remember it costing very much. We selected an enormous Noble fir and tied it to the top of our little blue Ford Falcon. Got it home and it had to have been ten feet tall or taller and was the most gorgeous thing we’d ever seen. We had just a few things to put on it, but it was our tree and our home and our children opened presents under it and I will remember always what a wonderful time that was.

My Christmas tree now is an artificial one from Michael’s, pre-lit, which is another genius idea. Not having to put lights on the tree makes my Christmas way merrier. It looks great and, while I thought I’d put a picture of the tree with my column, I just couldn’t when I saw Eric Van Achtoven’s 24’ snowman and Snoopy on his motorcycle. Look for these guys...you can’t miss them!

The song up at the beginning goes on to say:
“But that’s not the reason we celebrate the season...
Oh, it’s that baby in the manger,
Christ child in the manger,
Mary kneeling by his side,
Joseph beaming down with pride.
Peace on earth, good will to men,
We celebrate that night again.
Hope was born that Christmas,
Joy was born that Christmas.
Angels filled the sky with light
That first silent night, holy night.
Silent night, holy night.”

(Deanne Davis/David Wheatley - “Star of Wonder – A Christmas Musical”)
I’m hoping all your Christmas memories are merry and bright! To quote Tiny Tim from Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, “God Bless us every one!”
“May the simple joys of Christmas warm your heart, fill your home and last a lifetime.”
My book page: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com): Deanne Davis
Christmas is just a few short weeks away and my books:
“A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter” and
“Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope”
Would be really nice gifts for everyone you know.
You can find them on [Amazon.com](https://www.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>



Bethany Church
of Sierra Madre

Looking for hope and
inspiration during lockdown?
Come join us on YouTube!
Sundays at 10 a.m.

(Search on YouTube for
Bethany Church of Sierra Madre)

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www.bethanychurchsm.org
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Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transmission mitigation efforts, all City Council, Commission and Board meetings will be conducted virtually until further notice. The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. Public comment may be made by e-mail to PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com by 6:00PM. on the day of the meeting. Emails will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record.

Any member of the public may also call into the meeting to provide their comments. To provide public comment by telephone, please call in when your topic of interest is being discussed by the City Council and provide your name and the agenda item number. You will be placed in the cue until the Mayor opens up the topic for public comment.

To participate in public comment, please call:
Phone Number: (669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: 626-232-0232
Password: 232242

The meeting will be streamed live on the City's website at www.cityofsierramadre.com and broadcasted on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

For more information, please contact Assistant City Clerk, Laura Aguilar in the City Clerk's Office via email at LAguilar@cityofsierramadre.com or by telephone at (626) 355-7135.

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

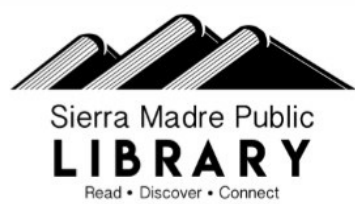
Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

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

Your event must:

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

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to radio@cityofsierramadre.com.



This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

December 7—December 12

Monday

Storytime to Go—View online; kits available outside the Library after 9:00am

Story Adventure at Memorial Park—A new story will be available all week!

The Library Is Sus—Online game at 3:00pm; call the Library to register

Tuesday

Try It Tuesday Craft—View online; kits available outside the Library after 4:00pm

Wednesday

Grab & Go Activity Kit—Available outside the Library after 10:00am

Snackchat: 6th, 7th & 8th Grades—Online at 4:00pm; pickup a snack pack at the Library before the meeting

Thursday

Tails & Tales—View online after 9:00am

Friday

Aloha Friday—View online after 10:00am

Saturday

Snackchat: High School—Online at 4:00pm; pickup a snack pack at the Library before the meeting

Read, Discover, Connect
@ Sierra Madre Public Library



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Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 2020: 113 Years

Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship
Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs cfwc.org & gfwc.org

Wed, 12/16: 11 am - 12 Noon : Zoom



'Out On A Limb' Book Club

"As Bright As Heaven"
by Susan Meissner

Borrow from SM Library, Buy via Vroman's

Call 355-6225 by Tues, 5 pm 112/15 for Zoom Info

Join the [GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)
[SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)



Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 2020: 113 Years

Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship
Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs cfwc.org & gfwc.org

**Wistaria Thrift Shop
Holiday Extravaganza**



**Dec 3, 4, 5
9 am - 2 pm**



Masks, Temp Checks, Social Distancing
14 max in House; 4 max in Shop at one time.

Join the [GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)
[SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)



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HISTORY WITH
SIERRA MADRE VETERANS

Wednesday, November 11, 2020
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
MEMORIAL PARK - SIERRA MADRE

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THROUGH THE PARK AND LEARN ABOUT
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VETERANS. EXHIBIT OPEN ALL DAY.
FREE

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website - smumc.net



Local Area News Brief

Man Charged in Stabbing of Union Station Employee

Pasadena police announced the arrest of a local parolee who was charged Thursday with the alleged stabbing death of a beloved Union Station homeless outreach worker.

In a statement, Lieutenant Carolyn Gordon said 49-year-old Elena Ledford, a resident of Glendale, was found shortly before 8 a.m. in the Hahamongna Watershed Park by a passerby. Evidence from the crime scene indicated she had been stabbed multiple times.

According to Gordon, Ledford was stabbed to death in a parking lot at La Canada High School, directly across the street from where Ledford's body was found. Detectives identified 26-year-old Pasadena resident Adrian Robert Casey as the likely suspect. He was arrested days later she said.

Homicide Detectives also learned Casey had left the state shortly after the murder and on Thursday November 26, he was taken into custody with the assistance of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Pasadena Police Homicide personnel responded to New Mexico in continuance of their investigation, resulting in the recovery of additional evidence, including the murder weapon and other items linking the suspect to the crime she said.

Ledford had worked for Union Station for the past three years.

"Elena was more than a beloved employee and coworker, she was a member of our Union Station Family," Union Station staff said.

Police are asking anyone with information to call the Pasadena Police at (626) 744-4241 or anonymously by calling (800) 222-TIPS (8477).

Officials Release Names of Two Men Killed in Shooting

The names of two men killed Tuesday afternoon sitting on a bench in Villa Parke in Pasadena were released Thursday. A third man survived in critical condition.

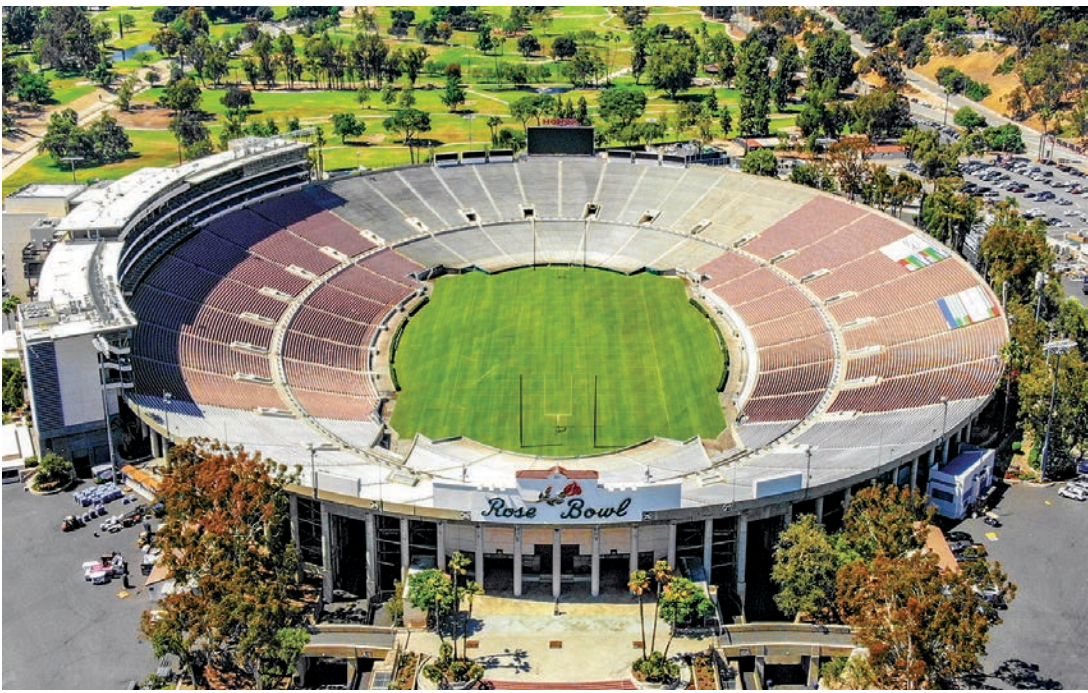
According to police, 51-year-old Cristino Medellin Avila was pronounced dead at the scene. Two other men, 40-year-old Aaron Perez Flores and an unidentified victim were rushed to a nearby hospital were Flores later died from his injuries.

Gunfire was reported Tuesday shortly before 3 p.m. Officers arrived on scene and located three victims in the northeast portion of Villa Parke, 300 block of Parke Street, adjacent to the soccer field, according to a police statment.

A preliminary investigation revealed the victims were at a park bench in the park when the suspect(s) fired upon them and fled in a vehicle, possibly described as a dark colored sedan, they said.

Lieutenant Carolyn Gordon said the investigation is ongoing and no further details were available at the time.

Pasadena Police are urging anyone with information about this case to call (626) 744-4241 or anonymously by calling (800) 222-TIPS (8477).



Rose Bowl Game to Play without Fans

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses announced Thursday that although the game will be played, spectators will not be allowed to attend the Semifinal at the Rose Bowl Game on New Year's Day – that includes guests and family of the teams.

"While we are disappointed that the Rose Bowl Game will not be played in front of spectators, we are pleased that we are still able to hold the game this year, continuing the 100-year plus tradition of The Granddaddy of Them All," said David Eads, Executive Director and CEO of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. "We continue to work closely with health department officials and the Rose Bowl Stadium

to provide the safest possible environment for our game participants."

In a statement officials said, the Tournament of Roses requested special permission to allow for a limited number of spectators or a select number of student-athlete and coach guests at the 2021 Rose Bowl Game. The request was denied based on guidelines related to COVID-19 and LA County's Tier 1 status. This also includes restrictions set forth by the state of California and the City of Pasadena.

The 2021 CFP Semifinal at the Rose Bowl Game will kickoff at 2 p.m. New Year's Day. Spectators will have multiple viewing options via ESPN's extensive

MegaCast coverage, with live action from Rose Bowl Stadium across several ESPN networks and the ESPN App. The safety and well-being of all those involved in the game remain the Tournament of Roses' top priority they said.

For more information on the game visit: tournamentofroses.com and: rosebowlstadium.com.

Sparks of Love 2020

The South Pasadena Fire Department, ABC7, Toys for Tots, and Southern California firefighters are celebrating the 28th year of the Spark of Love Toy Drive! Firefighters and Marines will be joining together to collect and distribute new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for underserved children and teens. Over the years, the Spark of Love Toy Drive has successfully collected and distributed more than nine million toys. The 2020 Spark of Love Toy Drive will run now through Thursday, December 24, 2020.

