

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Duarte

Monrovia

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022

VOLUME 16 NO. 50



the webb-martin group

HAPPY
Holidays

JUST LISTED



Listed for \$859,000 | 4921York.com
4921 York Boulevard | Highland Park

2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,472 sqft | 5,208 sqft Lot

UPDATED PRICE



Listed for \$799,000 | 601EDelMar.com
601 East Del Mar Boulevard, #405 | Pasadena

2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,405 sqft
Kreso Forgiarini, Engineer



Jan Greteman 626.975.4033
lic #01943630

Judy Webb-Martin 626.688.2273
lic #00541631

Katie Orth 626.688.0418
lic #00942500



dpp real estate

webbmartingroup.com



source: CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, Bankrate

AROUND SIERRA MADRE

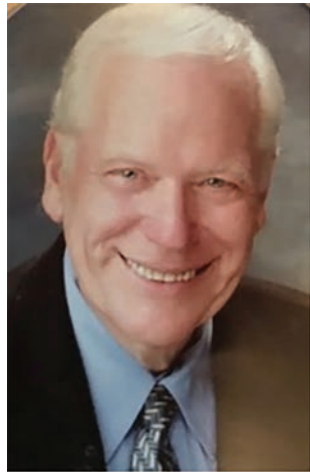
VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES HELP PLANT NATIVE,
DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS AT THE SIERRA MADRE
POST OFFICE



Saturday was Planting Day for the Post Office project headed by Bob Spears. Approximately 40 people of all ages showed up to help including Sara Healy from the Farm to Table teacher for Sierra Madre Elementary School and Sierra Madre Nursery School. Photos by Bob Spears



HONORING DR. WHITE



The following day, Sunday, the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society gathered at Lizzie's Trail Inn to pay tribute to Dr. William White who touched the lives of so many and who contributed so much to Lizzie's, The Mount Wilson Trail and The Mt. Wilson Trail Race.

To learn more about Dr. White's amazing lifetime of giving, go to: <http://mtnviewsnews.com/old/?t=MVNews&v=16&n=42c>



City of Sierra Madre

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: HISTORICAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION & MILLS ACT CONTRACT

Applicant: Malcolm and Suzanne Edwards
Project Location: 500 N. Michillinda Avenue, in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider a request to designate the Pickard-Hoover Residence, located at 500 N. Michillinda Avenue, as a Historic Cultural Landmark in the City's Register of Historic Resources. Subsequently, the City Council will be considering a Mills Act contract for restoration and rehabilitation of the subject property. The Pickard-Hoover Residence is a Spanish Colonial Revival home, design and workmanship retained since its original construction. The property is also associated with the productive life of Herbert Charles Hoover, son of the 31st President of the United States, and chairman of the Sierra Madre Boy Scouts. Pursuant to Sierra Madre Municipal Code Section 17.82.050, a property may be designated a historic landmark if it meets prescribed historic or architectural criteria.

At the meeting of November 17, 2022, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing. Upon conducting a site visit, on December 1, 2022, the Planning Commission voted in consent to recommend the City Council the approval of the landmark designation.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre
City Council meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
(Hearing begins at 5:30 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The request for designation qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Sections 15301 and 15331 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it involves no expansion of an existing structure and pertains to preservation of a historic resource.

APPEAL: If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the City Council in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Planning and Community Preservation Department at (626) 355-7138.

A WORD FROM CITY MANAGER JOSE REYNOSO: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

"We will have a vacancy on our Planning Commission next month and hope you can help us spread the word. Below is some information on our commissions.

The Sierra Madre City Council encourages citizen participation in its decision-making process through citizen commissions.

The Council establishes five citizen commissions to advise and assist them in dealing with specific problems. These advisory bodies can study a variety of issues and problems in detail. Then, after gathering all pertinent information, hearing arguments, and weighing values, they recommend what they consider the best action to take to the Council.

In certain situations, commissions are empowered to make specific decisions, subject to appeal to the Council. Public notices for all commissions are prepared in compliance with the Maddy Act.

The City of Sierra Madre encourages residents to apply for positions on City Commissions with vacancies. Serving on a commission is a great opportunity for Sierra Madre residents to get involved in the community.

You can download the application and return it to City Hall or submit your application electronically via email at LAGuilar@CityofSierraMadre.com.

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled."

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Traditional Home with Remodeled
Kitchen and Mountain Views

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

*Santa's Looking For The
Best Decorated House in
Sierra Madre!*

Lorem Ipsum

**THE MOUNTAIN VIEWS
NEWS WILL ONCE
AGAIN SEND OUR
PHOTO SANTA TO
LOOK FOR THIS YEAR'S
BEST DECORATED
HOME.**

**Make certain you have your decorations
up by: DECEMBER 17, 2022.**

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED Photo Santa will
drive all over town looking for the very best!
**YOU CAN ALSO CAST A VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S
CHOICE!** Just email the address of your choice
to: editor@mtviewsnews.com.

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE
DECEMBER 24th EDITION OF THE PAPER!**

SIERRA MADRE POLICE DEPARTMENT
AND PASADENA F.A.S.T

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Bring your donations before December 14th!



DROP OFF AT:
SIERRA MADRE POLICE DEPARTMENT



SEVEN GABLES EXPANDS TO

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

In celebration of Seven Gables' inception to the San Gabriel Valley, Mike and Regional Manager for the San Gabriel Valley area, Randy Abrams, sat down to thoughtfully share ideologies, and their visions for the San Gabriel Valley real estate market.

Randy Abrams is an SGV native with over 25 years of experience in real estate. With 20 of those years spent in leadership roles with great firms, leaders & management that have defined his tactics and strategies throughout the years. It was a natural fit for Randy and a quick & easy transition because he and Mike are like-minded, and relationship focused.

Specifically in the San Gabriel Valley, Randy sees a lot of opportunity. There are not enough full-service brokerages in that area that focus on ethics and fostering agent growth. Too many agents are coming into this market and it's the "wild, wild west." With commission integrity, outgoing cooperation, and discount brokers abound, Randy and Mike want to bring back the lost art of real estate.



SCAN ME

FOR VIDEO INTERVIEW



Randy Abrams
626.222.3954
RandyA@SevenGables.com
DRE #01270584

SG DRE #00745605 | This is not intended to be a solicitation of another broker's listing.

THE SACRED MEANING OF EVERYDAY WORK

By Local Author Rob Tribken

The book is for those who seek to engage problems and opportunities with a new sense of purpose.

Work today can feel like a pressure cooker, with painful levels of stress, interpersonal conflict, and the risk of burnout. We can lose track of our goals and feel our work is pointless and going nowhere.

Developing a deeper sense of purpose can help us overcome these problems and perhaps even flourish in our work lives. In the book, Tribken offers practical insights from multiple sources, including the Bible, contemporary research, and experience in business. These extend into various important work-related topics, including: human flourishing; overcoming obstacles to flourishing such as sin, failure, stress, burnout, and interpersonal conflict; cultivating character strengths such as courage, integrity, compassion, hope, humility, prudence, and resilience; spiritual practices that can help us as we work; developing a calling; and the spiritual dimension of leadership.

The Sacred Meaning of Everyday Work is written for people who take their work seriously and have at least some interest in religion or spirituality. The book asks readers to consider the various insights from the perspective of their own faith or spirituality.

Below are some of the topics he can discuss in an interview:

- Find your work's deeper purpose and meaning by seeing its spiritual connection.
- Cultivating character strengths like courage, integrity, and compassion that you need to lead others in times of uncertainty.
- Spiritual resources can help you deal with work-related problems like stress, burnout, and interpersonal conflict.
- Short spiritual practices that help you relax, turn your attention toward God, and focus on the work at hand with new energy.
- Understanding how your work contributes to the greater good and the well-being of other people.
- Seeing how the values you bring to your work can encourage the teamwork essential for success.
- The need for spiritually grounded leaders in times like these.
- The opportunity for religious institutions and religious leaders to help a broader range of people meet their spiritual needs (and what this might mean for the future of churches).
- Can your work be your calling?
- The changing work environment and what this means for us on a personal and spiritual level.

Look for it wherever books are sold - online and in stores in January, 2023



*Happy
Holidays*

A horizontal banner advertisement for Sierra Madre Animal Hospital. On the left is the hospital's logo, featuring a stylized mountain range in blue and orange with a white 'S' shape. Below the logo, the text 'Sierra Madre' is in a large, bold, dark blue font, and 'ANIMAL HOSPITAL' is in a smaller, all-caps, dark blue font. To the right of the logo, the name 'Walter Cailleteau, DVM' is written in a teal, sans-serif font. Below this, the address '927 N. Michillinda Ave.' and 'Pasadena, CA 91107' are listed in a black, sans-serif font. The phone number '(626) 351-8863' is displayed in a large, bold, orange font. Further right, a black-bordered box contains the text 'Free Exam!' in a large, bold, orange font, followed by 'For New Clients' in a teal font. Below this, it says 'Bring this coupon to save!' in a black font. At the bottom of the box is a small version of the hospital's logo and the text 'Sierra Madre ANIMAL HOSPITAL'. On the far right of the banner is a photograph of a Siamese cat and a brown and white dog sitting together.

SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA



I SIGNED THE PETITION FOR THE REFERENDUM Now *what happens?*

Protect Sierra Madre had only 30 days to get signatures of 10% of Sierra Madre voters, for an election (a referendum) to overturn the City Council's approval of the Meadows project. 1,300 signatures are now being reviewed by the County. Although some may be disqualified for technical reasons, we are certain to have enough qualified signatures for a referendum.

When the Certification is received by the City Council, they will have 3 options - to rescind their approval, to schedule the election for Nov 2024, or to call an earlier special election. A special election is generally requested by the developer, who pays for that election.

A vote to overturn City Council's decision, approving The Meadows project, does not make any permanent change. It does, however, stop the Meadows project for at least a year. The Developer can present another housing project to the City Council a year after the vote.

Because NUW has invested so much time and money in this project, there is NO question that they will return in a year with a project to develop the parcel. But, the people will send a clear message, by voting to overturn the approval, that they want the developer and the City Council to make changes in any project to develop the monastery parcel, and to consider the citizens' opinions in those changes.

Property owners have a right to do with their property whatever is allowed by our ordinances and State law. They are allowed to sell their property and to receive fair market value for it. But our regulations ensure that the rights of one property owner can NOT negatively impact the rights of other residents. The safeguards of our ordinances allow the City to restrict or deny any development contrary to our General Plan policies and ordinances.

Sierra Madre has established objective development standards to ensure that any development, whether reviewed by our Planning Department, Planning Commission or City Council, will be held to the same standards that have always limited overdevelopment in our City.

We have protections in place - when our General Plan and Ordinances are fairly applied to EVERY applicant! But because in 2020, an agreement between the City and the Passionists in Illinois, a "Memorandum Of Understanding" allowed a SPECIFIC PLAN for the Meadows Project, the Passionists were able to evade those protections in our ordinances that every other property owner is bound by.

Citizens of Sierra Madre were never made aware of these negotiations during the water moratorium, or of the MOU, signed at a single meeting - during the Covid shutdown.

The Council, before signing, never considered or discussed with the Citizens, any other option that might allow the Passionists a fair market price for their land, and ALSO protect the values of our General Plan. They never pursued with their constituents the possibility that funds might now be available to help the City buy and conserve the land, as everyone prefers.

They never discussed with the Citizens whether the impacts of a development limited by our existing ordinances might be preferable to special privileges, extended to a single landowner.

By voting to overturn the City Council's approval of the project, we citizens will make it clear - we do NOT think the project approved is the best plan for that parcel.

We believe that the City Council should enforce the General Plan and Ordinances that protect the special nature of our town. And, most importantly, that they must consider the opinions of the residents who they have promised to represent.



SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

The following represents a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Sierra Madre Police Department during this period. This list is not intended to be considered exclusive or all-inclusive.

Tuesday, November 29th Theft from Motor Vehicle
At approximately 4 AM, officers responded to the 200 block of Adams St. for reports of a theft from motor vehicle. Upon arrival, the reporting party stated that the catalytic converter was stolen from his vehicle. A vehicle was seen fleeing from the area. The Detectives' Bureau is following up on this incident.

Tuesday, November 29th Theft from Motor Vehicle
At approximately 10 AM, officers responded to the 300 block of Auburn Ave for reports of a theft from motor vehicle. The reporting party discovered that unknown suspect(s) made entry to their vehicle and stole their wallet. The Detectives Bureau is following up on this incident

Friday, December 3rd DUI Arrest
At approximately 1 PM, officers responded to the 00 block of Esperanze Ave. for reports of a traffic collision that had just occurred. Upon arrival, the officers were met with the reporting party, who advised that one of the drivers from the collision was attempting to flee the scene. Officers found the suspect who was matching the description given from the reporting party. Officers observed the driver having the smell of alcohol coming from their person. Due to the results of the test, officers determined that the driver was unable to safely operate their vehicle, and they were placed under arrest for driving under the influence

Festivity begins at Clearman's!

- LUNCHEON • DINNER
- FAMILY GATHERINGS
- HOLIDAY PARTIES

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CLEARMAN'S NORTH WOODS INN SANDWICHES DINNERS

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

CHRISTMAS! IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

One of my favorite authors, Michelle Griep, who describes herself as, "an author, blogger, and occasional super-hero when her cape is clean," at one time published a daily blog, "Writer Off the Leash." Here's what she shared a while back and it's so good I want to pass it along to all of you dear friends and neighbors. We've barely gotten Thanksgiving put away and Christmas is now just two weeks from tomorrow. Stress? Of course, stress! Some helpful advice about removing a little stress from your life can't hurt a bit!

Five Ways to Slay Holiday Stress Change Your Perspective

Sometimes all that needs to be slain is your mindset. This season, take a good, hard look at all you are doing and then question everything. You could be stressing yourself out because of expectations and values that aren't really yours. Examine what your core beliefs are and live those out; not some totally imaginary Hallmark Christmas movie ideals.



Let Go

Who says you need to do it all? Unless you're Martha Stewart, you don't have to. Besides, she has Minions to fetch and carry for her. You probably don't. Choose 1 item to cut from your must-get-done-before Christmas list and just say no. I'm not talking simply crossing it off your list, I'm saying cut it out and throw it away for good. Maybe you'll decide not to do cards anymore or bake 6 different kinds of cookies. Whatever. The point is to stop doing 1 activity and give yourself that time to do something you really want to do...like watch one of those Hallmark Christmas movies.