Pasadena Scavenger Hunt Virtually

So you think you know Pasadena, huh? Well let's put your navigation expertise to the test. Join teens, children and adults in the Pasadena Public Library's first virtual scavenger hunt! Each landmark has its own letter. Correctly identify all of the landmarks and be the first to create a snazzy sentence to win a prize! You even get a prize just for participating! You must take a photo and send the image to the number provided in the confirmation email. You will receive a prompt text back with instructions on where to find your next clue. We hope you have fun getting out and exploring our amazing city! Fun for the whole family! Sign up at: pasadena.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=3520.

Use the phone number in the confirmation email. Text us during the following dates and times to receive instructions. Sunday, Dec. 13-Saturday, Dec. 19 • 1-6 p.m.

Home for the Holidays with a Free Live Stream



The Pasadena Symphony's annual Holiday Candlelight concert will be transformed into Home for the Holidays this season, delivered to viewers in a free live-stream on December 19 at 4pm, available through December 21. Pasadena's most sought-after holiday concert has sold out for the past nine years, and now patrons can enjoy this beloved event from the best seats in their house. This heartwarming community celebration will carry on the Pasadena Symphony's tradition of filling your holidays with the joy of music.

Music Director David Lockington will host this festive concert that features an array of ensembles including the Los Angeles Children's Chorus (pictured), the Donald Brinegar Singers and the L.A. Bronze Handbell Ensemble, along with a sextet of Pasadena Symphony musicians. Lockington will also appear throughout the program on cello, including for a piece he composed himself, with solo handbell artist Linda Krantz. Special guest Lisa Vroman will add her sparkling vocals to the performance. Regarded as a "musical and theatrical

marvel" by the San Francisco Chronicle, Vroman has countless Broadway credits under her belt, most notably starring for over eight years on Broadway, in San Francisco, and in Los Angeles as Christine Daaé in The Phantom of the Opera.

This year's program has something for everyone to ring in the holiday season, from traditional holiday classics to popular standards. Hear Silent Night, What Child is This?, Carol of the Bells, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, Imagine, The Nutcracker Suite, Winter Wonderland, Let it Snow, and many more cherished favorites. Top off your holidays with lasting memories for the whole family at this time-honored tradition, now available for free from the comfort of your own living room.

Home for the Holidays will be streamed to the public on Saturday, December 19 at 4:00pm and will be available for free for 48 hours. Watch on our website at pasadenasympphony-pops.org or subscribe to our YouTube channel to view it as part of the community with comments: youtube.com/ThePasadenaSymphony.

South Pasadena Blood Drive

The South Pasadena Library is pleased to partner once again with the Red Cross: sign up today to donate during our blood drive in the Library Community Room (1115 El Centro Street) on Tuesday, December 22 from 1pm-7pm. Visit: redcrossblood.org and search for SOPASLIB. ON THE DAY OF THE DRIVE: Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by completing your pre-donation reading and health history questions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass.

Altadena Library Closure and Pause of Curbside Services

Following Public Health guidelines, the Altadena Libraries are pausing all staff and public access to the Altadena Library District buildings starting Monday through at least January 4, 2021.

Don't want your checkouts sitting around your home for the next month?

Outdoor book returns at both libraries will be locked as of Wednesday, December 9. If you can't drop off your items before then, no need to worry. Due dates of all materials currently checked out have been extended until at least January 10. Placing holds in the online catalog will be disabled until library staff return to the buildings.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES INFORMED IN CHALLENGING TIMES.

Visit www.cnpa.com/AB5/ to learn more about how the future of your local newspaper is being threatened.

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 22nd, through Saturday, November 28th, the Police Department responded to 791 calls for service, of which 65 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 22:

1. At 12:01 p.m., an officer responded CVS Pharmacy, located at 1401 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a robbery incident. Surveillance footage revealed the suspect broke a glass display case, stole 29 bottles of men's cologne, and while exiting the store, the suspect pushed an employee. The suspect is described as a white male with short brown hair, a short beard, heavyset, and seen wearing a beige vest, khaki green short sleeve T-shirt, and dark-colored pants. The investigation is ongoing.

Monday, November 23:

2. At 8:52 a.m., an officer responded the 00 block of Hacienda Drive regarding a theft from vehicle report. Sometime during the previous night, the victim had the catalytic converter removed from their Honda CRV that was parked in front of their residence. There are no investigative leads as of the date of this report.

3. At 8:48 a.m., officers responded to a residence in the 1100 block of West Huntington Drive regarding a disturbance complaint. An investigation revealed a 42-year-old male from Arcadia pushed the mother of their daughter and fled the location with the child. The suspect was located and the daughter was reunited with her mother. Both mother and child were not injured. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

4. At 11:16 a.m., an officer took a telephonic report of a package theft that occurred in the 600 block of South Third Avenue. The victim stated he had a package stolen from his mailbox on October 7th. There is no suspect information at this time.

5. At 4:32 p.m., an officer responded to Hilton Garden Inn, located at 199 North Second Avenue, regarding a stolen vehicle report. Between 10:00 a.m. and 4:32 p.m. on November 23rd, an unknown suspect stole the victim's 2005 Chevrolet 3500 pickup truck from the parking lot. The vehicle contained an array of plumbing tools. There are no investigative leads as of the date of this report.

Tuesday, November 24:

6. At 8:06 p.m., an officer took a telephonic report of a theft from vehicle that occurred at Ponce Recycling Center, located at 1101 West Huntington Drive. The officer discovered the victim had her wallet stolen from her unlocked vehicle while she was exchanging recyclables. The victim was unable to provide any suspect information.

7. At 8:42 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 2700 block of Gilpin Way regarding a robbery investigation. The victim stated he pulled into his driveway when he saw the suspect exit his parked vehicle and approach the victim. The suspect demanded the victim's cellphone and wallet while partially removing a silver handgun. The victim complied and the suspect fled to the passenger side of the suspect vehicle. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, approximately 25 to 35-years-old, 5'7" to 5'9" tall, and roughly 170 pounds. He had a goatee and was wearing a blue nylon jacket, a dark-colored baseball hat, long black saggy shorts, and tall black socks. Someone attempted to use the victim's stolen debit card at a convenient store, but the transaction was declined. The investigation is ongoing.

Wednesday, November 25:

8. At 11:10 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 200 block of West Wistaria Avenue regarding a fraud report. The victim stated he received a pre-paid bank card intended for unemployment payments from the state of Ohio. The victim never signed up for such a card and informed the issuing bank that the account is fraudulent. The victim does not know how the suspect(s) accessed his personal information or the identity of the suspects.

9. At 5:45 p.m., an officer responded to Lens-Crafters, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a grand theft report. Surveillance footage revealed a male suspect stole eight pairs of sunglasses. The suspect is described as a black male in his 50's, approximately 6' tall, 200 pounds, and seen wearing black pants and a camouflage-printed hooded sweatshirt. The investigation is ongoing.

Thursday, November 26:

10. At 9:13 a.m., an officer took a telephonic report of a grand theft that occurred at Ralphs, located at 211 East Foothill Boulevard. Surveillance footage revealed the suspect stole numerous bottles of alcohol from the store before returning a few more times to steal a total of \$2,200.00 worth of alcohol. The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 160 pounds, with short hair, and seen wearing a face mask, a multi-colored jacket, and a gray Nike backpack. The investigation is pending a review of the surveillance footage.

11. At 10:03 p.m., the Arcadia Police Department received an electronic report of a commercial burglary that happened in the 400 block of Fairview Avenue. The victim stated their storage unit of their apartment building was broken into by someone cutting the lock. The unknown suspect(s) fled with suitcases, automobile supplies, and other items. There are no investigative leads as of the date of this report.

Friday, November 27:

12. At 3:18 p.m., an officer responded to Foothill Mini Storage, located at 431 North Second Avenue, regarding a commercial burglary report. The victim discovered someone had removed their lock and stolen personal paperwork. The theft occurred between September 15th and November 27th. There is no suspect information at this time.

Saturday, November 28:

13. At 1:03 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 1200 block of South Tenth Avenue regarding a burglary report. An investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) forced open a door to the back house, ransacked the location, and stole a bicycle, guitar, and various electronics. There are no investigative leads as of the date of this report.

mation at this time.



opening, including the Winter Wonderland Family Adventure at Home, an opportunity to see Santa's Workshop and an expanded Santa Tours Holiday Parade.

Registrations are required for most programs and fees may apply. Sign up for programs by visit-ing cityofmonrovia.org.

Santa's Workshop Family Photos

This holiday season, take a sneak peek into Santa's Workshop while he is out preparing for the big day! Enjoy the festive and free family photos in our holiday themed rooms.

Registration is limited and required. To visit Santa's Workshop, families will be able to sign up for a 15 minute time slot between the hours of 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 3, 10 and 18. This program is free for Monrovia families and \$15 for non-Monrovia families.

To ensure the health and safety of the community and COVID-19 guidelines are met, families participating in this program must keep six-feet physical distance from other families and face masks are required.

Winter Wonderland Family Adventure at Home

The City of Monrovia is excited to present Winter Wonderland Family Adventure at Home. During this six-week family adventure, participants will have the opportunity to explore and celebrate different Winter Holiday traditions through crafts, activities and family challenges. The program begins on Dec. 5 and runs through Jan. 23. Registration is limited and required. This program is free for Monrovia families and \$15 for non-Monrovia families.

Old Town Carriage Rides

Horse-drawn carriage rides will be available in Old Town Monrovia on Sunday evenings in December! The horse-drawn carriage rides are \$5 per person or free, for every \$20 spent in Old Town Monrovia on that day. To ensure everyone's health and wellness, the carriage rides will be offered for one family at a time. The horse-drawn carriage rides will be available on Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and are first-come, first-serve. Those interested in a carriage ride can register at Monrovia Library Park the day-of.

2020 Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Celebrate the spirit of the holidays by decorating your home! Monrovia residents are

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH PROGRAMS IN MONROVIA

invited to enter the Holiday Home Decorating Contest. This contest is free and open to Monrovia residents only. Residents must register for the contest by Monday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. The contest judging will take place from Dec. 10 to Dec. 13, and the winners will be announced at the City Council Meeting on Dec. 15. After the winners are announced, a map will be published with the addresses of all entered homes for the community to take a driving tour and see the festive displays. Awards will be given out to the following categories:

- Best Still Display
- Best Outdoor Display
- Mot Effective Use of Lighting
- Best Neighborhood Effort
- Santa's Workshop Award
- Holiday Spirit Award
- Judges Award
- Children's Choice Award

Santa Tours Holiday Parade at Home

The City of Monrovia invites you to enjoy this year's Santa Tours and Holiday Parade from your home! This ever-popular program is set to take place during the week of Dec. 7, when Santa Claus will be driving down every street in Monrovia.

Since we cannot gather for the Annual Holiday Parade in Old Town Monrovia, we are expanding Santa Tours to bring the Parade to you. Be sure to check the schedule and prepare your chairs, blankets, holiday sweets and hot cocoa!

Due to COVID-19, we are unable to invite families to ride on Santa's Sleigh.

The tours will last from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- Monday, December 7
 - City streets south of Huntington Dr., west of Myrtle Ave., north of all southern borders
- Tuesday, December 8
 - City streets east of Myrtle Ave. / north of Foothill Blvd.
- Wednesday, December 9
 - City streets west of Myrtle Ave., south of Foothill Blvd., north of Huntington Dr.
- Thursday, December 10
 - City streets east of Myrtle Ave., south of Foothill Blvd., north of Duarte Rd.
- Friday, December 11
 - City streets west of Myrtle Ave., north of Foothill Blvd.

12 Days of Recreation

During the 12 Days of Recreation, Recreation Elves will deliver gifts to inspire you to participate in your very own winter season recreation activities! The gifts will be delivered daily from Dec. 7 to Dec. 18. This program is free and only open to Monrovia families. Registration is limited and required.

ALTADENA-SO. PASADENA-SAN MARINO

South Pasadena Commissioners Needed- Application Accepted

The city of South Pasadena is seeking qualified, diverse candidates to serve on City commissions ranging from animal welfare to public safety. Commissions serve as advisory bodies to review City policy issues and provide policy recommendations to

the City Council. All South Pasadena residents who are registered to vote are eligible to serve on a commission. Applications are available for download online (email: cityclerk@southpasadenaca.gov), and at the City Clerk's Office, 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030.

Winter Take & Make Crafts

The South Pasadena Library will be giving out Take & Make craft kits for kids! Each kit includes instructions and the necessary materials—all you need at home are scissors, glue, and crayons. Take & Make kits will be distributed on a first come, first served basis starting at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 10 and 17. Pick up kits and get creative with

Snowman Chains (ages 4 and up), Snowman Cards (ages 6 and up), and Yarn Hats (ages 8 and up). Special Winter Storytimes will go live Mondays at 10:30 a.m. on November 30, and December 7 and 14. Watch them on our YouTube channel or on the Children's Services page on the Library's website: southpasadenaca.gov.

Portantino Helps Provide Holiday Meals Needed for Local Families

Senator Anthony Portantino partnered with several local charities and business groups to provide support for families during the holiday season. With the COVID19 pandemic continuing, there are restrictions on charitable efforts that have not existed in the past. Unfortunately, these restrictions have coincided with a holiday season where giving is more necessary than ever. The Senator is proud to collaborate with these civically responsible efforts and to help bring necessary resources to nonprofits that help those in need in our community. "I am excited to help facilitate these wonderful charitable contributions and to thank the businesses and association for reaching out to my office to coordinate this effort. Californians and the nonprofits that serve them have been hit hard this year, making these donations more important than ever. There are so many people in need and it is nice to see so many organizations stepping up

to help," commented Senator Portantino. Specifically, the Senator announced the allocation of the following charitable donations in lieu of the traditional Operation Gobble Gobble efforts he has participated in the past. Southern California American Water donated \$1900 divided between Shepherd's Pantry in Glendora and the Inland Valley Recovery Center in Upland to replace its usual frozen turkeys. The California Grocers Association donated \$1000 in Ralphs gift cards to help Friends in Need feed homeless over the holidays. Golden State Water in celebration of their 30th Annual Operation Gobble program allocated \$1200 to the Duarte Teen Center. California Dairy Inc. donated \$600 to Union Station Homeless Services for its Annual Dinner in the Park. For More information visit: senate.ca.gov or call (818) 409-0400.

Lecture: The Inner Life of the Brain: Fear, Sex, and Violence

On Wednesday, December 9 at 5 p.m. Pacific Time, David J. Anderson, Caltech's Seymour Benzer Professor of Biology; the Tianqiao and Chrissy Chen Institute for Neuroscience Leadership Chair; director of the Tianqiao and Chrissy Chen Institute for Neuroscience; and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, continues the 2020-2021 Watson Lecture season by exploring "The Inner Life of the Brain: Fear, Sex, and Violence."

Behaviors that are fundamental to animal survival, such as mating and the fight-or-flight response, are driven by internal emotional states. In humans, these brain states are subjectively experienced as "feelings," such as desire, rage, or terror. Understanding the brain mechanisms that govern these states, using powerful new tools such as optogenetics and calcium imaging, will lead to better treatments for psychiatric disorders. However, such studies can only be performed in animal models. How can we study an animal's internal state when we do not know if it has subjective feelings?

In this lecture, Anderson will describe a new approach to this problem, which allows the neurobiology of emotional states to be studied in diverse animal species without reference to subjective feelings.

David J. Anderson has been on the Caltech faculty since 1986. He received his AB from Harvard College in 1978, did his PhD training with the late Günter Blobel, a Nobel laureate at The Rockefeller University, and did his postdoctoral work with Richard Axel, a Nobel laureate at Columbia University. He is an alumnus of the 1979 MBL Neurobiology Course. Anderson's research career has spanned multiple topics in neuroscience, from the

study of neural crest stem cells that generate the developing peripheral nervous system to the neural circuits that mediate innate emotional behaviors, such as fear and aggression. He has published more than 225 primary research articles and is the co-author, with Caltech colleague Ralph Adolphs, of The Neuroscience of Emotion: A New Synthesis (2018, Princeton University Press).

Anderson has trained more than 50 PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2002) and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (2007), and is a recipient of the 2017 Perl-UNC Neuroscience Prize and the 2018 Edward M. Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience from MIT. Anderson played a key role as an adviser to the late Paul Allen in the founding of the Allen Institute and the creation of the Allen Brain Atlas, and continues to serve as an adviser to that institute. He has also served on two working groups for the NIH's BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Neuroscience in Neurotechnology) Initiative.

Anderson is actively engaged in the public communication of science; his work has been featured in The New York Times, BBC News, and NPR's All Things Considered. He has also appeared as an expert panelist in episodes of Charlie Rose's The Brain Series and delivered a TEDx talk that has received almost 1.5 million views.

This event is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required. The lecture will begin at 5 p.m. and runs approximately 45 minutes, followed by live audience Q&A with Anderson. After the live webinar, the lecture (without Q&A) will be available for on-demand viewing on Caltech's YouTube channel.

San Marino Fire Helps Toys for Tots Program

This holiday season, the San Marino Fire Department is proud to support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Now through Friday, December 11, 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 125,204 toys to 60,000 children.

To ensure the safety of residents and personnel, and to minimize potential health risks, a Toys for Tots collection box will be located outside the Fire Station lobby entrance Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Friday, 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Residents wishing to make a monetary donation, or select a toy to donate from the Toys for Tots virtual toy box, may do so online at los-angeles-ca.toysfortots.org or contact the Los Angeles County North - Pasadena campaign directly at Pasadena.ca@toysfortots.org or by phone at (626) 398-0295.

COVID-19 has affected many families this year and has drastically changed the way many families are celebrating the upcoming holidays. Thank you for your generosity and help to deliver a little holiday cheer this season.

Toys for Tots, a 70-year national charitable program



run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, provides happiness and hope to less fortunate children during each Christmas holiday season. The toys, books and other gifts collected and distributed by Marines and volunteers offer these children recognition, confidence and a positive memory for a lifetime. We believe it is such experiences that help disadvantaged children become responsible citizens and caring members of their community. For more information, visit: toysfortots.org.

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.

AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

REGIONAL STAY AT HOME ORDER ISSUED FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Thursday, the State announced a Regional Stay Home Order that will go into effect and would remain in effect for at least 3 weeks in California regions where ICU capacity falls below 15%. The Order mirrors L.A. County's current Health Officer Order in many places but is more restrictive in certain areas. The State Order prohibits private gatherings of any size, closes sector operations including, in-person dining at restaurants and personal grooming services, and requires 100% masking and physical distancing. As a reminder, everyone in California must adhere to State Health Officer Orders. Counties may be more restrictive than State mandates, but not less restrictive.



As a reminder, the current County Targeted Safer at Home Order includes the following safety modifications:

Gatherings:
All public and private gatherings with individuals not in your household are prohibited, except for faith based services and protests, which are constitutionally protected rights.

Occupancy limits at various businesses:
all individuals at these sites are required to wear face coverings and keep at least 6 feet of distance:

Essential retail – 35% maximum occupancy

Non-essential retail (includes indoor malls) – 20% maximum occupancy

Personal care services – 20% maximum occupancy

Libraries – 20% maximum occupancy

Fitness centers operating outdoors – 50% maximum occupancy

Museums galleries, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens operating outdoors – 50% maximum occupancy

Mini-golf, batting cages, go-kart racing operating outdoors – 50% maximum occupancy

Outdoor recreation activities all which require face coverings (except for swimming) and distancing: Beaches, trails, and parks remain open; gatherings at these sites with members outside your household are prohibited.

Golf courses, tennis courts, pickleball, archery ranges, skate parks, bike parks, and community gardens remain open for individuals or members of a single household. Pools that serve more than one household may open only for regulated lap swimming with one person per lane.

Drive-in movies/events/car parades are permitted provided occupants in each car are members of one household.
Schools:

All schools and day camps remain open adhering to re-opening protocols. K-12 Schools and Day Camps with an outbreak (3 cases or more over 14 days) should close for 14 days.

Closed non-essential businesses/activities:
Playgrounds (with the exception of playgrounds at childcare and schools)
Cardrooms

According to the State, as of December 3, the Southern California Region has 20.6% actual ICU capacity remaining. For more information, visit: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

Testing results are available for more than 3,838,000 individuals with 10% of all people testing positive.

Anyone who receives a positive lab result or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, should expect a call from a Public Health specialist to discuss how to protect themselves and others, how to isolate or quarantine, how to access services and providers, and to talk through other concerns or questions a case or contact may have. We encourage anyone who receives a call from Public Health to speak to our Public Health specialist. If a Public Health specialist calls, it will display on your phone as "LA Public Health" or as 833-641-0305.

It's important if someone thinks they could be positive for COVID-19 and are awaiting testing results, to stay at home and isolate until they receive results. If the results are positive, then they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and 24 hours after symptoms and fever subside.

Public Health reminds anyone with a positive lab result who has not yet connected with a Public Health specialist to call 1-833-540-0473 for support and information about services. Residents who do not have COVID-19 should continue calling 211 for resources or more information.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE 12/04/2020

12/04/2020 3:30pm

LOS ANGELES COUNTY*	12/04/20	11/26/2020
Total Cases	430,583	387,793
Deaths	7,842	7,604

STATS BY CITY	Population	Cases	Deaths
	(11/26/2020 stats in parenthesis)		
Pasadena	14,1371	3875	135
Uninc- East Pasadena	6,403	117	2
City of Arcadia	57,754	877	40
Uninc. - Arcadia	7,981	161	3
City of Bradbury	1,069	27	0
City of Duarte	22,016	857	37
Uninc. - Duarte	4,428	338	4
City of Monrovia	38,800	1189	41
Uninc - Monrovia	3,881	111	0
City of Sierra Madre	10,989	141	4
City of So.Pasadena	26,053	451	27
Uninc. - Altadena	43,260	1116	21

La County Testing as of 12/04/20: 3,837,543 (3,653,760)
Positivity Rate (No. of persons positive out of total persons tested) as 12/04/20: 10.5 Nationally recommended Positivity Level: 5%



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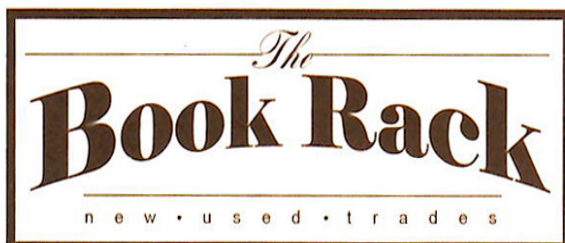
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SM LITTLE LEAGUE PIONEERS YOUTH SAFETY FOR THE REGION, CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL FALL SEASON



Sierra Madre Little League has had good reason to celebrate this Fall. Like many LA county businesses, youth sports leagues were forced to shut down due to COVID, and many have not reopened. Feeling a duty to carry on Sierra Madre traditions, and most importantly to give local families a safe option for their child, the SMLL Board worked closely with the City to devise a comprehensive Safety Plan.