Plan Ahead

Obviously, you're not going to cut everything from your holiday season. Decide on what you'll keep. Remember, you are being proactive by choosing what you will keep and what you won't then whip out your calendar and plan those things into your schedule. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Putting things off till the last minute causes undue anxiety. Decorating for Christmas inside and out seems to be one of the things that's at the top of just about everybody's list so go ahead and enjoy that. But only do as much as you really want to do.

Shop Online

Books make great gifts and are just a click away. So is just about everything you can imagine. You'll avoid crowds and save time (and gas) driving to and from various stores and malls. Yes, you might end up paying for shipping (unless you're a wise Amazon Prime customer) but in the long run, if it saves you time and energy, it's totally worth it.

Say No

This one is the hardest of all because you want to have fun as much as the next guy, right? Or your heart is big and you want to help everyone who has a need. Or you just plain old don't want others to think badly of you if you just don't have the time or energy to serve on their committee or be one of Santa's Elves for Pictures with Santa. Dear friend, in order to lessen your stress, you might just need to start saying no. And if you do, guess what? Everyone will still love you and there will be someone else who can do what you can't.

"Stressed spelled backwards is Desserts!"

"As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation; and people to whom we are worth the same." Donald E. Westlake

"Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps... means a little bit more!" Dr. Seuss "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

There now, don't you feel better? Take a breath, or two or three, drive 'round town and enjoy everyone's lights and decorations and remember this precious truth: Jesus is the reason for this season! Go to a Christmas concert. Watch one of the Christmas movies on the Hallmark channel. Tell someone you love them. And smile. A lot!

One final thought... last Wednesday, December 7th, was Pearl Harbor Day, observed annually to remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led to the United States declaring war on Japan the next day and thus entering World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in his address to the Nation on December 8th that December 7th is: "A day that will live in infamy."

I'm hoping all your Christmas memories this year are merry and bright, and all the gifts you receive are exactly what you wanted and all the gifts you give are exactly what they wanted, too.

The picture this week is a Christmas memory. Seeing The Nutcracker.

"Christmas, it's almost here! My favorite, favorite time of year! Think mistletoe and holly, children's faces jolly. Carols on the radio, happy smiles each place you go.."

Whatever kind of tree you have, fake or fantastically real that fills the house with that marvelous evergreen smell, I hope decorating it brings you joy and pleasant memories. One of the things that will definitely bring you joy is to shop and dine right here in town. You might even walk downtown to shop and enjoy our beautiful Christmas decorations. Kersting Court has never been lovelier.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..." Is. 9:6

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
Christmas is just a few short weeks away and my book:
"Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"

Would be a really nice gift for everyone you know. It's on Amazon.com
"Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story, where four lonely people find love following a strange new star on Christmas Eve, is there, too.



Sierra Madre Kiwanis

Creating life changing experiences for our Community Youth

NEW: Join us for a FREE Breakfast on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 - 8:00 am at The Lodge 33 W Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025

<https://sierramadrekiwanis.com/>

Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Rain	Hi	50s	Lows 40s
Mon:	Cloudy	Hi	50s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Cloudy	Hi	50s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Cloudy	Hi	50s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Cloudy	Hi	50s	Lows 40s
Fri:	Cloudy	Hi	50s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 13, 2022 5:30pm

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transparency efforts and The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. Public comment may also be made by e-mail to PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Emails will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record. The public may also comment in person at the meeting.

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at foothillsmmedia.org/sierramadre and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum)..

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.



Wistaria Thrift Shop
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Entrance on Sunnyside
1957-2022 – 65 Years serving Sierra Madre


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The Wistaria Thrift Shop is grateful for your continued support and your clean, gently used donations that can become treasures for others.

Because we have Very Limited Space, Please
**No Furniture. No large electronics. i.e.:
No TVs, computers, monitors or printers. No Hangers
No Dated, Soiled or Damaged Clothes or Shoes**

Please bring Donations during Normal Business Hours
for **Tax Receipts & Immediate Processing.**

MON, THUS, FRI, SAT 10 am – 3:00 pm
GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org
SierraMadreWomansClub



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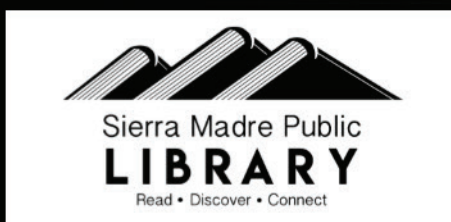
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This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

December 12—December 17

Monday

Preschool Storytime at Memorial Park—
Outdoors at 10:00am. Call to register

Wednesday

Teen Snackchat—In-person at 4:00pm

Thursday

Baby Rhyme Time at Memorial Park—
Outdoors at 9:00am. Call to register

Third Thursday Book Club—Online at
11:00am. Call to register

Saturday

3D Printing Basics —In-person at 11:00am

Read, Discover, Connect
@ Sierra Madre Public Library
(626) 355-7186



**WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CITY
BUT NOT SURE HOW?
APPLY TO JOIN A
COMMISSION!**

The City is expected to have vacancies on our commissions soon so you can get a head start by applying now.

Applications and more information can be found here: cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions

Planning Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Community Services Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Library Board of Trustees has two (2) anticipated vacancies.

Natural Resources Commission has one current vacancy and one anticipated vacancy for a total of two (2) vacancies.

Interested? Go To: <https://www.cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions>

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626-355-1180 www.leonoramoss.com

As we head into the holiday season,
we just want to say:
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at our small business!



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Saturday.....9am-5pm
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smumc.net



Pasadena Announces Paramedic Subscription Program



Pasadena Fire announced Monday the implementation of the Pasadena Paramedic Subscription Program. For just \$85 per year (less than \$7 per month), this voluntary program provides coverage for fees associated with any paramedic services or emergency transportation provided. The fee covers the subscriber and all other members of their household related by blood, marriage or adoption.

The charge for an ambulance transport can be as high as \$3,000. Even with medical insurance, copays and deductibles can range between \$50 to \$500 for transport. When paramedics are needed, cost should not be a concern.

“We’re thrilled to be able to offer this cost-savings program to community members,” EMS Battalion Chief Jason Hansen said. “With the rising cost of everything these days, this is an amazing deal for participants—especially since it covers all members of your household.”

Membership in the Paramedic Subscription Program provides unlimited use of Pasadena Fire Department’s emergency medical system. Every dollar received through the program is used to enhance emergency medical services to the community and to improve the local paramedic system.

Visit the Pasadena Fire Department website for more information about the Paramedic Subscription Program, including how to enroll and answers to frequently asked questions.

Christmas Matters Holiday Carolers

Enjoy an array of Christmas carols from Christmas Matters Holiday Carolers on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Adorned in stunningly detailed Dickens costumes, the quartet will ring in the season with their melodic voices.

The event will take place in Pasadena at the Linda Vista Branch Library, 1281 Bryant St.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net/library.



City Hall Courtyard Named in Honor of Bill and Claire Bogaard

For their exemplary leadership and public service to the residents of Pasadena, for decades, and their commitment to the historic preservation of the city, on Sunday, the City Hall Courtyard was dedicated in honor of former Mayor Bill Bogaard and Claire Bogaard. A bronze plaque was installed within the courtyard commemorating the occasion.

“Bill and Claire Bogaard are in a league of their own,” Mayor Victor Gordo said. “Their dedication and service to their community is singular and inspirational. Mayor Bogaard, in particular, has served as a role model and mentor to many, including myself. I am proud to call Mayor Bogaard and Claire friends and privileged to have the opportunity to dedicate this historic courtyard in their honor.”

According to city officials, the Bogaards’ work in support of improving the quality of life and ensuring the historic preservation of Pasadena have helped to define Pasadena as it is known today. For over 40 years, the Bogaards have helped to shape Pasadena as one of the nation’s leading cities, a city that is internationally recognized for its culture, arts, education, science, jobs and economic opportunity.

Bill and Claire Bogaard moved to Pasadena in the early 1970s. Shortly after their arrival to the city, Bill Bogaard launched a successful bid to represent District 6 on the Pasadena Board of Directors. Bill Bogaard served on the Pasadena Board of Directors from 1978-86, during which time he served as

Pictured: Pasadena City Council Members and the Mayor honor Bill Bogaard and Claire Bogaard (right) with a bronze plaque. Photo courtesy of the City of Pasadena

rotating mayor from 1984-86. In 1999, Bill Bogaard became the city’s first directly elected mayor and served in that role until 2015. During his tenure, the city ushered in the arrival of the Metro Gold Line light rail transit system, made significant new investment in housing, completed the construction of the new convention center, and invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the city’s neighborhoods to create better roads, bridges, schools, parks and city services which enriched the lives of Pasadenans. Bill Bogaard’s official public service spanned a total of 24 years, 18 of which were served as mayor. Since leaving office, he has continued to support the community through a number of appointments to advisory boards, task forces and nonprofits.

Claire Bogaard, the former First Lady of Pasadena, equally made her mark on the city. Given her passion for historic preservation, Ms. Bogaard helped to shape and preserve the Pasadena that exists today. A founding member of Pasadena Heritage, a community-based historic preservation association, Claire and her colleagues were instrumental in preserving Pasadena’s historic downtown at a time when it was contemplated that it be raised and replaced with high-rise development. In addition to her work with Pasadena Heritage, Claire Bogaard has served on the board of West Pasadena Residents Association—the City’s oldest and largest neighborhood association—and as an advisor to the National Trust of Historic Preservation, California State Historic Commission, and other City commissions and advisory committees, including the Committee for the Restoration of Pasadena City Hall.

“Bill and Claire Bogaard are exemplary civic leaders. Bill’s long-running service as an elected—including

an unprecedented 18 years as mayor—and Claire’s contributions to historic preservation and planning have helped make Pasadena a world-class city for all,” said current District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, who for several years led the effort to honor the Bogaards and moved the council’s renaming action earlier this year. “So much of Bill’s work occurred inside City Hall, and so much of Claire’s work preserved sacred icons like City Hall. The council’s decision to rename the courtyard at Pasadena’s historic City Hall for this remarkable couple is a fitting and appropriate tribute given their monumental contributions to this great City.”

At their May 2, 2022, meeting, the Pasadena City Council approved the renaming of the Pasadena City Hall Courtyard in honor of Bill and Claire Bogaard.

Bill and Claire have been married for 61 years and have four children and eight grandchildren.

Christmas Eve Brunch at Senior Center

Have yourself a merry little Christmas Eve brunch and party Saturday, Dec. 24, at 11 a.m. at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.

The holiday has not been celebrated onsite at the center for the last two years due to the COVID pandemic. Now the center is open again as a gathering place for holiday celebrations as well as many other events and activities.

Weather and temperature permitting, the Christmas Eve brunch and party will take place on the spacious outdoor patio; in the event of inclement weather, it will take place indoors in the Scott Pavilion. Whatever location is selected, it will be decorated beautifully and will overflow with holiday spirit as guests enjoy the feast with all the trimmings.

Pianist Steve Ormond will provide entertainment, and Santa will stop by with Christmas cheer and gifts for everyone!

The cost is only \$15 for members of the Pasadena Senior Center and \$20 for nonmembers of all ages. Prepaid reservations must be made no later than Wednesday, Dec. 21, at www.pasadenaseniorcenter.org (click on Activities & Events, then Special Events) or the Welcome Desk at the center.

For more information, visit the website or call (626) 795-4331.

Supervisor Barger Dedicates \$1M to Deter Holiday Crime

Supervisor Kathryn Barger announced Tuesday that she will provide up to \$1 million in discretionary funding to boost law enforcement services in unincorporated areas, including Altadena, in her district.

Her announcement comes as the busy holiday shopping season approaches – and, along with it, an increased threat of crime.

“This month’s busiest holiday shopping days are quickly approaching and the threat of increased criminal activity is real,” said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. “Last year’s smash-and-grab crime wave taught us we need to be ready to prevent theft before it happens. The funds I’m allocating to Sheriff stations in the Fifth District will help provide more law enforcement patrols and increase their presence in the communities I represent. Everyone deserves to feel safe during the holidays, whether they work in retail, are out shopping for loved ones, or simply enjoying time off at home.”

Sheriff Robert Luna reacted to Supervisor Barger’s announcement, stating “With Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s significant financial support, we will be increasing high visibility patrols in the unincorporated areas in the Fifth District, in an effort to deter crime and provide for a safer shopping experience. As always, we encourage the public to be aware of their surroundings, keep valuables hidden out of sight when parking their vehicle, and report any suspicious activity to their local Sheriff’s station.”

Dr. Sandra Thomas, President of the Altadena Chamber of Commerce, commented on



Supervisor Barger’s action. “Retail shop owners need to feel protected and families need to feel safe while strolling and shopping during this holiday season,” Dr. Thomas said. “Neighborhood shops and small businesses in particular will greatly benefit from Supervisor Barger’s commitment of funds for more law enforcement presence in the communities she represents. We are thankful for her support.”

The following L.A. County Sheriff Department patrol stations will receive funding from Supervisor Barger: Altadena, Crescenta Valley, Lancaster, Palmdale, and San Dimas.

Collectively, these five stations serve over 40 communities.

Earlier this year, Supervisor Barger worked with local Sheriff’s stations and chambers of commerce in the East San Gabriel Valley and Antelope Valley on their “No Cash In Store” campaign. Through the initiative, Supervisor Barger’s office created signage to distribute to local businesses to place on their doors to dissuade robbers from break-ins.

For more information visit: kathrynbarger.lacounty.gov.

Chris Holden Praises Inaugural Seismic Resilience Partnerships

Assemblymember Chris Holden commended the USRC and the U.S. Small Business Administration on their Partnership for Seismic Resiliency during a press conference in Pasadena last week.

“Now and through the last few years, more and more independent contractors and other hybrid workers are working from home,” Holden said. “With this inaugural partnership for seismic retrofitting of soft story buildings, we are not only helping with safety at home but safety of small business owners.”

The U.S. Resiliency Council hosted the press event alongside Biden Administration (SBA) Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman to highlight their Partnership Agreement for the inaugural launch of the Resilience Advantage webinar and seminar of educational programs to help businesses

increase seismic resiliency. “Congratulations to the U.S. Resiliency Council and the U.S. Small Business Administration on this essential partnership. When working with the U.S.R.C. to obtain funding to retrofit soft story multifamily housing in California, their commitment to protecting our communities was apparent. I am excited to see them continue making strides through this partnership,” stated Assemblymember Rodriguez.

During the 2021-22 legislative session, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and Assemblymember Holden partnered with the USRC to allocate \$250 million to establish and implement the Seismic Retrofitting Program for Soft Story Multifamily Housing.

This funding was allocated in the 2023-24 General Fund of the Budget Act and will ensure the safety of our communities most vulnerable to disaster in an earthquake.

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San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

Light Up San Marino!

Registration: Ends Sunday
Voting: December 12 – December 18

Do you have the most festive home or business in town? Compete in the Light Up San Marino holiday decorating contest! Take a picture of your outdoor holiday decorations and register for the contest. Starting December 12, a map of the participating entries will be made available so you and the family can drive-by and enjoy. Photos of each home will be posted on Facebook and the top 3 entries with the most “likes” will win a gift card to a local business. The Mayor of San Marino will award the grand prize for creativity and holiday spirit. Winners will be announced December 19.

Holiday Events at the Old Mill

FlowerTruckLA on Thursday, December 8 from 9 - 11 AM

FlowerTruckLA is coming back to the Old Mill with farm to vase, fresh cut flowers for the holidays including garlands and wreaths. Come stroll the gardens and enjoy a cup of coffee while shopping for your holiday flowers!

‘Holiday Magic Under the Stars’ on Sunday, December 11 at 5 PM

Come celebrate the holidays at the Old Mill with ‘Holiday Magic Under the Stars’, a concert featuring Orchid Quartet on Sunday, December 11th at 5:00pm (gates open at 4:30pm). This will be a memorable way to start off the holiday season. Orchid Quartet will play one hour of music with no intermission. Warm drinks and refreshments will be served.

Huntington Nurses Health Screening

Wednesday, December 14 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Barth Community Room

The Huntington Nurses offer free blood pressure and glucose screenings. Please plan to fast 2 hours prior to having glucose checked. These blood pressure and glucose evaluations can lead to prevention and early detection of the “silent killer” diseases such as hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes. Health screenings will be held every second Wednesday of the month. Registration is not required.

City Council Transitions and Swearing in of Elected Council Members

The City Council Meeting on December 14 will begin with a ceremony for City Council transitions. We will honor our two outgoing

Council Members and honor our one re-elected and two newly elected Council Members.

Join us at 6 PM online or in the Council Chambers for this celebration and change in leadership.

Recent Happenings

This past week, Parks and Public Works staff completed tasks such as removing fallen tree branches and other debris from the public right-of-way, replacing streetlight bulbs and street signs, repairing pavement, performing pruning around Lacy Park, and completing minor repairs at different City facilities. Staff also hung street pole banners along Huntington Drive in preparation for the upcoming Home for the Holidays event. Residents who wish to report non-emergency issues in the public right-of-way or City streets may do so via the San Marino Service Request Center: cityofsanmarino.org/report.

Parks & Public Works

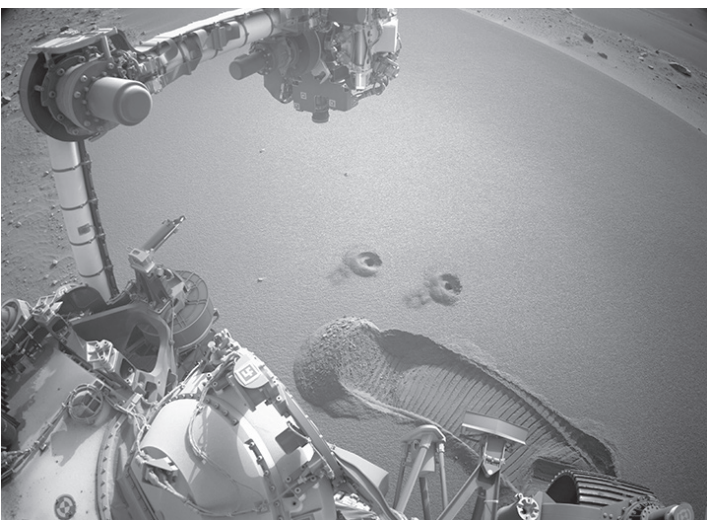
Progress Tour and Update for the San Marino Center

Earlier this week, Council Member-Elect Calvin Lo and members of the San Marino Center Task Force joined City staff on a tour of the under-construction San Marino Center site. The group was able to tour both the interior and exterior of the building to see its progress, and had its questions answered by the project’s Construction Manager. The interior demolition of the building is now complete, and the contractor is currently working on historical protection, hazardous material abatement, roof replacement, and site utility work. The City would like to thank members of the Task Force for all of their hard work and dedication related to this project.

Holiday House Set Up

On Saturday, December 2nd, Public Works maintenance staff worked with the Community Services Department, Rotary Club, and the Chamber of Commerce to assemble the Holiday House at the northwest corner of Huntington Drive and Sierra Madre Boulevard. Public Works staff repainted the structure, and with the assistance of other city staff and community groups, helped assemble and decorate the structure, which is a traditional centerpiece of San Marino during the holiday season. The Department would like to thank all staff and community groups who helped during the process.

Perseverance Rover Gets the Dirt on Mars



The mission’s first two samples of regolith – broken rock and dust – could help scientists better understand the Red Planet and engineers prepare for future missions there.

NASA officials announced Wednesday that JPL Perseverance rover snagged two new samples from the Martian surface on Dec. 2 and 6. But unlike the 15 rock cores collected to date, these newest samples came from a pile of wind-blown sand and dust similar to but smaller than a dune. Now contained in special metal collection tubes, one of these two samples will be considered for deposit on the Martian surface sometime this month as part of the Mars Sample Return campaign.

Scientists want to study Martian samples with powerful lab equipment on Earth to search for signs of ancient microbial life and to better understand the processes that have shaped the surface of Mars. Most of the samples will be rock; however, researchers also want to examine regolith – broken rock and dust – not only because of what it can teach us about geological processes and the environment on Mars, but also to mitigate some of the challenges astronauts will face on the Red Planet. Regolith can affect everything from spacesuits to solar panels, so it’s just as interesting to engineers as it is to scientists.

As with rock cores, these latest samples were collected using a drill on the end of the rover’s robotic arm. But for the regolith samples, Perseverance used a drill bit that looks like a spike with small holes on one end to gather loose material.

Engineers designed the special drill bit after extensive testing with simulated regolith developed by JPL. Called Mojave Mars Simulant, it’s made of volcanic rock crushed into a variety of particle sizes, from fine dust to coarse pebbles, based on images of regolith and data collected by previous Mars missions.

“Everything we learn about the size, shape, and chemistry of regolith grains helps us design and test better tools for future missions,” said Iona Tirona of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, which leads the Perseverance mission.

Tirona was the activity lead for operations to collect the recent regolith sample. “The more data we have, the more realistic our simulators can be.”

The Challenge of Dust

Studying regolith up close could help engineers design future Mars missions – as well as the equipment used by future Martian astronauts. Dust and regolith can damage spacecraft and science instruments alike. Regolith can jam sensitive parts and slow down rovers on the surface. The grains could also pose unique challenges to astronauts: Lunar regolith was discovered to be sharp enough to tear microscopic holes in spacesuits during the Apollo missions to the Moon.

Regolith could be helpful if packed against a habitat to shield astronauts from radiation, but it also contains risks: The Martian surface contains perchlorate, a toxic chemical that could threaten the health of astronauts if large amounts were accidentally inhaled or ingested.

“If we have a more permanent presence on Mars, we need to know how the dust and regolith will interact with our spacecraft and habitats,” said Perseverance team member Erin Gibbons, a McGill University doctoral candidate who uses Mars regolith simulators as part of her work with the rover’s rock-vaporizing laser, called SuperCam.

“Some of those dust grains could be as fine as cigarette smoke, and could get into an astronaut’s breathing apparatus,” added Gibbons, who was previously part of a NASA program studying human-robot exploration of Mars. “We want a fuller picture of which materials would be harmful to our explorers, whether they’re human or robotic.”

Besides answering questions about health and safety hazards, a tube of Martian regolith could inspire scientific wonder. Looking at it under a microscope would reveal a kaleidoscope of grains in different shapes and colors. Each one would be like a jigsaw puzzle piece, all of them joined together by wind and water over billions of years.

“There are so many different materials mixed into Martian regolith,” said Libby Hausrath of University of Nevada, Las Vegas, one of Perseverance’s sample return scientists. “Each sample represents an integrated history of the planet’s surface.”

As an expert on Earth’s soils, Hausrath is most interested in finding signs of interaction between water and rock. On Earth, life is found practically everywhere there’s water. The same could have been true for Mars billions of years ago, when the planet’s climate was much more like Earth’s.

More About the Mission
A key objective for Perseverance’s mission on Mars is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. The rover will characterize the planet’s geology and past climate, pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet, and be the first mission to collect and cache Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust).

Subsequent NASA missions, in cooperation with ESA (European Space Agency), would send spacecraft to Mars to collect these sealed samples from the surface and return them to Earth for in-depth analysis.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission is part of NASA’s Moon to Mars exploration approach, which includes Artemis missions to the Moon that will help prepare for human exploration of the Red Planet.

JPL, which is managed for NASA by Caltech in Pasadena, California, built and manages operations of the Perseverance rover.

For more about Perseverance: mars.nasa.gov/mars2020.

Adam Schiff on Passage of Respect for Marriage Act

Congressman Adam Schiff made the following statement after the U.S. Congress Thursday passed the Respect for Marriage Act.

“The right to marry is fundamental – yet there are still too many elected officials and appointed judges who would do away with this right. I am proud the House was able to put the Respect for Marriage Act over the finish line today, which will ensure that LGBTQ+

couples and interracial couples never again need to worry about whether their marriage will be recognized by the state they reside in. President Biden should sign this bill into law without delay. And we must continue the fight to restore the right to choose, another important freedom stripped away by this reckless Supreme Court. We can’t afford to let up when our most basic human rights are on the line.”

Chris Holden Introduces Bill to Bridge the Digital Divide

Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced AB 41 Monday, The Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023. AB 41 builds on the progress of AB 2748, introduced in 2022 to help bridge the digital divide and address accessibility, quality, and affordability.

DIVCA was originally passed in 2006 to encourage competition in the cable market, with its intent to benefit consumers by lowering prices and promoting expansion of service, including broadband.

Over 15 years, later it is clear that DIVCA has fallen short of its promises. For example, thousands of households across the state lack access to broadband service, even in urban areas where “donut holes” of service remain in areas that ought to be served by existing companies. Further, DIVCA’s outdated anti-discrimination statutes and a lack of focus around digital equity issues generate little incentive for providers to give equal service to low-income and unserved areas.

“At the end of the day, we know that affordable, reliable access to and high-quality broadband is necessity for living in the 21st century and that the digital divide is not just a rural problem but, an urban problem,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden. “This bill will help the state strengthen its



oversight for cable internet service providers to ensure that Californians of any income level regardless of zip code have equal access to service. Even in my own district, there are households that are prevented from buying the highest quality of fiber internet service because of their address.”

This bill would leverage the state’s licensing authority over cable companies, who are among the largest internet service providers in the state, by obligating them to serve the public under the highest standards and in a manner that ensures equal access to service. This legislation builds upon the Federal Digital Equity Act, passed as part of President Biden’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as previous efforts in the state legislature to strengthen the state’s oversight of cable companies.

Adam Schiff Calls on Elon Musk to Tamp Down Hate Speech on Twitter App

Congressman Adam Schiff and Congressman Mark Takano (CA-41) delivered a letter to Twitter CEO Elon Musk urging him to take action to combat the rise in dangerous hate speech on Twitter.

“Although you tweeted that one of your goals as Chief Executive Officer of Twitter was strong content moderation on the platform, the results of your leadership have been the opposite,” write Schiff and Takano. “Multiple reports have shown that since you became CEO in late October, hate speech has dramatically increased on Twitter. Under your leadership, there has been an extreme spike in the number of tweets that include slurs, the level of engagement with these tweets, and the popularity of spreading this harmful rhetoric.”

According to the Center for Countering Digital Hate, the number of tweets containing slurs has grown significantly since Musk become CEO. Slurs against Black people have tripled. Slurs against women have increased by 33 percent. Slurs against gay men have increased by 58 percent. And slurs against Jewish people have increased by 61 percent. Moreover, engagement with tweets containing these harmful slurs has increased by 273 percent.

“With rapidly changing and unclear policies on content moderation on Twitter, amid documented negative trends and public evidence,

we are concerned about the individual and community harm arising from Twitter, including how that could spill from online into real life. We are seeking further information about your plans for content moderation and the capability of your workforce to implement and enforce your policies,” the members write.

Schiff and Takano also requested answers to four questions:

What steps is [Elon Musk] taking in response to the recent rise in hate speech on [Twitter] and how [does he] plan to make these decisions available to the public? Additionally, what is [the] timeline for rolling out any of these changes?

What is Twitter’s plan to increase safety for its users, and more specifically the LGBTQ+ community and the Jewish community?

What is the current process for enforcing content moderation on [Twitter]? How [does Musk] plan to make these processes transparent and available to the public and researchers?

What is [Twitter’s] current capability and capacity to handle the risks arising from the extreme rise in hate speech, hate actors and the growth of hate communities? What is the current risk-assessment process and response timeline for viral hate speech and disinformation?

To read the full letter visit: schiff.house.gov.



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ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 27th through Saturday, December 3rd, the Police Department responded to 957 calls for service, of which 84 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 27:
1. At 3:44 a.m., an officer responded to Arcadia Par 3 Golf Course regarding a commercial burglary. The officer discovered the security alarm was activated when an unknown suspect cut several locks and fled with a stolen golf cart.
2. At 4:15 a.m., officers responded to 7 Eleven, located at 200 East Live Oak Avenue, regarding a robbery in progress. An investigation revealed a lone suspects entered the business, threatened the clerk with a handgun, and fled with cigarettes, lottery scratchers, and nicotine vape pens. The suspect is described as a male with a medium build, 5'9" tall, with a mask. The investigation is pending a review of the surveillance footage.,

Monday, November 28:
3. At 2:25 a.m., an officer responded to The Shops at Santa Anita, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a recovered stolen vehicle report. The officer determined a suspicious vehicle had been left running in the mall parking lots and a records check revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen out of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Temple Station. No suspects were located at the scene and the vehicle was released to the registered owner.
4. At 9:42 a.m., an officer responded to the 1000 block of Rodeo Road regarding a grand theft incident. Sometime between November 25th at 1:00 a.m. and November 26th at 2:00 p.m., someone stole the victim's catalytic converter from his Lexus SUV.