Similar to High School Seniors who missed Prom and Graduation this year, thousands of Little League 12 year olds across the country missed their last Little League season. For many individuals, this ends up being the peak year in their life for athletic playoffs, special ceremonies and accomplishment.

Thanks to the SMLL Safety Plan nearly Sierra Madre 200 families, including the 12 year olds, were able to safely rejoin their teams in September, and finish the Spring season. The plan was quickly adopted by several other local youth sports leagues, benefitting hundreds, possibly thousands more families.

"SMLL had ZERO cases to report through the entire Fall," noted Russ Meek, the 2020 President who spearheaded much of the Plan and its implementation. "We owe huge gratitude to our Volunteer Coaches who carried on selflessly for their Spring teams, and we thank every family who came back and diligently supported the plan."

Just before Thanksgiving SMLL closed the season and gave the 12 year olds, and their families, a safely-distanced awards ceremony out on Heasley Field. The League's top honor is the Jay Heefner Sportsmanship and Leadership Award, which was given this year to Reece Kennedy (shown in the photo with Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Arizmendi, 2019 Winner Dane Shepard, and Alice Heefner).

PREPARING FOR SPRING 2021

"This was a huge win for the emotional and physical health of each child," shared board member Scott Clauson, "and the experience of our valued Coaches and families who executed the Plan so well, that paves the way for the coming Spring season." Clauson is also a former SMLL President, whose son Micah (12) is entering his final season.

Of course COVID will still be prevalent as the Spring next season begins, but this League is well prepared, and the timing actually works with the baseball calendar, as teams practice for several weeks in early Spring to prepare for the regular season.

As conditions improve, SMLL will again work closely with our City, and listen to vital feedback from families and coaches, as baseball, and the world, carefully approaches "normal" again. Board member Sean Hanrahan's wife Amy runs SM Dance Center, so the couple is intimate with keeping local families safe. "Even under the Fall restrictions we made it work," Hanrahan said, "and of all the things we learned, probably the most important value was just getting the kids out there." Spring registration is now open, and spots are filling up fast. To help league preparations, the "Early-Discount" ends DEC 10.

Families can register and find more info at [SMLL.org](https://www.sml.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2473309), including full access to the safety plan. The following link may also work here: <https://www.sml.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2473309>

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Julia V. Fanara
E-mail address: jfanara@alvernoheights.org

Arcadia High School
180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee
bforsee@ausd.net

Arroyo Pacific Academy
41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School
240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
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Head of School: Ethan Williamson
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School
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Preschool-TK-8th Grade
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website: www.bcschools.org

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office@foothilloaksacademy.org

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Head of School: Jenny Janetzke
Email: jenny@frostig.org

The Gooden School
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Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner
website: www.goodenschool.org

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Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org

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(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org
Principal Mrs. Courtney Kassakhian
Monrovia High School
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(626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson

Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

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

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(626) 396-5880 Principal: Roberto Hernandez
website: <http://phs.pusd.us>

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solis@st-ritaschool.org
Website: www.st-ritaschool.org

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LESSONS FROM THE HEART
OF A HORSE

As a youngster, I begged my parents to let me have a horse. I had several other pets - dogs, cats, bunnies, chickens - and I spent lots of time at the local barn riding and playing with my friend's horses, but my lifetime dream was to have a horse of my own. My father was a Christian missionary, so we were not exactly what you would call financially wealthy. But when I think back on those days growing up as the baby of seven with limited monetary resources, it amazes me that I never realized how poor we really were. It never seemed to mattered because my parents always ensured that we had everything we needed, and most importantly, we were wealthy in love.

My mother sewed most of my clothes, my father did all the yard work and home improvements himself, and we kids were expected to perform chores to earn our weekly allowances. My six siblings and I never experienced a lack of affection or compassion in our home that I remember, so I guess we just assumed we were as "rich" as any one else. In retrospect, I now realize what a wonderful childhood I had.

At the age of 13, my father finally broke down and bought me a pony. Unbeknownst to me, he'd been watching the classified ads, hoping to find a horse that we could afford, and he'd come across a Welsh pony for sale at a nearby farm. The owner wanted \$75 for "Coco", and even at that rock-bottom price, I know my dad was going out of his way to accommodate my desire to be a pony-owner.

Coco came with nothing more than a halter and lead rope, so I learned very quickly to ride bareback and handle him without the force of a bit and bridle. My sister, Vicki and I had so much fun doubling up on Coco and traipsing about the rural parts of our neighborhood, riding on the local mountain trails and playing in the back woodlands surrounding our town. Those are some of the best memories I have from my youth and I would trade them for nothing.

When I realized how much responsibility went into owning a pony, it was a rude awakening for me. Every day after school, I had to go out and call Coco in from the field, rope him and bring him back to the barn, groom him, clean out his stall, feed him, and let him rest a while before I could finally enjoy the fun of taking him out for a ride. Coco was a bit of a curmudgeon, if you know what I mean. It was often a challenge and somewhat of a physical work out to perform the daily ritual with him at the barn.

Eventually I learned that Welsh ponies are known to be head-strong compared to some other equines, requiring more patience and loving discipline than most, to help keep them in line. According to my memory, I suppose I did OK working with Coco, considering he was my first pony and I had little previous experience with horsemanship and all that went into it.

One thing I know for sure, is that I bonded with Coco almost immediately when I brought him home, which made it easier for me to be patient and understanding when he tried to buck or kick. Little by little the two of us had an understanding of what to expect from each other and how to make the relationship work for us both.

Caring for Coco and learning about his way of thinking was such an important part of my life as a youngster. My folks used a good balance of encouragement and discipline in raising us kids, and I was lucky enough to have had an excellent school education, but there is nothing like working with a horse to teach a human how to live gracefully.

All these memories flooded back to me when I watched the documentary, "BUCK", a bio-pic focused on the life of a gentleman named Buck Brannaman, who inspired the story behind the film, "Horse Whisperer". I remember seeing "Horse Whisperer" years ago, when it first came out and being very impressed and emotionally affected by the story, but until I watched the 'Buck' documentary I had no idea that the "Horse Whisperer" had been based on a real life character named Buck Brannaman.

"Horse Whisperer" is about a man who has a unique ability to communicate calmly with horses, and he uses that ability to train and handle them in a very humane manner. Ultimately, the character in the film succeeds in bringing new life to not only his equine subjects, but also to the humans who are involved. It was such a heart-warming story for me because it validated what I always believed to be true about the relationship between humans and other animals. If we, as humans are willing to take the time to understand the mind and heart of other species, we are far more apt to succeed in living our lives with grace and dignity, among all species.

Many important lessons in life are learned while sitting in a classroom with curriculum, but some of the most important lessons can only be learned by spending time in a dusty field under an open sky with beautiful beasts of burden who have ages of knowledge to share with someone who is ready to listen. If we have the desire to know, and the willingness to communicate patiently and calmly, we will benefit greatly from what horses and other animals have to offer. I don't know about you, but I am on a constant quest to learn from the animals, and I believe one must communicate calmly and show due respect in order to gain age-old knowledge that comes from the heart of a horse. Thank you, Coco, and thank you Buck Brannaman for sharing your excellent examples of a way of life for others to be inspired by.

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS !! IT'S
TIME FOR BUBBLES

OK, this kicks off my Holiday Bubbly series! When most of us think of Domestic Wines we tend to go to California first, and why not, we have many wonderful regions of wine producing areas; Temecula, Santa Barbara, Central Coast to name a few, but for me it's the Napa Valley. First let me remind you that Champagne is a region in France and only those wines produced it that area can be called "Champagne". Although, the wines of Napa Valley are usually produced using the same "methods" as our friends in France. I have one Sparkling wine worthy of starting our Holiday Series: Mumm Napa Prestige.



Mumm Napa Prestige is a blend of grapes combining 45% Chardonnay, 45% Pinot Noir and a small amount of Gris and Meunier grapes, all out-sourced exclusively from Napa area Vineyards. However, don't let the term "out-source" make you hesitant to try it! Most recently, many popular wines that you purchase now "out-source" some juice to ensure the right flavor, and then blend during the winter.

Sparkling Wines and Champagnes have long been a favorite in the Dills' household, many people believe that Bubbles are for a special occasion, my feeling is that occasion! Mumm Napa goes wonderful with Salmon, Oysters, BBQ'd or grilled chicken, but for this tasting, I had fresh sourdough bread and butter! Enjoy with a Champagne flute and watch the bubbles flow from bottom to the top with light-speed. I mentioned last week that many supermarkets are having sales on wines, check out the Vons on Sierra Madre for their version of a 30 % off sale.

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*Excluding sparkling. Participating items. 750 ml. with Club Card where applicable. Discount taken off regular retail price. Effective 12/2/20 thru 1/5/21

Dills Score

We start with a base of 50. I have added a 10 for color, 7 for the aroma or "nose" 10 for the taste and an 11 for my overall impression including value. With any Sparkling Wine or Champagne there isn't much time to swirl, but often when you are at a fine dining establishment they will let you taste before you proceed with the bottle. Dills' tip, if there is that distinctive "pop" when opened, combined with lively effervescent action including plenty of bubbles and the cork expands, it's good to drink! Dills Score 88. Listen to my latest podcast!!

Katnip News! "Chase in Charge"



Just look at that magnificent face! He's bold and brave, but a sofie for head scratches! Chase is okay with other kitties, but lets them know he's the one in charge. He would probably not be comfortable with young

children and we are not sure about dogs. He would be purr-fect for an adult or two, and where he can rule as the king! Chase is about 3 or 4 years old, healthy, and will come already vetted and neutered. To apply for Chase, visit our website's Adoption Procedures page at www.lifelineforpets.org



Pet of the Week

Bear is such a joy! This ten-year-old sweetie is gentle and easy to please, with great manners. She's a mellow dog, but gets excited about going for walks and the prospect of getting treats. A typical day for Bear includes following her favorite person around the house or napping nearby, interspersed with bursts of wiggly playtime - she's so well-rounded! She'll even hop up on the bed for cuddles if that's what you like, but will stay on the floor if you prefer your bed to be dog-free (but honestly, how can you resist morning snuggles from such a cutie?). Bear is looking for a relaxed adult household without other pets so she can be your one-and-only favorite friend.