Tuesday, November 29:
5. At 5:06 a.m., an officer responded to Go-Go Liquor, located at 914 West Duarte Road, regarding a burglary alarm activation. Surveillance footage revealed two suspects smashed a front window and stole lottery scratchers. They fled in a tan Chevrolet Suburban. The suspects are described as two males wearing sweatshirts and masks.
6. At 7:08 a.m., an officer responded to the 1100 block of Fairview Avenue regarding a theft from vehicle report. The victim discovered someone entered his unlocked vehicle and fled with tools and a chainsaw. The crime occurred sometime during the previous night.

Wednesday, November 30:
7. At 12:15 p.m., an officer responded to Big Lots, located at 610 Las Tunas Drive, regarding a grand theft report. An investigation revealed a store employee was stealing from the store by marking down items without authorization. The investigation is ongoing.
8. At 10:09 p.m., an officer responded to The Shops at Santa Anita, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a grand theft report. The victim discovered someone had forced open a storage compartment on his motorcycle and stole a helmet and other equipment.

Thursday, December 1:
9. At 7:38 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 700 block of West Longden Avenue regarding an attempted burglary investigation. The officer determined unknown suspect(s) broke a glass door and, it appears, as though they did not enter the home. No loss was reported. The suspect is described as a male, between 5'8" and 5' 10" tall, wearing a hooded sweatshirt and a medical mask.
10. At 9:24 a.m., an officer responded to SpringHill Suites, located at 99 North Second Avenue, regarding a fraud investigation. While the officer was on scene, a records check of one of the subjects revealed the 37-year-old from Carson had an outstanding warrant. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Friday, December 2:
11. At 11:41 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 1000 block of South Sixth Avenue regarding a fraud report. The victim discovered fraudulent charges on her debit card amounting to a loss of \$500.00. The victim does not know the identity of the suspect or how they obtained their debit card information.
12. At 1:57 p.m., an officer responded to the intersection of Baldwin Avenue and Fairview Avenue regarding a battery report. An investigation revealed a male suspect hit an autistic male in the face for no apparent reason. The suspect, a White male with a large frame and blonde hair, was gone by the time officers arrived.
13. At 2:21 p.m., an officer responded to Big Lots, located at 610 Las Tunas Drive, regarding a robbery that had just occurred. An investigation revealed two female suspects were attempting to steal various items when they confronted by an employee. They threatened to stab the employee and fled in a Chevrolet Impala. The suspects are described as two Hispanic females. The investigation is pending a review of the surveillance footage.

Saturday, December 3:
14. At 12:54 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of Las Tunas Drive regarding a vandalism report. Sometime between 6:30 p.m. on December 2nd and 12:54 p.m. on December 3rd, someone punctured the victim's tires and scratched the side of her car.

ARREST OF INTEREST

On December 2, 2022, at 9:42 AM, Arcadia Police Detectives responded to a residence in the 1800 block of Oakwood Avenue as part of an ongoing investigation. During the contact with the occupant of the residence, detectives developed probable cause to believe large scale narcotics sales were occurring at the location.

Detectives obtained a search warrant for the location in furtherance of their investigation. As a result of the search warrant, approximately 2,000 pounds of processed and packaged marijuana was discovered and seized. The adult female occupant of the residence was arrested for possession of marijuana for sales and booked at the Arcadia Police Department.

The case is currently under investigation. Anyone with information on this incident is encouraged to contact the Arcadia Police Department at (626) 574-5151, case number 2204323.

If you prefer to provide information anonymously, you may call "Crime Stoppers" by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477), use your smartphone by downloading the "P3 Tips" Mobile APP on Google play or the Apple App Store, or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.

ARCADIA LAUNCHES SELF-SERVICE PERMITTING PORTAL

ARCADIA, CA – The City of Arcadia's Development Services Department has launched Arcadia EDGE, an online customer service portal that provides permit assistance and access to many tools and information relating to development and permitting within the City. 'EDGE' stands for Electronic Development Gateway and was designed with the goal of bringing various Development Services Department service features onto a unified platform for the ease of customers, residents, and business applicants.

Arcadia EDGE features include the ability to schedule a building inspection for an active building permit, view building inspection schedules, look up permit history on a specific address, report a code violation, apply for a business license, and much more, from your home or personal device.

Arcadia EDGE will continue the City's overall efforts to streamline business processes and make permitting more efficient and effective. Visit ArcadiaCA.gov/EDGE and get started!

MONROVIA 2022 ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ORNAMENT SALE



Celebrate the holidays and support public art with Monrovia's first tree ornament! The design features a winter wonderland in Old Town Monrovia. The beautifully crafted ornament is made of high-quality ceramic, brilliantly designed by Monrovia Artist Austin Lubetkin. The limited edition ornament is \$15, and all proceeds go to support the Art in Public Places program. This ornament is a great gift and is sure to be a favorite collectible! For any questions, contact Zessau at (626) 932-5564.

DUARTE POLICE BLOTTER

November 28, 2022
• Burglary (Residential):
500 Block of Mel Canyon Road. Between November 24, 2022 7:00 PM and November 28, 2022 6:00 PM suspect(s) unknown shattered the rear sliding glass door and entered the location. The suspect(s) ransacked the location and stole unknown property. No surveillance video available.

November 29, 2022
• Burglary (Commercial):
1470 Mountain Avenue (Best Buy). On November 29, 2022 8:53 PM suspect(s) unknown a male Hispanic adult wearing a black "Raiders" hat, blue face mask, blue flannel shirt, and dark jeans and a female Hispanic adult with red hair, burgundy face mask, blue jean vest, and a light gray hooded sweatshirt entered the location. The female was pushing a flatbed shopping cart around the store, where she selected three speaker boxes and a "Shark Wandvac". The male suspect distracted employees while the female began to exit the store without attempting to pay for the items. The male suspect followed behind, where they both entered a tan Lexus SUV with a partial license plate of 8ELP95. Loss was approximately \$1,500. Surveillance video available.

November 30, 2022
• Grand Theft:
800 Block of Highland Avenue. Between November 29, 2022 11:00 PM and November 30, 2022 4:00 AM suspect(s) unknown broke the locks to the victims work truck a 2019 Ford F250 and stole several tools from the compartments. Loss was approximately \$5,500. No surveillance video available.

December 1, 2022
• Aggravated Assault (Domestic Violence):
1500 Block of Duncannon Avenue. On December 1, 2022 between 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM the victim stated she was assaulted by her boyfriend at the location. Deputies contacted the victim at Arcadia Hospital, who fled the location to Monrovia, where she was later transported by ambulance. Suspect outstanding. No surveillance video available.

December 2, 2022
• Burglary (Vehicle):
2475 Huntington Drive (We Pack it All). Between December 1, 2022 10:00 PM and December 2, 2022 12:15 AM suspect(s) unknown shattered the front passenger side window to the victim's vehicle a 2018 Nissan Altima and stole her wallet and phone from her front seat. Loss was approximately \$2,000. No surveillance video available.

December 3, 2022
• Burglary (Commercial):
1856 Huntington Drive (Cabreras Mexican Cuisine). On December 3, 2022 at 2:59 AM suspect(s) unknown shattered the front glass door and entered the location. The suspect(s) ransacked the location and stole money from a drawer in the office. Loss was approximately \$500. Possible surveillance video available.

• Burglary (Vehicle):
1600 Mountain Avenue (Walmart). On December 3, 2022 between 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM suspect(s) unknown pried the front driver side door to the victim's vehicle a 2005 Infinity FX35 and stole her Nordstrom Rack shopping bags containing miscellaneous merchandise from her front seat. Loss was approximately \$500. No surveillance video available.

• Burglary (Vehicle):
700 Block of Greenbank Avenue. Between November 30, 2022 8:00 PM and December 3, 2022 8:00 AM suspect(s) unknown stole the victim's catalytic converter to their vehicle a 2013 Toyota Prius. Loss was approximately \$2,500. No surveillance video available.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Fraud Alert: Credit Card Skimmers

Skimming devices are hidden electronics used to steal banking and personal information stored on credit and debit cards. In most cases, skimmers are being placed inside gas pumps and are undetectable without opening the machine.

Citizens can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim by following the below tips:

- Pay inside at the gas station, instead of paying at the pump.
- If not using cash, always pay with a credit card, not a debit card, for better fraud protection.
- If using a debit card, run it as a credit card instead of putting in a PIN number.
- Consider using a refillable prepaid card to purchase gas at the pumps.
- If you haven't done so already, switch to a chip reader on your card.
- Regularly monitor your bank statement for fraudulent activity.
- Report fraudulent activity to your local law enforcement agency.

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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Peter Dills Knows

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas
Peter “St. Nick” Dills

Originally dubbed “the devils wine” because the bubbles tended to explode in the thin bottles, champagne has long been the choice (well, my choice) to celebrate special occasions for as long as I can remember. January 1st is National Champagne Day, and for good reason - more bubbles will be served from December 24th to January 1st than any other time of the year. Remembering that only grapes from the region of Champagne, France can be so-titled, our last review for the year celebrates bubbles from Champagne: Mumm Cordon Rouge Brut. This is a non-vintage winner - just like many blends I have written about from California, some of the best champagnes I’ve had are non-vintage. The wine maker has access to over 500 acres of grapes, and the Reims area of Champagne produces great juice year after year. The Mumm name is rivaled only by the House of Moet for champagne dominance. Though you might see me at the local market picking up a bottle of Veuve Cliquot, for \$10 less I can hardly notice the difference.



Of course, this is not a beverage I would recommend drinking on a regular basis, but for a very lasting memory of a great occasion, this champagne will surely create it! Many of you expressed the need for me to keep the prices down in this article - trust me I hear you loud and clear - but for a celebration I do like this champagne. The Cordon Rouge has a wonderful depth of flavor, though some say a little too sweet (I disagree). If stored properly and chilled to the right temperature you will enjoy this immensely. Save the strawberries and cherries for the prosecco, this is real champagne. Champagne goes also very well with fried food (the bubbles cut through the oils of the food) and will also compliment a nice bowl of salty popcorn. Yes, I said popcorn. One last tip for the holidays, your sparkling wine or champagne will not keep overnight, so once it’s opened at the restaurant or your home plan on sharing with a friend to finish it.
Closure: Corked

Dills Score

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

Total Score 91, retail →→\$44 on Sale, around \$34 at most area Vons

Tune into Dining w/Dills Sunday 5PM KLAA AM 830 Radio
Find my food blog www.peterdills.com

GIVE BLOOD OR PLATELETS WITH RED CROSS AHEAD OF HECTIC HOLIDAY WEEKS

\$10 Amazon.com Gift Card or T-shirt for donors this month

[Los Angeles, Dec. 7, 2022] — As more people make travel plans to celebrate with family and friends this year, the American Red Cross asks donors to set aside a time to give blood or platelets for patients waiting for care over the holidays.

Throughout the season, several factors can disrupt the ability of the Red Cross to collect enough blood for patients across the country.

- Travel: According to a recent study, nearly half of Americans plan to travel over the holidays this year, which may negatively impact the blood supply if fewer people come out to donate.
- Seasonal illness: The U.S. is seeing a rise in respiratory illnesses like the flu and RSV, which can decrease the availability of healthy donors.
- Weather: Parts of the country have already seen storms bring several feet of snow this year. Winter weather often leads to hazardous road conditions, canceling blood drives and making it dangerous for donors to venture out to give. It’s important for donors – especially type O blood donors and platelet donors – to give now to ensure hospitals have the blood they need through the end of the year. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give blood through Dec. 15 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, thanks to Amazon.* Those who come to give Dec. 16-Jan. 2 will get a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 7-31
ARCADIA

12/12/2022: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Arcadia Chapter, 376 W Huntington Dr.
12/13/2022: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Arcadia Woman's Club, 324 S 1st Ave.
12/19/2022: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., The Shops at Santa Anita, 400 S Baldwin Ave.
12/20/2022: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., USC Arcadia Hospital, 300 West Huntington Dr.

DUARTE

12/9/2022: 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., Royal Oaks STEAM Academy, 2499 Royal Oaks Dr.

MONROVIA

12/14/2022: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Living Spaces, 407 W Huntington Dr.

PASADENA

12/7/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/8/2022: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/9/2022: 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/10/2022: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/11/2022: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/12/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/13/2022: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., All Saints Episcopal Church, 132 N Euclid Ave
12/13/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/14/2022: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 500 E Colorado blvd
12/14/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/15/2022: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/16/2022: 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/17/2022: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/18/2022: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103

12/19/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/20/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/21/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/22/2022: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/23/2022: 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/24/2022: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/26/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/27/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/28/2022: 12:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/29/2022: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/30/2022: 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103
12/31/2022: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Pasadena Blood Donation Center, 2471 E. Walnut St, Suite 103

SIERRA MADRE

12/21/2022: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 25 E Laurel Ave.

SOUTH PASADENA

12/7/2022: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., South Pasadena Public Library, 1115 El Centro St.
12/21/2022: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., South Pasadena Public Library, 1115 El Centro St/

HOW TO DONATE BLOOD

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

AMPLIFY YOUR IMPACT – VOLUNTEER!

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check-in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience. Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org/la or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on Twitter at @RedCrossLA

TRUE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

By Bryan Golden

Among other things, the holidays are a time of giving and receiving gifts. The question most often asked of people is, "what did you get?" Much less frequently asked is, "what did you give?" Invariably, the inquiries concern material gifts. Purchasing a gift can certainly be thoughtful and a wonderful gesture, especially when it's backed up by your actions.

However, the most valuable presents are those that aren't sold in stores. When you give your love, your time, help someone in need, aid another in solving a problem or overcoming an obstacle, you give something priceless.