The adoption fee for dogs is \$140. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness



exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

View photos of adoptable pets and schedule a virtual adoption appointment at pasadenahumane.org. Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Monday at 10:00 a.m. for the following week.

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

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Chris Leclerc
www.canyoncanine.com
chris@canyoncanine.com
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Pets in need

Some pet parents cannot afford the cost of vet care right now. You can help those pets! Visit us:

www.FreeAnimalDoctor.org

Sierra Madre based non-profit

Free Animal Doctor

NOTICING MEMORY PROBLEMS? WHAT TO DO NEXT

Dear Savvy Senior:

My mom, who's 76, has become more forgetful lately and is worried she may be getting Alzheimer's disease. What resources can you recommend to help us get a handle on this? Oldest Daughter



Dear Oldest:

Many seniors worry about memory lapses as they get older, fearing it may be the first signs of Alzheimer's disease or some other type of dementia. To get some insight on the seriousness of your mom's problem, here are some key warning signs to be vigilant of and some resources you can turn to for help.

Warning Signs

As we grow older, some memory difficulties – such as trouble remembering names of people or places or forgetting where you put your glasses or car keys – are associated with normal aging. But the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are much more than simple memory lapses.

Knowing the early warning signs is a good first step in recognizing the difference between typical age-related memory loss and a more serious problem. To help you evaluate your mom's condition, here's a checklist of some common early symptoms to watch for:

- Asking the same questions repeatedly.
- Getting lost in familiar areas.
- Failing to recognize familiar people.
- Having difficulty following directions.
- Misplaces items in inappropriate places, for example putting her keys in the microwave.
- Having difficulty completing familiar tasks like cooking a meal or paying a bill.
- Having trouble remembering common words when speaking or mixing up words.

For more information, see the Alzheimer's Association list of 10 early signs and symptoms at 10signs.org.

Another good tool to help you evaluate your mom is the Self-Administered Gerocognitive Exam (SAGE test) that was developed at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. This free test helps identify mild cognitive impairment and early dementia and can be taken at home in about 10 to 15 minutes. The SAGE test can be taken online at BrainTest.com.

Get Help

If you would rather have professional assistance in evaluating your mom, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (see alzfdn.org) is another good resource you can turn to.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday they provide free, confidential virtual memory screenings done via video chat in real time. Your mother will need a phone, tablet or computer with a webcam and internet capability to complete the screening.

The screenings are given by healthcare professionals and take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Once the screening is complete, the screener will review the results with her and let her know if she should see a doctor for further evaluation. To set up a memory screening for your mom call 866-232-8484 and make an appointment.

If you find that your mom does need further evaluation, make an appointment with her primary care doctor for a cognitive checkup and medical examination. Depending on what's found, she may be referred to a geriatrician or neurologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating memory loss or Alzheimer's disease.

Keep in mind that even if your mom is experiencing some memory problems, it doesn't necessarily mean she has early-stage Alzheimer's. Many memory problems are brought on by other factors like stress, depression, thyroid disease, side effects of medications, sleep disorders, vitamin deficiencies and other medical conditions. And by treating these conditions she can reduce or eliminate the problem.

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

FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



REMARRYING IN MIDLIFE? AVOID ACCIDENTLY DISINHERITING YOUR LOVED ONES!

Today, we're seeing more and more people getting divorced in middle age and beyond. In fact, roughly one in four divorces involve those over 50, and divorce rates for this demographic have doubled in the past 30 years, according to the study Gray Divorce Revolution. For those over age 65, divorce rates have tripled.

With divorce coming so late in life, the financial fallout can be quite devastating. Indeed, Bloomberg.com found that the standard of living for women who divorce after age 50 drops by some 45%, while it falls roughly 21% for men. Given the significant decrease in income and the fact people are living longer than ever, it's no surprise that many of these folks also choose to get remarried.

And those who do get remarried frequently bring one or more children from previous marriages into the new union, which gives rise to an increasing number of blended families. Regardless of age or marital status, all adults over age 18 should have some basic estate planning in place, but for those with blended families, estate planning is particularly vital.

Here, we'll use three different hypothetical scenarios to discuss how a failure to update your estate plan after a midlife remarriage has the potential to accidentally disinherit your closest family members, as well as deplete your assets down to virtually nothing. From there, we'll look at how these negative outcomes can be easily avoided using a variety of different planning solutions.

Scenario #1: Accidentally disinheriting your children from a previous marriage
John has two adult children, David and Alexis, from a prior marriage. He marries Moira, who has one adult child, Patrick. The blended family gets along well, and because he trusts Moira will take care of his children in the event of his death, John's estate plan leaves everything to Moira.

After just two years being married, John dies suddenly of a heart attack, and his nearly \$1.4 million in assets go to Moira. Moira is extremely distraught following John's death, and although she wants to update her plan to include David and Alexis, she never gets around to it, and dies just a year after John. Upon her death, all of the assets she brought into the marriage, along with all of John's assets, pass to Moira's son Patrick, while David and Alexis receive nothing.

There are several planning options John could've used to avoid this outcome. He could have created a revocable living trust that named an independent successor trustee to manage the distribution of his assets upon his death to ensure a more equitable division of his estate between his spouse and children. Or, he could have created two separate trusts, one for Moira and one for his children, in which John specified exactly what assets each individual received. He might have also taken advantage of tax-free gifts to his two children during his lifetime.

Scenario #2: Accidentally disinheriting your spouse
Mark was married to Gwen for 30 years, and they had

three children together, all of whom are now adults. When their kids were young, Mark and Gwen both created wills, in which they named each other as their sole beneficiaries. When they were both in their 50s, and their kids had grown, Bob and Gwen divorced.

Several years later, at age 60, Bob married Veronica, a widow with no children of her own. Bob was very healthy, so he didn't make updating his estate plan a priority. But within a year of his new marriage, Bob died in a car accident.

Bob's estate plan, written several decades ago, leaves all of his assets to ex-wife Gwen, or, if she is not living at the time of his death, to his children. State law presumes that Gwen has predeceased Bob because they divorced after the will was enacted. Thus, all of Bob's assets, including the house he and Veronica were living in, pass to his children. Veronica receives nothing, and is forced out of her home when Bob's children sell it.

By failing to update his estate plan to reflect his current situation, Bob unintentionally disinherited Veronica and forced her into a precarious financial position just as she was entering retirement. If Bob had worked with an estate planning attorney to create a living trust, he could have arranged his assets so they would go to, and work for, exactly the people he wanted them to benefit.

Scenario #3: Allowing Assets to Become Depleted
Steve is a divorcee in his early 60s with two adult children when he marries Susan. Steve has an estate valued at around \$850,000, and he has told his kids that after he passes away, he hopes they will use the money that's left to fund college accounts for their own children. But he also wants to ensure Susan is cared for, so he establishes a living trust in which he leaves all his assets to Susan, and upon her death, the remainder to his two children.

Yet, soon after Steve dies, Susan suffers a debilitating stroke. She requires round-the-clock in-home care for several decades, which is paid for by Steve's trust. When she does pass away, the trust has been almost totally depleted, and Steve's children inherit virtually nothing.

An experienced estate planning attorney could have helped Steve avoid this unfortunate outcome. Steve could have stipulated in his living trust that a certain portion of his assets must go to his children upon his death, while the remainder passed to Susan.

Bringing families together
Along with other major life events like births, deaths, and divorce, entering into a second (or more) marriage requires you to review and rework your estate plan. And updating your plan is exponentially more important when there are children involved.

Dedicated to empowering your family, building your wealth and defining your legacy, A local attorney and father, Marc Garlett is on a mission to help parents protect what they love most. His office is located at 55 Auburn Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Schedule an appointment to sit down and talk about ensuring a legacy of love and financial security for your family by calling 626.355.4000 or visit www.CaliLaw.com for more information.

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

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN SIERRA MADRE

CHAIR YOGA Every Monday and Wednesday, 10-10:45 am Chair yoga with Paul is coming back! Class will begin on Monday, August 10th and will be held in the Covered Pavilion in Memorial Park in front of the Senior Center. Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercise and overall relaxa-tion. Class size is limited so please call 264-8923 to reserve your spot.

HAWAIIAN AND POLYNESIAN DANCE CLASS Every Friday, 10-10:45 am Class will also meet in the Covered Pavilion in Memorial Park in front of the Senior Center. Join the class with instructor Barbara as she leads you through the art of Hula. Please call 264-8923 with any questions.

Classes will maintain a distance of 6 ft between participants. ALL participants must be wearing masks for the duration of the class. All equipment used will be sanitized after each use before it is stored. Each participant is responsible for providing their own water, masks and needed equipment or sup-plies for each class. Please call the Community Services Department at 355-5278 with any questions or concerns.

OCTOBER CRAFT

Wednesday, October 21, 11:00 am. Please join me as we try our hands at making Wooden Owl Ornaments. This will be a new type of program as we create our masterpieces via Zoom to ensure all of our safety. I will have all the supplies individually packaged and ready for pickup on Monday, October 19th pickup will be between 10:00 am-2:00 pm. I will have enough supplies for 10 participants. Reservations are required so please call 355-5278 x 704 to secure your spot. Please note that this is an ONLINE class that will be held via Zoom. We will not be meeting in the Hart Park House Senior Center.

IDEAS

Do you have any ideas for programming? Is there a class or club you would like to see in our Senior Community? Please call or email Lawren Heinz with ideas or questions. 626-355-5278 x 704 lhein@cityofsierramadre.com

City staff are monitoring email communication daily, and although employees are minimizing direct engagement and interfacing less with the community, please note that voice messages, emails, and social media responses are being addressed in the most efficient and timely manner. If at any time additional information is needed, please contact City Hall Administrative Services at (626) 355-7135, Monday-Thursday from 7:30a – 5:30p, as they are taking messages and e-mailing the appropriate person. For messages that may trickle in otherwise, please note our team is remotely checking voicemail daily at the Community Services Department, (626) 355-5278 x702.

SIERRA MADRE SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The City of Sierra Madre is following these procedures to provide current communication in light of COVID-19 and keep the Senior Community and families informed of essential information and resources. City staff are monitoring email communication daily, and although employees are minimizing direct engagement and practicing social distancing in the community, please note that voice messages, emails, and social media responses are being addressed in the most efficient and timely manner.

If at any moment additional information is needed, please contact City Hall Administrative Services at (626) 355-7135, Monday-Thursday from 7:30a – 5:30p, as they are taking messages and e-mailing the appropriate person.

For messages that may trickle in otherwise, please note our team is remotely checking voicemail daily at the Community Services Department, (626) 355-5278 x702.

Community Services Department will continue email communication with Senior residents and aging community members.

If you know of family members or neighbors who may benefit from accessing information electronically, and to receive the department's Seniors Newsletter via email but may not otherwise have been included on an email group list, please send your request with email address to the following team members: Lawren Heinz lhein@cityofsierramadre.com and Clarissa Lowe Clowe@cityofsierramadre.com.

City Social Media will continue via Facebook as well as Instagram, and information sharing will include updates as details become available.

Mater Dolorosa - Sierra Madre Meal Pick-Up Program provides seal-packaged frozen meals, 5-per person every Thursday, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. at Hart Park House Senior Center 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Donations are accepted. Call (626) 355-5278; x702 or 704. **YWCA Intervale Meal Program** - Effective Wednesday, April 1, 2020

YWCA has transitioned their distribution of take home meals at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House Senior Center to a home-delivery meal program. Participants previously reserved for meal pick-up as of Wednesday, 3/25/20 were informed that they would begin to have their meals delivered to their homes, beginning Wednesday, April 1, 2020 until further notice.



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

IT WAS A SHOOFLY PIE MOMENT

During holiday seasons, I enjoy indulging in special food. My favorite during this time of year is the Shoofly Pie. Nothing hits the spot quite like this.

Although the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage restricts this kind of culinary activity during the rest of the year, I tried to get a pass for it during the holidays. I don't care what holiday it is, a holiday is a holiday and deserves special food.

I don't remember when I had my first shoofly pie, I only focus on my next piece. When I first brought it into the home, my wife asked me what in the world it was. I told her it was a Shoofly Pie. Looking at me rather quizzically, she said, "What is a Shoofly Pie?"

Not even thinking about it, I smiled and replied, "It is a piece of heaven this side of heaven." Then she wanted to know where in the world that name "Shoofly Pie" came from. Not really knowing, I "baked up" a story I thought would please her.

The story went something like this. A lady in Pennsylvania was trying to make a special pie for her husband. It took her several days to figure out how she would make this special pie. Finally, she came up with something she had never seen before.

When presented to her husband, he was dumbfounded and said, "What is that pie?" Before she could answer, a fly seemed to hover over the pie, and she swatted it and said, "shoo-fly." The husband looked at her and said, "That is marvelous. Whoever heard of a shoofly pie? You're a genius." And thus, the Shoofly Pie adventure began. Whether that comes near the story or not, it sounded good to me at the time, and I presented it to my wife.

Where we live, it's tough to find any Shoofly Pie. Typically, I have to order it from someplace up north. Once we were at a nearby restaurant, I talked to the waitress about the Shoofly Pie of which she had never heard. My wife had the recipe, so we shared it with her. She wanted to surprise us with a homemade Shoofly Pie. When she gave it to us, it was nothing like a real Shoofly Pie. We joyfully took it, but it really wasn't the real thing.

As I was thinking about this shoofly pie mystery, I thought of how this concept would work in other aspects of life.

For example, I would like to develop a Shoo-Politician Pie. Perhaps this would be a great experience for us. Every time we see a politician, we present him with a Shoo-Politician Pie. How much greater our life would be if politicians would not be the center focus of our life. When a politician gives a speech, he or she will be charged one dollar per word. After all, one dollar isn't much and neither is their speech. Of course, this would need to be paid upfront. As soon as the politician reaches the end of his word count, everybody would say, "Shoo-Politician."

I think this would bring a lot of sanity back to our country today. Then I thought of another pie to develop. I'll call this the Shoo-Telemarketer Pie. This is second only to politicians.

To date, I have received over 1 million calls that said, "This is the last call you'll get to renew your car warranty." I have searched my dictionary to discover what the definition of "last call" is. I guess it has a different meaning to different people. Even my wife agrees with me on this. And you know, that's a monumental achievement. I don't know why they call them telemarketers, but I sure would like to tell them a thing or two. Another pie I would like to develop would be the Shoo-Grumpy Pie. I have found so many grumpy people lately. I'm not sure where they come from and I'm not quite sure where they're going, but I do have my guesses. I cannot identify with grumpy people because I'm not quite sure why they're grumpy. The thing I have noticed lately is, grumpy is not a matter of age. There are grumpy people of all ages. I'm not quite sure how this began. If anybody has the right to be grumpy, it's someone like me who has to listen to those people who are grumpy. How much happier this world would be if there were no grumpy people in it? I know there are grumpy moments, but that shouldn't be forever. Nothing is more frustrating than standing in line at the cash register behind some old grumpy customer exhibiting grumpy-itis. I wonder if it's contagious? Thinking about this, my list is getting longer and longer. There are so many things that I would like to Shoo from my life that I probably need to go into the "Shoo Pie Baking Business."

Thinking along this line I remembered a verse in the Bible. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17). The older I get the more things I see that I need to "shoo" from my life. At times, it's difficult, but the end result is what really matters. One last pie would be the "Shoo-Sin Pie."



At first, Dad and I didn't see eye to eye about moving to The Kensington, but since he did, we're both thrilled

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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 EVERYTHING IS OKAY BUT YOU KNOW....

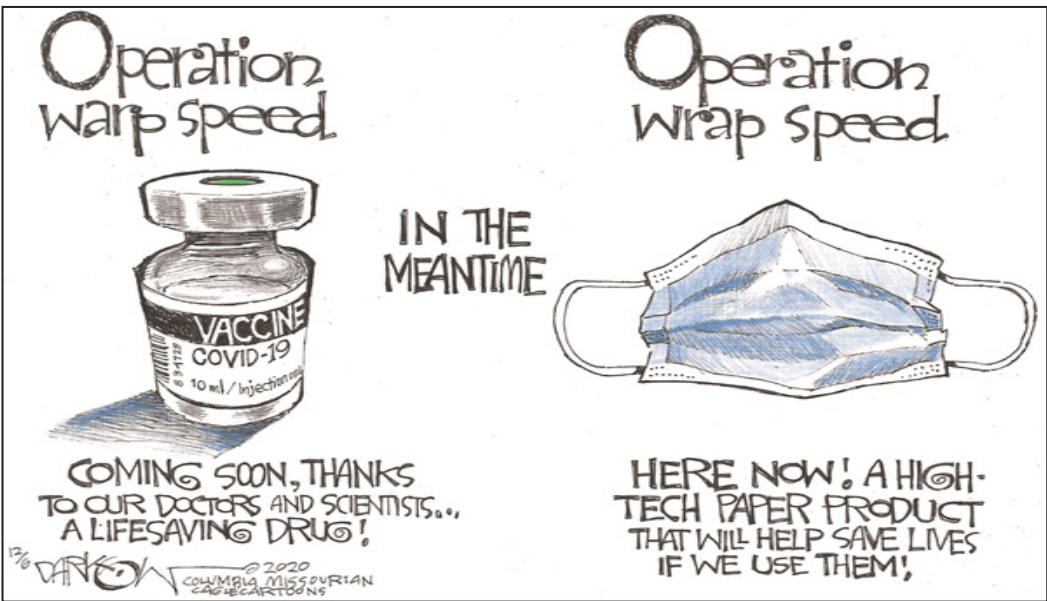
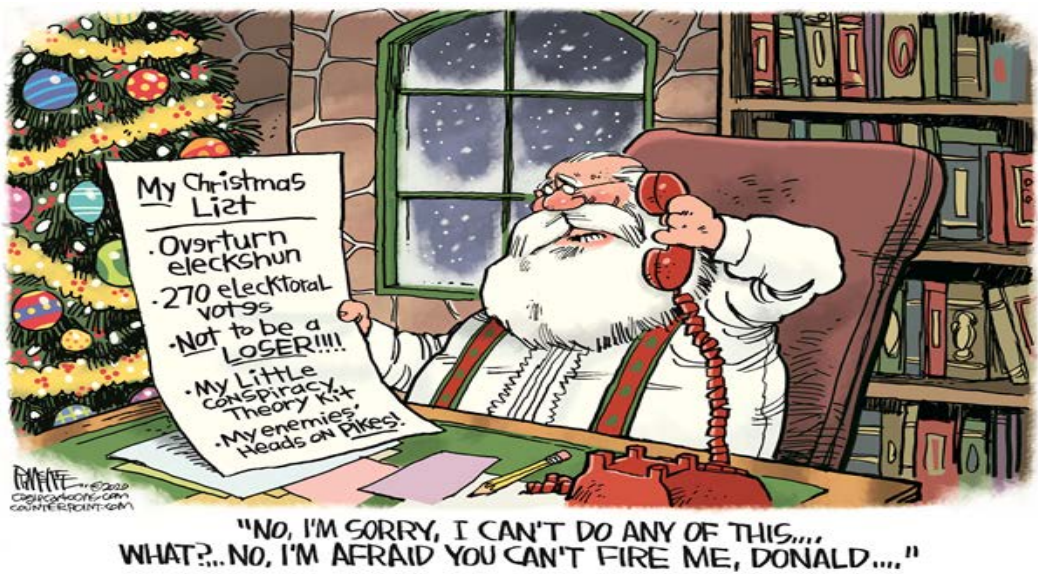


Two blocks from our apartment. Stuart Food Mart was what we call now a Mom and Pop store and existed in a very rough neighborhood in Southside Chicago unsafe for a 6 or seven year old to be left alone outside to play. My maternal grandmother, a Lithuanian immigrant and I learned to read English together and I knew how to read before I went to School. Actually this worked both to my advantage and to my disadvantage. My reading ability made it appear to teachers and to myself that I was a lot smarter than the other kids (turns out I probably wasn't) and I just never fit in very well. I wanted to know the other kids and join Cub Scouts but when my father drove me over to the meeting place which turned out to be a church I was never allowed to go there again. I still want to become a Webelo although I never knew what that meant. (still don't)

My parents told me we were Jewish although it was never made very clear to me what that meant, either. I knew no other Jews, had no sense of Jewish tradition or the religion itself and learned only from my grandmother not to sing along in class when Christmas songs were sung because Jews didn't believe in Jesus or Santa Claus. Let's not be too hard on my grandmother; who had immigrated to the United States alone and probably knew little about being Jewish other than she spoke mainly Yiddish. In order to survive in the world I believed the information was contained in books. The only books in our apartment was a multi-volume encyclopedia set and I read all the volumes in the hope that would allow me fit in and feel safe. Maybe the right the right term is "anxiety" but whatever the term is, I don't feel very safe right now. My feeling today, after a lifetime of reading books and going to College and even Law School and practicing Law for over fifty years I still don't what the rules are or if there are any rules.

During this time of the pandemic I have been forced to stay at home much like when I was a child. I watched the news constantly until I could not take it anymore and could not find any information in my thousands of books which were of much help. This past Saturday was the birthdate of both my children born two years apart. Although, up until now, we have remained separated complying with the applicable Covid restrictions, we all agreed that on this one day there could be an exception. Saturday we would gather together in a Pasadena park, keeping our distance and wearing masks. As my wife, my son, his girlfriend and I walked towards my daughter who was present with her family she asked me if it was okay to meet in the park. Suddenly I felt this attack of anxiety. I didn't know the rules which kept changing every day and I felt nowhere near being safe. Nevertheless, I faked it, told her everything was okay and doubted my own words. Books, education, and advanced age could not help me here. I would like to believe the pandemic, the economic crisis, the coming planet inhabitability, international instability poverty and disease and widespread starvation, and the last four years is all a lie, an alternative fact, a hoax; but it's not very easy. Maybe, I can believe it's all a dream and after a good night's sleep I will all awake and notice that everything is okay and normal just the way I believed it was when it really wasn't.