The true spirit of the holidays is giving. When you give, you receive. You can get anything in life you want by helping enough others get what they want. But only if you give without expecting anything in return. The impact of giving isn't limited to just the holiday season, it's something that has value all year.

The power of giving is often underestimated. When you give unconditionally, you don't just impact the recipient; you start a chain reaction. By brightening the life of one person you also affect all those who they then touch.

No gesture of giving or kindness is too small. Holding the door open at a store, helping someone carry groceries to their car, letting another car in front of you, saying please and thank you, and saying hello to a stranger you pass on the sidewalk, are some of the many things you can do daily.

For family and friends, your time is one of the most precious gifts you can offer. Are you there for others when they need you? Do you offer a hand without being asked? Do you help out when asked?

Too often, people get caught up in their own desires, thus losing sight of the needs of others. A person who tries to get through life by looking out for himself or herself first is invariably frustrated. Often this person views life as a competition to determine who can accumulate more.

On the other hand, those who are concerned for the wellbeing of others are happier, more content, and more satisfied. By giving without expecting, they in turn receive the things they need.

Giving is a simple concept that works every time it is applied. There will be people who don't appreciate what you do, but it doesn't matter. You are giving without anticipating anything in return. Besides, there will be many more who are thankful for your efforts.

If you don't treat others well, buying a gift won't compensate for your behavior. The recipient might like what you give them but it won't make up for your actions. You can't bribe someone to forgive the way you treat them with a present.

The best gift you can receive is the joy of making someone else happy. Being unselfish is a wonderful way to live. When you give with no ulterior motives, your actions are seen as genuine. Should you expect something in return, your behavior is always suspect. We all know people who do nice things only when they want something in return.

Make giving a daily routine. Don't start and end with the holiday season. Every day is a good day to do something nice. When people feel good due to your actions, you can't help but feel happy yourself. And that is priceless. The most significant action you can take is having a positive impact on the lives of others.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2022 Bryan Golden



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THE PASADENA CHORALE IS LOOKING FOR STUDENT COMPOSERS FROM PASADENA AREA HIGH SCHOOLS FOR ITS LISTENING TO THE FUTURE PROGRAM



2021/2022 student composers from Pasadena Chorale's Listening to the Future program with Pasadena Chorale Founding Artistic & Executive Director Jeffrey Bernstein, photo courtesy of Pasadena Chorale

(Pasadena, Calif.) Dec. 5, 2022 – The Pasadena Chorale is proud to announce that it has opened the application process for its student-mentor composition program – Listening to the Future, now in its seventh year. The Chorale is looking to accept Pasadena area high school students from ninth through 12th grade to enroll into its Listening to the Future program that will begin in January 2023 and run through June 2023. The five-month composition program culminates with the Pasadena Chorale performing the student composers’ new work at its Listening to the Future concert on June 17, 2023. Students can learn how to apply at <https://www.pasadenachorale.org/listening-to-the-future>. A teacher recommendation is required to apply and applications must be submitted by December 31, 2022.

"Listening to the Future is an arts education program that is very special to me. Created and supported by Pasadena Chorale, Listening to the Future began in 2016 to give young composers a chance to hear their music performed in concert. There wasn't a program like it in Pasadena," said Pasadena Chorale Founding Artistic & Executive Director Jeffrey Bernstein. "This year we're thrilled that L.A.-based Amy Gordon will return as our composer mentor. Amy was the composer mentor in 2019-20. She's a terrific composer and a superb educator."

The high school students chosen to participate in the Pasadena Chorale's Listening to the Future program will be selected based on their music experience, level of readiness, and teacher recommendation. Students will meet with professional composer Amy Gordon every two weeks, alternating in-person and Zoom meetings. Gordon will provide feedback on their work and help them revise it. Students will produce one piece of original music for the Chorale and one arrangement of an existing tune.

In March 2023, all six student composers will meet together as a class with Amy Gordon and the Chorale will rehearse the students' new work for the first time. The student composers will have the opportunity to listen to their music performed by the 70-member Chorale live and in-person. Gordon will continue to help the students fine tune their work in preparation for rehearsals for the Listening to the Future concert that will begin in 2023. The final pieces will be performed at the Chorale's June 17 concert. Students will receive video and audio recordings of their finished work that they can include in their portfolios and in their college applications.

The Pasadena Chorale's Listening to the Future is a highly-selective program that is mostly ideal for high school juniors and seniors. In the six years since the program began, the Pasadena Chorale has had six professional working composers mentor 24 student composers, and 62 compositions have

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325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016
(626) 471-2000
Website: www.monroviaschools.net

Duarte Unified School District
1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010
(626)599-5000
Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us


Arcadia Christian School
1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006
Preschool - and TK - 8th Grade
626-574-8229/626-574-0805
Email: inquiry@acs lions.com
Principal: Cindy Harmon
website: www.acs lions.com

been produced by students of the program. Alumni of the program have gone on to study at Stanford, Columbia, Yale, Chapman University, University of Michigan and more.


For information on the Pasadena Chorale's Listening to the Future program, please visit Pasadena-Chorale.org/listening-to-the-future.




We like to grate nutmeg on top of our...











...eggnog and to use peppermint in cocoa.



Kids: color stuff in!



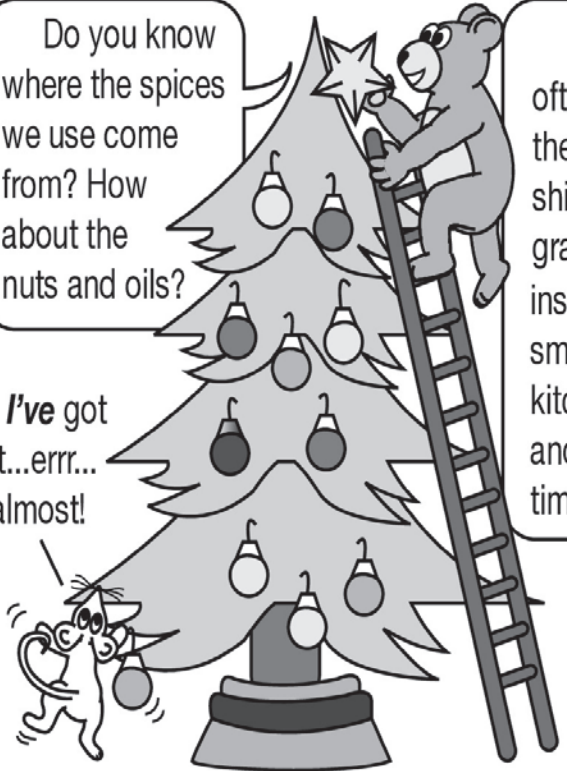
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Do you know where the spices we use come from? How about the nuts and oils?

I've got it...errr...almost!




The holidays are full of excitement. People often share their joy with others by decorating their yards, homes and hearths. Colored lights shine from tree branches. Garlands and wreaths grace doors. Plants and flowers are brought inside to brighten and beautify rooms. Delicious smells of baking cookies and breads from the kitchen are created by spices taken from plants and trees. Plants are an important part of holiday time celebrations!

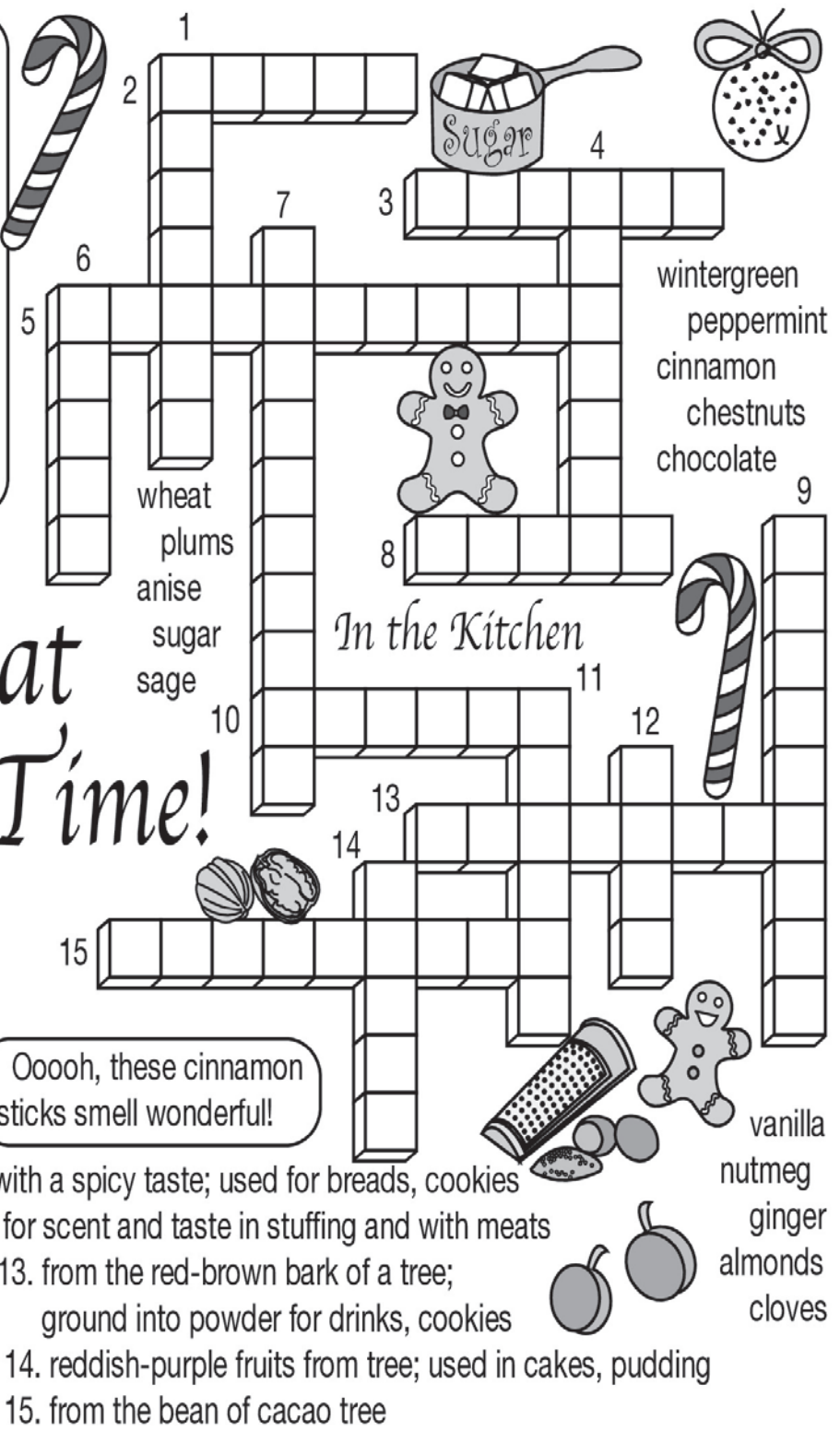
Fill in this puzzle about the parts of plants that we use in our kitchens!

1. nuts from trees, used in making marzipan candy – a sweet paste that is shaped and colored to look like fruits, vegetables and toys
2. licorice gets its flavoring from this plant
3. buds from a bush; have a spicy taste and scent; hang an orange from a ribbon and push these into it for a nicely scented decoration
4. from a bean in a pod on a vine; used in puddings
5. has a “cool” taste; used in candies; grows in U.S. and Canada
6. ground into flour; used for cookies, cakes, gravies
7. used in candy canes, tea; thought to help settle the stomach
8. comes from cane; used for icing, lollipops
9. in pods hanging on trees; in some places, street vendors roast and sell these to eat while still warm
10. hard little seeds ground into powder - shake on eggnog

Plants at Christmas Time!



Ooooh, these cinnamon sticks smell wonderful!



In the Kitchen

1. wheat
2. plums
3. anise
4. sugar
5. sage
6. wintergreen
7. peppermint
8. cinnamon
9. chestnuts
10. chocolate
11. vanilla
12. nutmeg
13. ginger
14. almonds
15. cloves

CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



[An Extract from “Til Death Do Us Part?” by Nyerges, available from Kindle as an e-book or hard copy. Classes and books by Nyerges can be viewed at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com.]

In the days after Dolores died in December of 2008, I still spent my evenings with Nami and Fikret and Nellie (the little dog that Dolores boarded), cooking dinner, sharing dinner, talking over television. Both Nami and Fikret were living in rooms in the front part of the duplex. Nami was from Tokyo, working at a Japanese firm in downtown Los Angeles while she earned her CPA license. Fikret was a student from Germany who'd be going home in a few days.

That December was dark, pressing, my mind a constricted box of sorrow and loss. RW had earlier suggested to Dolores that she take Nami and Fikret to see the annual Griffith Park festival of lights, and Dolores had mentioned it to Fikret. I brought it up to Fikret and he wanted to go. I think he was more concerned about me getting out and “getting normal” than he was about seeing some electric light display. Anyway, he arranged with Nami to go one evening after Nami got home from work, and I drove. I had never seen the light show either, and though I was in no mood for “joy,” I wanted Nami and Fikret to feel happiness, and the joy of the season that the youth can best appreciate.

My mental state was very constrictive, narrow, even subdued horror. It was as if I'd been hit in the face with a 2x4, and I could not see beyond my shocked pain. But I tried, with great effort, to “enjoy” an evening out with Nami and Fikret as best I could. It was the weekend after Dolores died. Nami got home early from work, and it was already dark. Fikret made a very light meal – more of a snack – for everyone before we drove off to Griffith Park in my Jeep. I was preoccupied with now living a life turned upside-down, with no perception of light at the end of my tunnel.

Fikret and Nami were noticeably happy, upbeat, and they seemed to be happy to be doing something with me. Fikret had come on a few field trips with, but I'd only gone out rarely with Nami. I know they were both fully cognizant of my pain and I think they were being happy because they wanted me to be happy. I think that the lights of Griffith Park were a very minor attraction.

As we drove, we spoke about their day, and other light matters. I always enjoyed talking with Nami over dinner about what sort of day she had at work, and what new English words she learned. We drove into the large expansive parking lot east of the Los Angeles Zoo, and drove around until we saw where to park for the festival of lights. People parked their cars, and then boarded buses which set sail every 15 minutes or so, or until the buses were full. The three of us were the first to enter a bus, so we got the seats we wanted. A few adults filed in, and then a whole group of school children came in and filled the bus. The driver turned off the lights, and we were off down the two miles or so of the electric light display.

The children spontaneously sang Christmas carols at the tops of their voices. Nami and Fikret tried to follow along: Jingle Bells, Rudolph, Silent Night, all the classics. Mostly, the children sang enthusiastically and loud with lots of laughter for the first verse until the song faded as the children didn't know the words. After loud laughter, another song would begin.

I could tell they were all having great fun, though I was barely there. I had to shut off most of my painful feelings and emotions and turn on only that part of me that was needed for ordinary interactions with others. I was glad that there was so much happiness in the world, but I was in pain.

I was in a darkness of my own, alone, as if I was severely and suddenly cut off from all that was important to me. Which was, in fact, what happened. After the light show, we returned to the Jeep, and I drove on in a stupor. I asked Nami and Fikret if they wanted to see more Christmas lights, and they said yes. Christmas Tree Lane was impressive, but monotonous to me. Nami and Fikret just said “Oohh,” and “Ahhh,” and “Look at those, wow!” I tried to explain the history of Christmas Tree Lane, how I grew up just around the corner, and I drove by our family home on North Los Robles.

I didn't want to go home quite yet. “Going home” would mean that I would go back to the rear duplex alone, would sit there for awhile listening to music or watching TV, feeling the full grief of losing Dolores, by myself. It meant I would go to sleep with my grief, unable to find solace in music or TV. I would turn off the TV and music, and in the darkness I would fall into my abyss of sorrow until I awoke the next day. No, I didn't want to go home yet.

I told Nami and Fikret that I knew of another Christmas light display and we drove across town looking for it. We never found it, but they got a tour of East Pasadena and Sierra Madre before we stopped for some snacks and finally went home.

We then went into the front kitchen when we got home, and enjoyed some cookies and coffee. We all laughed together and we watched a little bit of a Christmas movie on TV. It was a good evening overall, but it would be a long time before I could feel joy again.

Still, eventually, little by little, I learned that though life is short and precious, Love is what makes it meaningful!

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Katnip News!



ARYA LOVES DOGS

Please look again at this cutie. This loving girl started her life's adventure at only a week old by being hand-raised with a sweet pitbull and a pug, so she gets along wonderfully with dogs, but not other



cats. She was very lovingly spoiled as a tot, and thinks she's the "queen of eve-rything," and that the world revolves around her--and she's right! She would best benefit by being an "only cat child," so she can soak up all your attention. . . OR be in a family with a nice doggy or two so she can get rough & tumble with someone as outgoing as she is. She LOVES people! She likes being held like a human baby, and if you wear something soft she'll make biscuits on you all day long. You can actually carry her around the house on your shoulder, like a ba-by! While nuzzling your neck, she'll even groom you! Arya is fittingly named after Arya Stark, the little girl warrior from Game of Thrones. She's age 1, spayed, chipped, vetted, and ready to go! See more pic-tures of her and the adoption application at www.lifelineforpets.org. Can we get her in a home by Christmas?

Pet of the Week

Nala is a one-year-old Shepherd mix who was found running on the busy 210 Freeway. How she got there, we'll never know, but thankfully CHP was able to catch her and put her in a cruiser until Animal Control arrived. Back at the shelter, Nala was at first a little nervous, but she's now made friends with some of our volunteers and staff and is ready to be your new best friend.



Nala bonds very quickly with people. She will sweetly follow you around and gently nudge you for pets. When she's feeling playful she enjoys fetch with a squeaky toy or ball, but she's definitely more into your attention than the game.

Nala is a great size for hikes (as far away from the freeway as possible, thank you!) and also for cuddles. She's ready to be some lucky family's BFF! The adoption fee for dogs is \$150. 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 an adoption appointment at pasadenahumane.org. Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Sunday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

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



Canyon Canine

Dog Walking & Sitting Services
Sierra Madre, California

Chris Leclerc

www.canyoncanine.com
chris@canyoncanine.com
626-355-8333 626-533-9536



TRUTH IS, WE LIKE TO BE LIED TO

My dog Thurber has been lying to me.

It only figures, because it's impossible to avoid mistruths these days.

We just exited a miserable election cycle in which truth stretching, name calling and vote pandering were all in high gear — and inescapable.

Our politicians in both major parties really know how to lie.

They know most Americans disdain complexity and want to hear promises that resonate — even false ones.

They know we voters want contradictory things like more free government goodies — but less government spending. And that we want fatter Social Security checks — but lower payroll taxes.

The politicians always promise they'll make these impossibilities happen if we vote for them.

We know they're lying to us — and we've learned to count on it. But politicians aren't the only ones fibbing out there.

Our cable news personalities pretend to be after the truth.

But in fact they spin whatever yarns are likely to generate the most ratings — and to heck with the anger and division their “reporting” causes.

From our country's beginning we've had our share of liars, snake-oil salesmen and flimflam artists.

These scoundrels weren't judged on the rightness or wrongness of their scams so much as the skill with which they pulled them off.

The sorry truth is that Americans want to be lied to.

We're suckers for a skillfully told yarn that puts us at ease and helps us sleep better at night.

But my dog, Thurber, is spinning yarns, too?

Part of the reason I love my puppy so much, I had thought, was because he was a refuge from the adult world of mistruth.

But then I stumbled upon an Animal Cognition study that found that dogs, too, are capable of lying to get what they want.

In the study, researchers trained 27 dogs to differentiate between a “cooperative” woman who allowed them to have their favorite treat and a “competitive” woman, who did not.

Dogs were taught how to lead the two women to three boxes: one contained sausages, their favorite treat, the second contained dog biscuits, and the third was empty.

When dogs were asked to “show me the food” they would lead their partner to one of the three boxes.

The cooperative woman rewarded dogs with whatever was inside the box, but the competitive woman kept the treats if the dogs picked a box with treats inside.

So what did the clever canines do? They almost always led the cooperative partner to the treats and the competitive partner away from them.

In other words, dogs can be as cunning and deceitful as the rest of us, which is beginning to explain a lot about Thurber.

Let me give you an example.

When he looks me dead in the eye and gives a soft whimper, he's telling me he needs to go Number 1.

The same look accompanied by a soft moan means he needs to go Number 2.

But sometimes he pretends he has to “go” 1 or 2, just so I will let him outside to play.

What else is he lying to me about, I wonder?

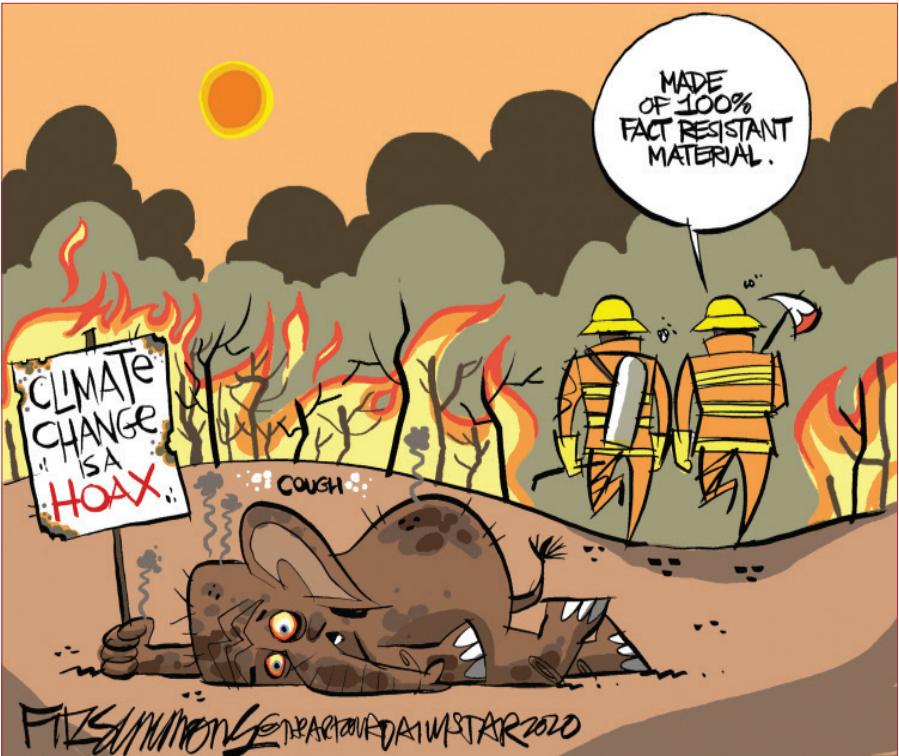
Where he hid my glasses? The TV remote? My checkbook?

Somebody cashed a check for \$1,000 recently and the signature looked an awful lot like Thurber's paw print.

My point? Mistruths are running rampant these days.

Even our dogs are lying to us.

Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOME?

There are many myths about Assisted Living being like Nursing Homes. This is not true at all. Nursing facilities are for those with chronic health issues who require care around the clock from medical professionals.

In Assisted Living, one will get the support as needed, such as getting help with showering, grooming, and dressing. Again, these services are based on the seniors needs.

There are many reasons in working with us. At Safe Path for Seniors, we will assess the senior and depending on their care needs and budget, make recommendations. For example, we may suggest that the right fit is a Board and Care Home (normally a 6-bedroom house) as opposed to an Assisted Living Community or a Memory Support Facility. You will work with an experienced agent who knows the industry well and will give you recommendations. The good news is that there is no cost for this service.

If you have any questions about placing a loved one, visit www.safepathforseniors.com or call Steve at 626-999-6913

TIPS FOR BEING A LONG-DISTANCE CAREGIVER

Dear Savvy Senior:
What tips do you recommend for long-distance caregivers? I help take care of my stubborn 86-year-old mother who still lives at home about 150 miles from me. Need Advice

Dear Need:
Providing care and support for an aging parent who lives far away can present a variety challenges that can make the job difficult and stressful. Here are some tips and resources that may help you.

Long-Distance Caregiving
When it comes to monitoring and caring for an aging parent from afar, you have a couple of options. You can hire a professional to oversee your mom's needs, or you can manage things yourself by building a support system, tapping into available resources, and utilizing technology devices that can help you keep tabs on her.

If your mom needs a lot of help, you should consider hiring a geriatric care manager who will give her a thorough assessment to identify her needs and will set up and manage all aspects of her care. But geriatric care managers are expensive typically charging between \$100 and \$250 per hour after an initial assessment of \$150 to \$750 and are not covered by Medicare.

To find a geriatric care manager in your mom's area, visit AgingLifeCare.org or contact the nearest Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116) to see if they have a list of providers.

If, however, your mom only needs occasional help, or if you can't afford to use a care manager, here are some things you can do yourself to help her.

Create a care team: Put together a network of people (nearby friends or family, neighbors, clergy, etc.) who can check on your mom regularly, and who you can call on from time to time for occasional help. Also put together a list of reliable services you can call for household needs like lawn care, handyman services, plumber, etc.

Tap local resources: Most communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that can help seniors with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and more. Contact the nearby Area Aging Agency to find out what's available.

Use financial tools: If your mom needs help with



her financial chores, arrange for direct deposit for her income sources, and set up automatic payments for her utilities and other routine bills. You can also set up her online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor her account anytime. Or, if you need help, hire a daily money manager (AADMM.com) to do it for you. They charge between \$25 and \$100 per hour.

Check essential documents: This is also a good time to make sure your mom has the following essential legal documents: a will; a living will and health-care proxy, which allows you to make medical decisions on her behalf if she became incapacitated; and a durable power of attorney, which gives you similar legal authority for financial decisions, if needed.

If she doesn't have these documents prepared, now is the time to make them. And if they are prepared, make sure they're updated and know where they are located.

Hire in-home help: Depending on your mom's needs, you may need to hire a part-time home-care aide that can help with things like preparing meals, housekeeping or personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. To find someone, try websites like Care.com or CareLinx.com.

Utilize technology: To help you keep tabs on your mom from afar, there are various technologies that can help. For example, there are medical alert systems, video camera monitors, wearable activity trackers, and electronic pill boxes that can notify you if she has taken her medications. And to help you coordinate her care with members of her care team there are websites like LotsAHelpingHands.com.

For more tips, call the National Institute on Aging at 800-222-2225 and order their free booklet "Long-Distance Caregiving: Twenty Questions and Answers."

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

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, 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

SIERRA MADRE SENIOR CLUB Every Saturday from 11:30am-3:30 pm in the Hart Park House Senior Center. Join us as we celebrate birthdays, holidays and play BINGO. Must be 50+ to join. For more information call Mark at 626-355-3951.

DOMINOES TRAIN GAME 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 11:00 am— 12:30 pm Hart Park House The object of the game is for a player to play all the tiles from their hand onto one or more trains, emanating from a central hub or "station". Call Lawren with questions that you may have.

TEA AND TALK SENIOR BOOK CLUB

WILL RETURN IN JANUARY 2023
Staff has launched a new book club series, Tea and Talk, which meets twice a month to discuss the fun, suspense, intrigue, love and so much more that each selection will have in store!

CHAIR YOGA Every Monday and Wednesday, 10-10:45 am Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercise and overall relaxation with Paul. Classes are ongoing and held in the Memorial Park Covered Pavilion or the Hart Park House..

HULA AND POLYNESIAN DANCE Every Friday, 10-10:45 am Bring a lei, your flower skirt or just your desire to dance! Hula in the Park is back and waiting for you to join in on all the fun! Memorial Park Pavilion.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - Tuesday, Dec. 13 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Methodist Hospital will be holding a free to seniors clinic once a month in the Hart Park House. Walk in are welcome - no pre-registration required.



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

DO IN NEED TO FILE A MISSING PERSONS REPORT?

Every week comes and goes, and some go faster than others. Such was last week. It started pretty well, but then everything went downhill.

I had my semiannual doctor's visit. After all, he has kids that need to go to college. After his complete examination of me, he said, "You're doing great."

I asked him to repeat that several times, because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was there, and I wanted her to hear it from someone other than me. I wanted him to put it in writing and sign it, but he wasn't going to do that. So I accepted his oral pronouncement because it was in front of my wife.

My wife put together the plan for the day so that we could accomplish many things in one day. So the doctor's visit was first.

Then we had to go to the police station to file a report. My bank informed me that somebody had counterfeited one of my checks and even my signature for \$1800. How they counterfeited my check as well as they did was beyond me. Fortunately, the bank refused to accept the check because they thought it was a fraud. So they took pictures and even had a video of him coming up to the drive-through.