Merry Christmas and a Happy January 20, 2021.



LEFT, RIGHT OR CENTER!

DICK POLMAN SCOTT ATLAS HAS QUIT, BUT CAN'T SCRUB THE BLOOD OFF HIS HANDS



It's nice to get good news for a change.

On Monday, two more swing states certified Joe Biden's solid victory. And in Washington, MAGA doctor Scott Atlas quit his job.

In the spirit of a famous children's book, I say to him: "Good night, loon."

As Trump's criminally negligent regime withers and dies, it's imperative that we sift the wreckage and vow – via the ballot box – never to wreak such havoc on America again. If the Biden administration can succeed in restoring faith in governance – particularly in the realm of public health – it would be a gift to humanity. It would be the ultimate rebuke to death-cult dolts like Scott Atlas.

Atlas, the White House pandemic adviser, was the ultimate MAGA appointee: ill-qualified for the job he got, woefully over his head while doing it, and people died because he did it. One former senior White House official reportedly said, "He was the worst thing to happen to Trump in 2020." Actually, that's not quite true. Atlas didn't "happen to Trump." Trump made Atlas happen.

Atlas was not an infectious disease expert. He was not an epidemiologist. He had no background in public health. He's a radiologist; hiring him to fight the pandemic was like hiring a plumber to drill your teeth. But Atlas got the job for two reasons: He looked good on Fox News (silver hair, distinguished demeanor) and he spouted Trump-pleasing gibberish on Fox News.

His pitch, as you probably know, was that masks were overrated, social distancing was overrated, the pandemic was nearly over and would wane further if we simply allowed the virus to spread among young healthy people, thus helping America reach "herd immunity." This quack advice, which Trump lapped up, was so Orwellian that the faculty at Stanford University (where Atlas was a fellow) passed a resolution stating that his "disdain for established medical knowledge violates medical ethics."

Trump had basically given up on curbing the pandemic – his surrender was arguably the biggest reason why 80.2 million voters ousted him – and Atlas gave him permission to fail. Former Bush White House medical adviser Jonathan Reiner said the damage Atlas wrought, in terms of spreading lies and causing needless deaths, "is incalculable."

"He understood something that really resonated with the president. He understood that it's easy to convince somebody that you're right when you tell them exactly what they want to hear. He told the president exactly what he wanted to hear," Reiner said Monday. "Other than that, it was a bravura performance."

And what a performance it was. Atlas aped his imbecilic boss in all kinds of ways. When the Michigan governor imposed new restrictions, Atlas tweeted some militia machismo: "The only way this stops is if people rise up. #FreedomMatters #StepUp."

Another time, when Atlas tweeted that masks were not effective in slowing the spread of the virus – directly contradicting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Twitter removed Atlas' lie because, according to a Twitter spokesman, it "was in violation of our COVID-19 Misleading Information Policy." But Atlas had other ways to get his message out, like sitting for an interview on Russia's RT network on the eve of the presidential election.

And his most infamous claim – that the virus would be curbed if only 25 percent of the population is allowed to get infected – was denounced by one prominent infectious disease expert as "the most amazing combination of pixie dust and pseudoscience," a prescription for more needless deaths. And speaking of needless deaths, that toll has now topped 267,000. On Atlas' last day on the job, more than 1,000 Americans died. That's double the number of Americans who died each day during the Civil War.

In his resignation letter, Atlas said that "my advice was always focused on minimizing the harms," whereas in truth he violated the Hippocratic oath that (in its origin language) compels doctors to "utterly reject harm and mischief."

Leave it to Trump to sideline Anthony Fauci and bring in a guy who commits malpractice. Atlas may be gone – and his boss will soon follow (escorted from the building, if necessary) – but neither will ever able to scrub the blood from his hands.

RICH MANIERI



LESSONS FROM THE INBOX ON DIVISIVENESS AND UNITY

I collect my hate mail. Not because it makes me angry or because I want to obsess over it. It's just so interesting and I want to understand it.

I receive a lot of emails in response to columns, and most are generally positive. But the negative ones are really negative. This fascinates me.

For example, in a recent piece on how the media will miss President Trump when he's gone, and vice versa, a reader unleashed a stream of conscious under the subject "Absurd!" He went on to call me "demented" and then took a shot at Kentucky, where I currently live. Mind you, he sent this email to me on Thanksgiving.

The funny thing is the piece wasn't really partisan in any way, and I still can't figure out how it could enrage someone to the point where he would still be thinking about it a week after it was published.

There's a lot of anger out there, folks, though that's not exactly breaking news.

Here's another. "Your column, 'Lessons learned from the 2020 election,' validates the axiom 'to assume makes an ass of you and me.'"

That was it, the entire email. I'm not sure how the axiom applies in this case, but these things don't have to make sense. I sometimes read my hate mail to my students, who find it entertaining and often sit slack-jawed and incredulous that people can be so mean.

In response to a column about California Gov. Gavin's Newsom's draconian rules for holiday celebrations, a reader responded with a question.

"What overdramatic nonsense did I just read?" It got worse. She called me "dim" and "childish." She ended with "keep your uninformed views in your own disastrous state."

Again, a swipe at Kentucky? I never realized there was so much latent Kentucky hate among the populace.

Prior to the election, several readers responded with dire prophecies. Interestingly, predictions of the "end times" came from both sides of the political aisle. My favorite was from a man who began his email with, "I've got news for you pal..." The poor guy was so worked up he wrote some 500 words on the pending disintegration of our economic and political systems.

I respond to every email I receive, even the mean ones. It seems to me that those of us who do this kind of writing have a responsibility to at least attempt to understand why someone who disagrees with me believes what he believes. This is not always easy, of course, especially when the one who disagrees begins his email, "Dear boil on journalism's rear..." That's me, if you didn't put it together.

The reader was responding to a column about the conduct of reporters and the president at White House press briefings. I was critical of both but the reader didn't see it that way. We had a back-and-forth during which he seemed to gradually soften. Then, after about the sixth email exchange, he wrote, "Thank you for your conversation. I wish more people would talk or argue viewpoints..."

It struck me that maybe the man just wanted someone to listen to him, about anything. We never came to an agreement on the issue at hand but, by the end of the conversation, that didn't seem to matter.

Not all of these exchanges have happy endings. One concluded with a simple suggestion: "Shut up!" Not necessarily bad advice.

In the New Testament, James writes, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry..." James 1:19. I'm challenged by this because, apart from my dependence on the grace of God, I can't do it.

I'd much rather do exactly the opposite – react, quickly and angrily, and get my adversary in checkmate. Twitter and other social media outlets understand this better than anyone. They've turned this basic, human inclination into a multi-billion dollar phenomenon.

I don't claim any unique insight into the human condition but I have realized that if we are willing to listen and keep our mouths shut for a while, we'll take a significant step toward understanding one another.

That doesn't mean everyone is going to like us. But as I tell my students, if everyone likes us, we're probably doing something wrong.

CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



CHRISTOPHER NYERGES' "FORAGING ARIZONA" JUST RELEASED

[Nyerges can be reached at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com.]

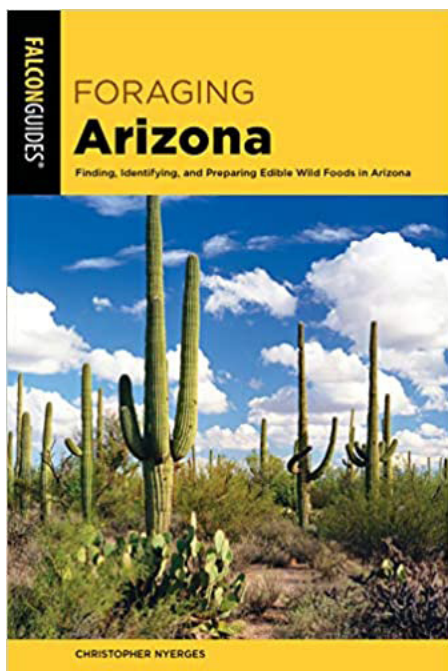
Christopher Nyerges' seventh book for Falcon Guides, "Foraging Arizona," has just been released. This botanical guide was written by Christopher Nyerges, the author 22 books, who has been leading wild food and self-reliance classes since 1974.

"Foraging Arizona" is a fully-illustrated guide to the edible and medicinal plants of Arizona, with lots of historical recipes and useful information about the flora of Arizona.

California residents, and residents of surrounding states, will find many familiar plants in this book because many of the common plants of Arizona grow over a wide territory in the Southwest. The very stereotypical desert plants are found in this book, such as the various cacti: the prickly pears, the barrel cactus, the apple cactus, the saguaro. Nyerges has also found many recipes for how to use the fruits and pads. However, he points out that it's a myth that you can get water by shoving a spigot into a barrel cactus. The book includes some 70 year old recipes for cactus dishes from the Cactus and Succulent Society. A photo series shows how to clean and eat the prickly pear pads.

Some of the common wild food seeds of Arizona include chia, mesquite, palo verde pods, catclaw acacia, walnuts, and acorns. Some of the native green leafy plants include amaranth, wild rhubarb, and miner's lettuce. Botany students will find many of the introduced European "weeds" – so common over the entire U.S. – also included in this book. These include common introduced plants such as dandelion, sow thistle, mallow, purslane, and mustards, all of which are found throughout Arizona.

Strawberries, blackberries, rose hips, and coffeeberries are all found in Arizona, and "Foraging Arizona" provides clear photos and descriptions of when and where to find these.



There is a nutritional chart in the front of the book showing the nutrient value of many of the common wild foods. Included in the book is a chart showing that acorns are indeed a quality food, and that prickly pear – with all its essential and non-essential amino acids – can be called a superfood.



Though "Foraging California" is primarily a book about edible plants, there are some other uses mentioned, such as medicinal uses, and plants used for soap or rope. The willow plant is included in the book, which is not a food, but a source of medicine (salicin) and a source of wood that has long been used for craft materials. The Creosote plant is also included in the book, which is one of the most important medicines from the native American traditions. Again, since many of the plants listed are fairly widespread, people from other states have told us that they find the book useful there also.

"Foraging Arizona" includes many non-native plants, because these so-called weeds are routinely killed off by gardeners and farmers using weedwhackers, plows and poisons, and yet so many of the common weeds are good food and medicine. Some of the "invasive" plants turn out to be some of the most nutritious plants in the world, such as lamb's quarter (poor man's quinoa, and a rich source of minerals), purslane (highest plant source of Omega 3 fatty acids), and dandelion and its many relatives. These are all described in "Foraging California."

The book is dedicated to Nyerges' chief botanical mentor, Dr. Leonid Enari, who has degrees in botany and chemistry. Nyerges studied with Dr. Enari at the L.A. County Arboretum, and privately, and Dr. Enari assisted Nyerges with his first book, "Guide to Wild Foods."