In the memo, on that check, the guy wrote "bonus pay." I don't know what he meant by that, but I sure would like to give him a bonus pay, if you know what I mean. I spent an afternoon in the bank closing that account and opening another account so they wouldn't try that again. So the bank encouraged me to take this information to the police department and file a complaint.

The bank where they tried to cash the counterfeit check was in Georgia. So after the doctor's visit, we went to the police department to file a complaint.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "You can go in, and I'll stay here in the car." That worked for me, and so I went in to the police station to file the complaint. After I presented my case, the police officer said, "What is your address?"

I told him, and he said, "I'm afraid that's in the county, and we cannot process that complaint because we are here in the city." Therefore I had to take my complaint to the Sheriff's office. It was okay because it wasn't that far from our house.

I left the police department, and looked for my wife's car. It was nowhere to be found. So I looked up and down, and nowhere could I find her red sissy van. At the time, I didn't know what to do because, as "luck would have it," I did not bring my cell phone. Isn't it interesting, I never need my cell phone unless I don't have it with me? So I couldn't text her to see where she was at. After a while, I became nervous about this. Where is she?

I was tempted to return to the police department and file a missing person report. Thinking about the whole situation, I asked myself, "If I was my wife, where would I go?" That sure is a crazy question to ask, but you try anything when you're in a difficult situation. It's been over ½ hour, and I still could not find her. Then one of those crazy thoughts bounced into my head. If I was my wife, I know exactly where I would go. She isn't known as the Thrift Store Queen for naught. At least, this was something to do.

The police department is at the beginning of a long line of shopping stores for over a block. Perhaps along that line, there was a thrift store. My only problem with that, I would have to walk the whole distance.

As I was standing there thinking of what to do next, a woman passed by, and I stopped her and said, "Ma'am do you know if there's a thrift store nearby?"

She laughed and said, "Yes, but it's usually just for women." And she laughed some more. Smiling as I looked at her, I said, "Where would that thrift store be?" "What are you looking for," she asked, "maybe there's one I could direct you to." I was nervous, but without thinking I said, "I'm looking for a wife." "Well," she said laughing, "a thrift store is the best place to find a wife that I know of." Then she pointed up the row and said there was a thrift store at the end of that line. She added, "You'll find a lot of wives in that store so that you can make your own choice." Then, walking away, she laughed hysterically.

From where I was standing, I could see something that looked like a thrift store way down at the end. So I started walking and when I arrived at that thrift store, guess who was inside? On our way home, I couldn't help but think of the Bible verse in Isaiah 41:10. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

No matter what my fears might be, I know that God is going to guide me through that situation for his honor and glory.



FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett

4 YEAR-END TAX-SAVING STRATEGIES FOR 2022

By acting now, you can significantly reduce your tax bill, due in April, but with just a few weeks left in 2022, you must act fast.

While there are dozens of potential tax breaks you may qualify for, here are 4 of the leading moves you can make to save big on your 2022 tax return. However, there may be other opportunities for saving, so meet with your tax advisor to make certain you haven't missed one.

1 - Maximize retirement account contributions
By maximizing your contributions to tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s, you can not only save for retirement, but also reduce your taxable income for 2022.

In 2022, you can contribute up to \$6,000 to an IRA and up to \$20,500 to a 401(k) if you're under 50, and up to \$7,000 to an IRA and \$27,000 to a 401(k) for those 50 and older. If you don't have the cash available to fund the maximum amount, try to contribute at least any amount that will be matched by your employer, since that's basically free money, and you lose it if you don't use it.

That said, the ability to deduct your traditional IRA contributions from your taxes comes with certain limitations. These limitations are based on factors, such as whether you or your spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work as well as your adjusted gross income (AGI), so make sure you know how your family is affected by these limits when taking deductions. On the other hand, Roth IRA contributions are not tax deductible, since they are made after taxes are taken out, but withdrawals from a Roth in retirement are tax-free.

Additionally, consider maxing out contributions to your Health Savings Account (HSA). Contributions to HSAs for 2022 are capped at \$3,650 for individuals and \$7,300 for families, with an additional catch-up contribution of \$1,000 allowed for those age 55 and older.

You have until December 31, 2022 to contribute to a 401(k) plan and until April 18, 2023 to contribute to an IRA or HSA for the 2022 tax year.

2 - Defer income if you'll make less next year
If you're expecting to make significantly more income this year than in 2023, try to defer as much income into next year as possible. However, this strategy only makes sense if you'll be in the same or a lower tax bracket next year.

This might mean asking your boss to delay paying a year-end bonus until after Jan. 1, 2023, or if you're self-employed, waiting to invoice certain clients until the new year. On the other hand, if you think you'll be in a higher tax bracket in 2023, you may want to do the opposite and accelerate income into 2022 to take advantage of a lower tax bracket.

3 - Use "loss harvesting" to offset capital gains
With the stock and crypto markets down this year, it can be the ideal time to use a strategy called "loss harvesting," which means selling taxable investment assets, such as stocks, mutual funds, and bonds, at a loss to offset any capital gains you may have realized earlier in the year. Capital losses offset capital gains dollar for dollar.

If your losses exceed your gains, you can write off up to \$3,000 of collective losses against other income. Any losses of more than \$3,000 can be carried over into the next year. In fact, you can carry over such losses year after year over your lifetime.

Note that the loss harvesting strategy does not apply to tax-advantaged accounts, such as 401(k)s, IRAs, and 529 plans. Additionally, the IRS "wash-sale" rule prohibits using this tax write-off for buying a "substantially identical" asset within a 30-day window before or after the sale that generated the loss.

Given the restrictions, you should always consult your CPA or financial advisor before employing loss harvesting to ensure it doesn't backfire on you.

4 - Watch your required minimum distributions (RMDs)—or ensure your parents are watching theirs—if you or they are over age 72

If you have an employer-sponsored retirement plan, including a 401(k), 403(b), traditional IRA, SEP IRA, or SIMPLE IRA, you must start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) by April 1st of the year that follows the year you turn 72. After that, annual withdrawals must be made by December 31st each year to avoid a serious penalty.

If you fail to take the proper RMD, you may face a 50% excise tax on the amount you should have withdrawn based on your age, life expectancy, and your account balance at the beginning of the year. That said, if you do make a mistake, you may be able to avoid the penalty by requesting a waiver from the IRS. You can request a waiver if your failure to take the RMD is due to a reasonable error, and you take steps to make the required distribution. To request a waiver, submit Form 5329 to the IRS, with a statement explaining the error and the steps you are taking to correct it.

Note that in 2022 the IRS updated its uniform lifetime table to calculate RMDs to account for longer life expectancies. As a result, your RMDs for this year may be slightly lower compared to previous years.

Maximize Your 2022 Tax Savings
Implementing these—and other—year-end tax-saving strategies could save your family thousands of dollars on your 2022 tax bill. But if you don't act soon, some of these opportunities may vanish for good, so act now and lock in your savings.

To your health, wealth, and family legacy,

MARC

Marc Garlett, Esq.
Cali Law Family Legacy Matters
www.caliLaw.com
626.355.4000

MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS

PUBLISHER/ EDITOR
Susan Henderson

PASADENA CITY EDITOR
Dean Lee

PRODUCTION

SALES

Patricia Colonello
626-355-2737
626-818-2698

WEBMASTER
John Avery

DISTRIBUTION
Peter Lamendola

CONTRIBUTORS

Stuart Tolchin
Audrey Swanson
Meghan Malooley
Mary Lou Caldwell
Kevin McGuire
Chris Leclerc
Dinah Chong Watkins
Howard Hays
Paul Carpenter
Kim Clymer-Kelley
Christopher Nyerges
Peter Dills
Rich Johnson
Lori Ann Harris
Rev. James Snyder
Katie Hopkins
Deanne Davis
Despina Arouzman
Jeff Brown
Marc Garlett
Keely Toten
Dan Golden
Rebecca Wright
Hail Hamilton
Joan Schmidt
LaQuetta Shamblee

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Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

Mountain Views News
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl.
#327
Sierra Madre, Ca.
91024

Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email:
mtnviewsnews@aol.com



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The traditions of community newspapers and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.

STUART TOLCHIN



PUT THE LIGHTS ON

DOES LIFE HAVE TO BE LIKE A DOG RACE?

You know what I mean by a dog race, don't you? Dogs race around the track chasing a mechanical rabbit that they can never catch. It's different from a horse race wherein humans sit on top of the horses and hit them with whips. In both kinds of races the dogs and the horses don't really win anything. The rabbit really isn't real and the horses at Santa Anita lately are dying but the races keep going on for the benefit of the owners and the bettors and the crowds who escape from the reality of the rest of their lives.

My point is that for the poor dogs running is all an illusion. There is no real rabbit to catch. They are deluded into believing there is a reward for all their effort but the make-believe rabbit is just an instrument of control used to make the dogs perform in accord with the desires of their owners. I use this example of dog racing as an analogy for the methods used to control human behavior. It is an accepted fact that the minds of young children are able to learn and instantiate new information in a way not possible for adult minds. I really don't know why this is true but one has to simply look around to see almost every single child acquire language in some mysterious way.

Almost every single child acquires skills in language with absolutely no structured lessons. Really it's an amazing unexplained process that is not connected to the intelligence of the individual child. In fact, humans such as Albert Einstein and Nobel Prize Winning Richard Feynman are reported not to have spoken almost until the age of four. Typically, most humans are using language at about two and are quite accomplished speakers by the age of four.

To continue my animal metaphor, it already feels like I am beating a dead horse. My point is that young children all have these wonderful active minds capable of doing amazing things and yet the adult world fills these minds with nonsense and lies. Going through this holiday season it is so clear that children's minds are deluged with fantasies about Santa, and goblins, and ghosts. Personally I put all the teaching about religion and the all-powerful deity watching over us who requires that we be good boys and girls and do what our parents and teachers tell us or face unimaginable horrors in the same category. Kids are taught not ask questions and just do what we tell you is the message from the all-powerful God.

Of course, eventually, many, or even most kids, feel betrayed. They realize that there is no Santa, and no ghosts, and have deep questions about God and the after-life. At some point the thought that doing what their parents want them to do is not the purpose of their own lives. These realizations are certainly confusing and frequently traumatic as people struggle to find meaning in their own life. Those, who have been taught not to question begin to question everything and search for an escape from their own despair. Going back to the attendance at horse races individuals seek to escape from their confused inner life and seek diversions like amusement parks and festivals and frequently find drugs as a means of escape. Very frequently in today's societies individuals are prescribed drugs, easily abused drugs to mitigate their despair. Another means of escape is often adventure and lawlessness and risk-taking behavior and violence; all in all it's not a very pretty picture.

Is all this early exposure to what I call lies and fantasy necessary to enable people to live in a civilized manner? Frankly, I think not. For reasons I cannot fully explain I was never exposed to religion, had no birthday parties, no access to television (it wasn't available in the 1940's) no trick or treating or Halloween Costumes, no toys that I can remember and yet surprisingly, I guess, I have always been a pretty happy person free to pursue my own curiosities. In Elementary School I actually was known as the "question box". What did I do? My parents somehow had acquired a multi-volume encyclopedia and I read the whole thing. The name of the Richard Feynman short memoir is "The Pleasure of Finding Things Out". The author is pictured on the front cover with his head back, relaxed, happy, and satisfied. I have that book on my bedroom dresser and receive inspiration as I wake up.

On the top of page 10 Feynman laments that he was recruited into the Manhattan project to assist in developing a bomb that would defeat Germany. Even after it became clear that Germany would be defeated without the necessity of developing a potentially world-destroying Atomic Bomb Feynman says he continued to work to develop the bomb and didn't ask why.

Questions are really important and it is my hope, hopefully all of our hope, than we can ask questions about the civilization that has developed and which seems to be in the process of destroying itself.

Merry Christmas—say hi to Santa if you see him!

DANNY TYREE

DID SOMEONE SAY... 'SHAZAM'?



Saint Nick wasn't the only man in a red suit that magical Christmas season 50 years ago.

On Saturday December 23, 1972, I walked from my house to Sharp's Drive-In Market and splurged on four 20-cent comic books.

One of my selections was heavily influenced by an ad appearing in DC Comics: "Coming in December...DC's Christmas gift to you! Shazam is coming!"

I could scarcely wait to rush home and open my copy of "Shazam!" #1. Unfortunately, my gut reaction upon seeing the interior artwork was, "What's this cartoony junk???" You see, I had recently sworn off "kiddie" comics. But "Shazam!" grew on me. By the second issue, it was my favorite title.

"Shazam!" #1 featured the triumphal return of "the original Captain Marvel" and his extended family. Introduced in Fawcett's "Whiz Comics" #2 (cover-dated February 1940), Captain Marvel was the alter ego of boy reporter Billy Batson. By speaking the magic word "Shazam!", Billy summoned a mystical bolt of lightning and transformed into a costumed adult super-hero who saved the world from countless threats.

During the 1940s (what comics aficionados refer to as the Golden Age of Comics), Captain Marvel appeared in his own 12-chapter Republic movie serial and even outsold Superman on the newsstands.

But "the world's mightiest mortal" went into limbo in 1953 because of (a) the declining popularity of super-heroes and (b) a long-running lawsuit in which DC accused the good captain of being a rip-off of Superman.

That's why "Shazam!" was such a big deal in 1972, bringing Captain Marvel and the rest of the Marvel Family back to a nostalgia-crazed world after almost 20 years. (The comic had to be named "Shazam!" after the magic word and the wizard who gave it to Billy, because in the ensuing decades rival Marvel Comics had trademarked the name Captain Marvel and introduced the first of a series of heroes bearing that name. Countless fans over the past half-century have gotten the book title and hero name confused, so DC officially changed the hero's name to Shazam circa 2012.)

Still...even though the revival spawned a fondly remembered live-action CBS Saturday morning program and a 1981 NBC animated version, the Big Red Cheese (as arch-villain Doctor Thaddeus Bodog Sivana dubbed him) never matched his former glory.

(When I was writing for "Comics Buyer's Guide" magazine in 1987, I received a letter from Captain Marvel co-creator C.C. Beck, lamenting that the modern handlers had made the character either too silly or too grim, rarely capturing the delicate balance of whimsy and suspense that marked the original incarnation.)