"Foraging Arizona" is available from bookstores, from Amazon, and from the School of Self-Reliance

PORTRAIT OF OUR NEIGHBORS By Stuart Tolchin

GUY MICHAEL D'AURIA



Guy D'Auria is a 28 year old man who has lived in Sierra Madre for all of his life. He works at a nearby Starbucks as a barista just to pay bills. This is just the outside of his life but as you can see from the accompanying picture he has dreams and aspirations to be ROCK STAR. Answering my first question of "What would you like the world to know about you" his answer is "I want to be known as someone who creates and produces his own music and I want that music to convey to people the extraordinary feeling that my music gives me. My dreams are so big that sometimes they even scare the hell out of me."

Unfortunately, I am 50 years older than Guy for whom I used to babysit when he was 5 or 6, and I really don't know what he is talking about. I asked him to do the best he could to explain his music to me. I learned that house music is created electronically and is one of the many genres of electronic dance music played in clubs by a DJ who sits above the crowd performing. Below the crowd dances energetically and happily as they are pulled away from their own problems and into a better world. The music is hypnotic and soothing. For the people in the clubs it is not about sex or drugs but simply "chilling, grooving, and dancing" his exact words. The major excitement for him as I understood it was the opportunity to create and produce the music which is 100 percent his own and to reach the audience with that music.

I asked him how things are during the virus restrictions and learned that he is now limited to just doing live streams from his home. He said he can barely wait for the clubs to reopen so he "can wrap his fingers around the knobs again." Enough about the music, this portrait is about Guy, our Sierra Madre neighbor, along with his music. Guy is a very charming, fit, athletic looking young man. I asked him about future plans for relationships and a family of his own but the question was spurned with a wave of his hand. Right now his energy is centered about the creation of his music for which he is known as D'Auria. He does have a girlfriend who is supportive and understands.

How did house music become so important? I remembered him as a young man focusing mainly on sports. His father was a professional baseball player and a coach for over twenty years at a Pasadena College and I thought Guy too would become a professional athlete. The story of Guy D'Auria and his present life begins here. While playing baseball most of his life in high school he became heavily involved in drinking and drug use. At the age of 18 while playing soccer as a part of baseball practice Guy broke 5 toes. He struggled with his addiction for some time. He voluntarily entered a 12 step Narcotics Anonymous program at the age of 20 but even after leaving the program was still "self-medicating" with drugs and sex. He passionately wanted to recapture the feeling that he had while being addicted to drugs and realized he still suffers from the disease of addiction.

Somewhere along the line he entered a music club and discovered what he calls a new addiction. Miraculously he soon transferred his pursuit of his lost feeling to an appreciation of and the creation of music. He has now been completely sober for almost 6 years and speaks in terms of integrity and spirituality. He is serious and passionate and convincing. He believes in himself and guarantees he will pursue his goals and dreams and I am rooting for him.

Talking to him was an inspiration! Guy's music is available on line at <https://linktr.ee/dauriamusic>.

December is packed with holidays!



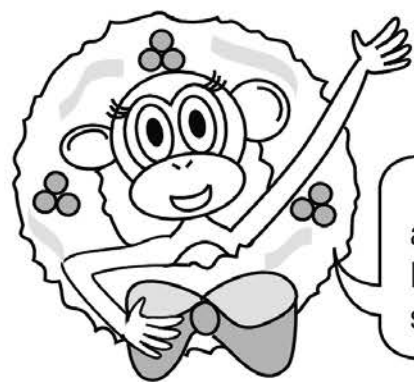
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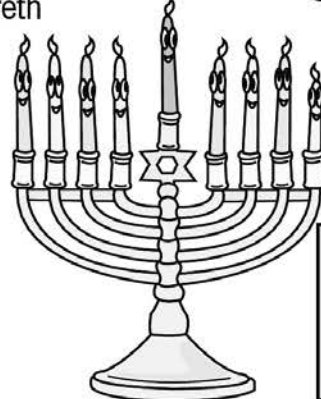
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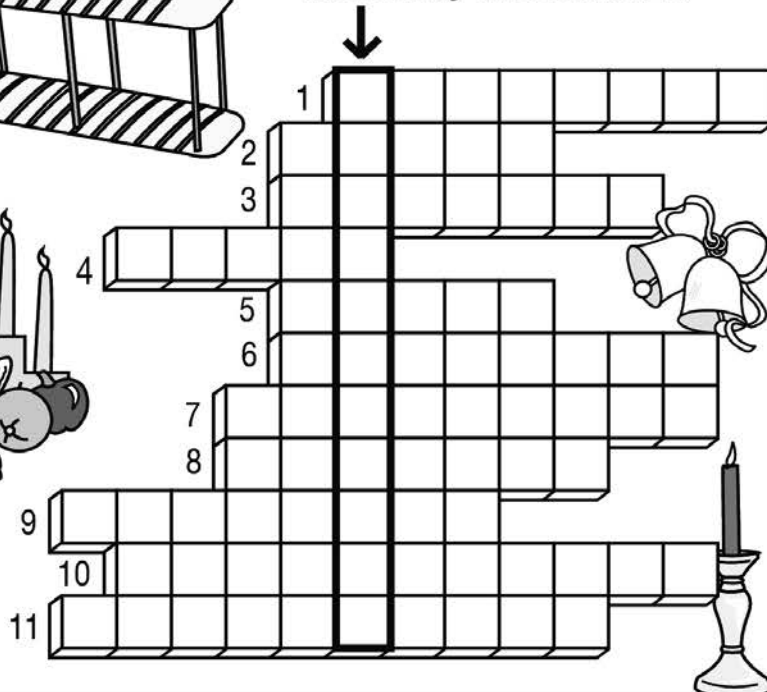
December Days

December is one of our favorite months. It is a month with many holidays, special anniversaries and birthdays. Our friends celebrate our holidays with us and we celebrate our friends' holidays too. It is a good way to learn about other families' cultures and traditions. The puzzle below is about the special days of December. **When you fill in this puzzle, the last day of December will appear!**

1. St. _____ Day – celebration of Bishop of Myra of the 4th century, known for his charity, gift-giving
2. First _____ Transplant – (1967) Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first successful transplantation at Cape Town, South Africa
3. _____ – a celebration of family and community, heritage and roots in Africa
4. Boston Tea _____ – people angry about taxes boarded a British ship in Boston Harbor to dump tea chests overboard
5. _____ Harbor Day – in 1941 the Japanese attacked U.S. naval forces in Hawaii, drawing the U.S. into WWII
6. _____ – Jewish Festival of Lights – eight-day celebration of the ancient Jews' victory over the Syrians and the return of their Holy Temple
7. _____ Day – a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth
8. Las _____ – nine-day celebration in Mexico; processions of people knock on doors, asking for shelter the way Mary and Joseph did in Bethlehem
9. Wright _____ Day – in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright, who achieved the first controlled, heavier-than-air flight
10. Pilgrim Landing _____ – in Governor William Bradford's writings, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts on Dec. 21, 1620
11. _____ Amendment – added to the U.S. Constitution, outlawing slavery in the U.S.



The last day of December is:



HEART	THIRTEENTH	PARTY	HANUKKAH
PEARL	NICHOLAS	BROTHERS	
KWANZAA	POSADAS	ANNIVERSARY	CHRISTMAS

DEVIL'S GATE RESERVOIR PROJECT

THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE
IN OUR VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 8:00AM



MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKER
FAHIM A. RAHIMI
M.S. CIVIL ENGINEERING

Fahim A. Rahimi is a Registered Civil Engineer with the State of California. He is currently the Construction Manager for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, a four-year effort to increase flood protection for communities downstream of the Devil's Gate Dam and restore habitat within a popular section of the Arroyo Seco Watershed. In addition to providing flood relief to communities that have endured nearly a decade of elevated flood risk along the Arroyo Seco, the project will establish a permanent stormwater maintenance area that allows for the creation of 70 acres of enhanced habitat and recreational opportunities for local communities.

Mr. Rahimi will share information and address questions about the Devil's Gate Reservoir project and the surrounding area.

To participate in our meeting send an email requesting the ZOOM link to
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PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Well, we've made it to another Birthday! Since 2006, I have been publishing a weekly newspaper in the San Gabriel Valley specifically covering the cities of Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Pasadena, and also South Pasadena, Altadena and San Marino. It was August 4, 2007 however, when the first edition of the Mountain Views Observer (now known as the Mountain Views News) was published! My how time flies! That is a total of 698 CONSECUTIVE weeks; approximately 12,564 pages; more than 7 million print readership! Our website traffic exceeded 4 million page reads in 2019 alone! I am pretty proud of what we have accomplished over the last 14 years, despite huge economic challenges, such as the 40% tariff on newsprint that comes from China and has adversely impacted print media in the United States or California's AB5 which is another threat to newspapers statewide, we survived.

And then.....2020 and COVID-19 happened! To date, we are still alive and moving forward. We are proceeding cautiously and are committed to continue providing you with accurate information about your community. In March, when we reached out to you for help we expected that by May at the very least the Emergency would be over. We could not have imagined in our wildest dreams that in August the crisis would still be with us. As indicated in the beginning, the Mountain Views News has survived primarily on the paper's ability to publish legal notices and the support of our advertisers many of whom are also impacted by the COVID19 virus. However, that has all changed. We were informed mid-March that the County of Los Angeles closed all public access to buildings that process legal notices. Such action, while absolutely necessary means that the income generated from the publication of the Fictitious Business Notices came to an abrupt halt and that has not changed. Without the ability to publish those legal notices, continued publication of the Mountain Views News remains in jeopardy.



#1 Make an **ONLINE CONTRIBUTION** to help us recover from the COVID-19 interruption of legal notice revenue. <https://www.gofundme.com/save-the-mountain-views-news>

#2 **DONATE BY CHECK:** If you would rather make a donation directly to the paper, you can send a check. Make it payable to the Mountain Views News and mail to: Mountain Views News 80 W Sierra Madre Blvd. #327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

#3 **HELP SUSTAIN PRINT DISTRIBUTION!** In addition to the impact of COVID-19, newspapers are also adversely impacted by California Assembly Bill 5 (AB5), which eliminates the use of independent contractors and triples costs. Become a **Sustaining Supporter of the Mountain Views News** by making an annual contribution of \$120 (\$10 a month). Sign up and get home delivery for free. Cancel at anytime. Please send check to: Mountain Views News Sustaining Supporter 80 W Sierra Madre Blvd. #327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

#4 **SUBSCRIBE TO HOME DELIVERY** (right)

With your help, however, we can continue to sustain the only paper where your community news comes first while we work on alternatives to the current legal notice processing is found or LA County Buildings allow public access again.

Remember, print media is the only source of information that CAN-NOT BE HACKED! What you read in the Mountain Views News is accurate and as publisher, I stand behind every word. Our sources are reliable and dependable. Our Opinions share both sides of the argument. Community events and local organization activities are also an integral

part of what we provide each week. And, while we do have an online presence, each week thousands of print copies are distributed.

Below are 4 ways that you can help sustain your local paper. All support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance. Susan Henderson, Owner/ Publisher/Editor

Where Your Community News Come First

Mountain Views News

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SIERRA MADRE

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