I'm glad DC keeps going back to the drawing board, trying to let the do-gooder live up to his potential. My family enjoyed the 2019 movie and looks forward to next year's sequel, "Shazam! Fury of the Gods."

I hope that this Christmas some lucky child finds Shazam! graphic novels or a DVD of the aforementioned movie under the tree.

We still need to believe in the triumph of good over evil.

We still need some good, clean fun.

And we sometimes need to comfort ourselves with the fantasy that one magic word could endow us with the strength to solve all our problems.

I heard rumors that the concept has even reached the White House, whose current occupant perhaps read the 1940s adventures of Captain Marvel.

"With one magic word...fourscore and seven years ago..."

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

RICH & FAMOUS

SILLY PONDERINGS



As the "tis the season" season inches closer and closer, we find ourselves biding our time in a variety of unusual situations and/or locations. Sitting in a car, for example, at a mall while our significant other is inside for hours exchanging a single family member's Xmas gift.

Is this the perfect time for distraction? to ponder? Shall we? Let's try.

Speaking of shopping why do shorter lines in supermarkets slow down the moment you enter that line? No matter which line you get in, your line will slow to a crawl while the other lines will speed up!

Why do we drive on a PARKway and park in a DRIVEway?

Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?

Why do the Allstate Insurance commercials say "not available in all states"?

Are mattresses ever not on sale?

What do people in China call their good dinner plates?

How do you handcuff a one-armed man?

Why does careGIVER and careTAKER mean the same thing?

If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

Why don't they make airplanes out of the same material they make the indestructible black box out of?

Why do QUITE A FEW and QUITE A LOT mean the same thing?

Sitting in a packed theater, which arm rest is yours. I've heard the one on the left is yours and the one on the right is the other persons. Which is which?

Why is it everyone driving faster than you is an IDIOT and everyone driving slower than you is a MORON?

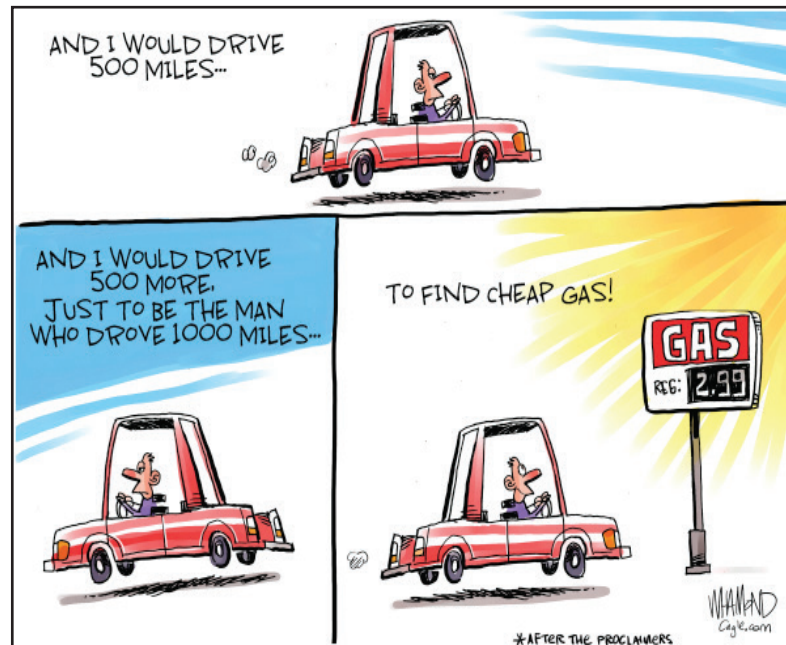
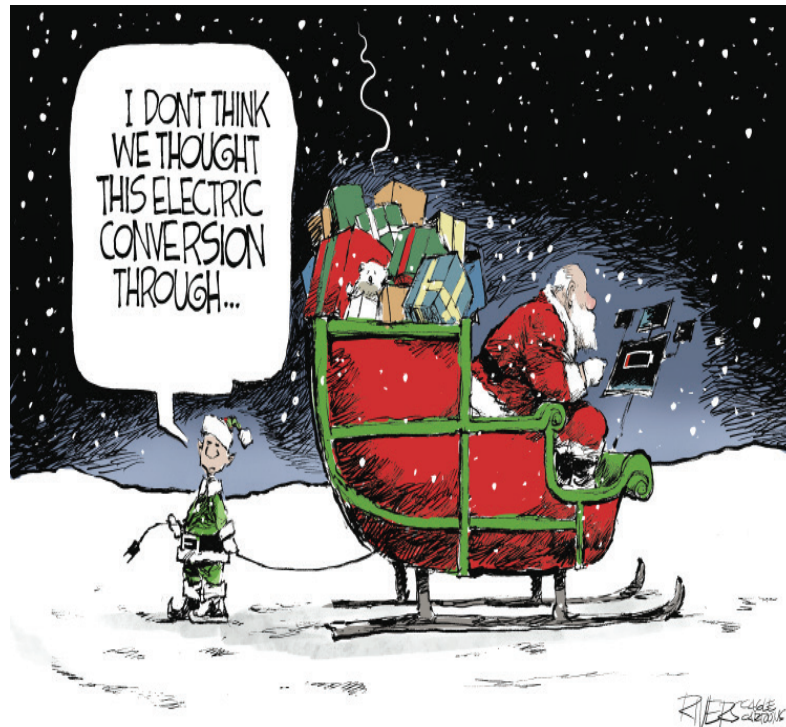
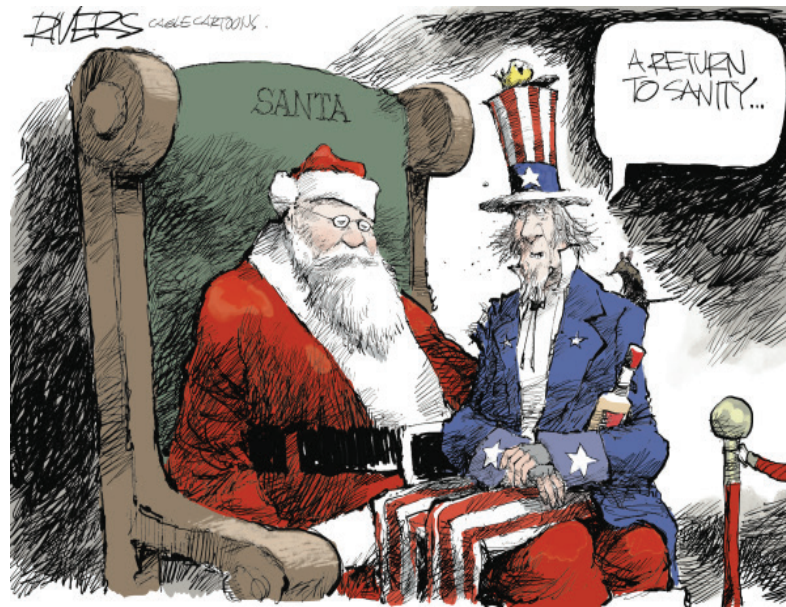
And my all time favorite redundant redundancy: "I found a book in the library with the title "How to Read a Book". If you can't read a book, how can you read a book on how to read a book?"

By the way, if anyone asks you what the difference between ignorance and apathy is, tell them, "I don't know and I don't care."

Again, a soft-pedal redundant encouragement from yours truly to shop local shop owners. Let's knock their socks off with an exploding holiday sales season.

Also, another shameless plug to join my fun rock and roll band, JJ Jukebox, for a New Year's Eve party at Nano Café Bar and Grill in Sierra Madre. Stay close to home on New Year's Eve: \$65 per person for a gourmet meal including your choice of: Slow Roasted Angus Prime Rib, New Zealand Lamb Chops, Grilled Salmon with Caviar Hollandaise, Chicken Cordon Bleu. Also live music, dancing, party favors, champagne toast. Call soon to secure your place (626) 325-3334. Nano's is at 322 West Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre.

And I sincerely hope your Holiday Season is sensational!





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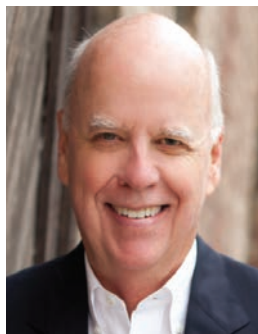


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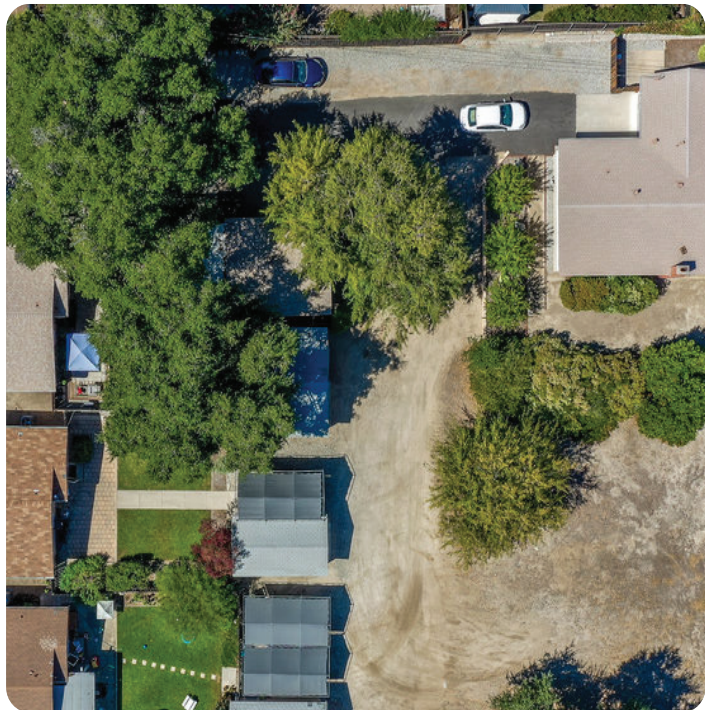


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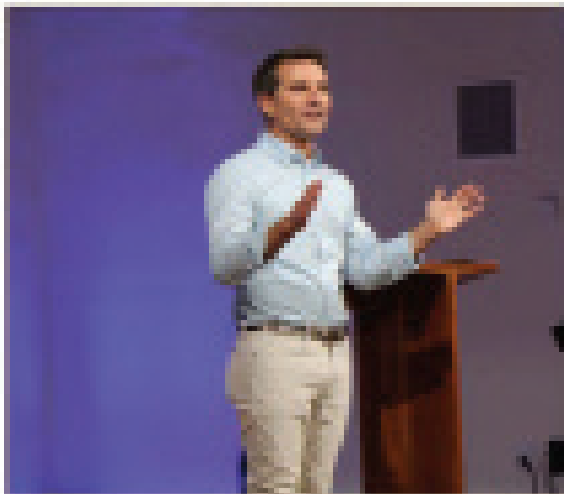
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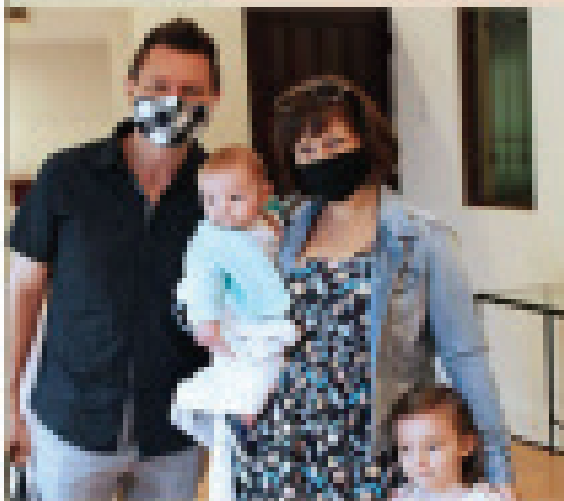
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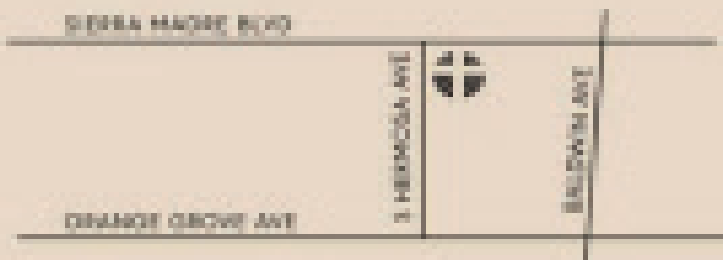
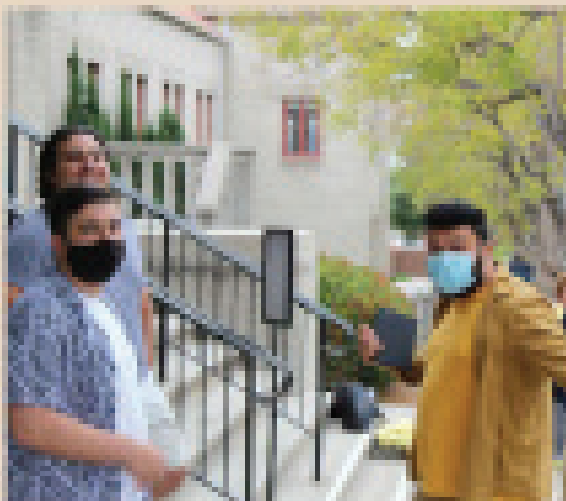
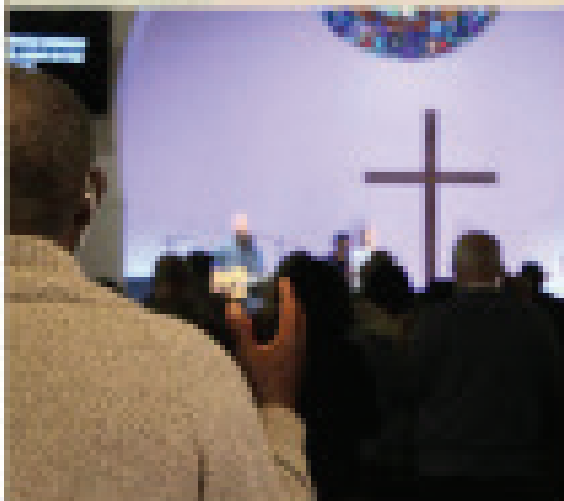


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