

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024

VOLUME 18 NO. 51



the webb-martin group

Wishing you the
Joy of Family,
the Happiness of
Friends, and the
Wonder of the
 Holiday Season.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

With our appreciation at the holidays

Warm holiday wishes from
 Jan, Judy, and Katie



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Artist Sonny Salsbury created this painting depicting snow in Sierra Madre at Christmas. His caption, "Wouldn't It Be Nice?" reflects the sentiments of many a child and adult alike. Salsbury is also a Grammy nominated musician who was born in Pasadena. He is the brother of local businesswoman Judith Brandley, owner of Leonora Moss in Sierra Madre.

'The Spirit of The Season

THE CITY OF ANGELS
 By Craig Haikola

"A true angel is always looking out for others and sharing the kindness of Heaven with earth."

The sidewalks of Chicago were dirty that day, just as they exist most every day of the summer. My father and I were strolling down a busy section of city, as we both stepped over an old tarnished penny. I suppose no one had given much thought about the penny, and certainly not enough to kneel down to insert a worthless copper piece into their pocket. I do not know why my father spoke. Maybe it was one of those personal thoughts he was asking himself out loud, maybe he wanted me to think about the value of money and that even a penny contained worth as it was earned by another person's work, or maybe it was a combination of many things. "I do not know if I would reach down to pick up a dime," he mysteriously spoke into the air. There was nothing more he added, and I noticed an expression of disappointment in his face. I did not argue with his thinking. The sidewalk was trampled by shoes, and a full sterilization would be required for any object one dared to touch.

The poignant pen of William Shakespeare famously wrote, "The eyes are the window to your soul." We habitually forget our conversations with people, but when we meet a unique pair of eyes, we seem to remember them. One of the most decorated covers of National Geographic is of a young nomadic girl with her deeply curious eyes. Without a single word, her powerful story is compellingly spoken.

I have always been interested in knowing where angels are physically found, for certainly, they are all around us. During the holiday season, it is part of the Christmas story. An angel visits Mary and Joseph, and as the shepherds are tending their flocks by night, down into their camp enter the angels, announcing the birth of Jesus. "The Good Book" is filled with stories of angels,

and there are times when angels are described as walking amongst us, observing our deeds. That echoes true to me, for the one aspect foreign to an angel of Heaven would be an imperfect world such as ours. Since we, and the visiting angels to Earth, have an important partnership in the work of Heaven.

It is a fascinating idea to imagine that angels learn something from us, and in certain circumstances, are given the power to assist. There are many times I have been in need of help. I have often thought God stationed a personal angel over me to observe the assistance and protection I required. The day will arrive when we shall all know the physical characteristics of an angel, but until that eternal (continued on page 4)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We Wish you all a Magical Holiday Season with your Family and Friends

Our Homes are only as important as the people inside them. May yours be filled with Love, Laughter, Shared Memories, Favorite Recipes, Lots of Treats and Good Health.

We look forward to meeting you all in the New Year and Helping to Make Your Real Estate Dreams Come True !!!

Warmly, *Barbara and Sileen*

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

2024 BEST DECORATED HOUSES	Page 2
SIERRA MADRE NEWS	Page 4
PASADENA NEWS	Page 5
AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	Page 6
EDUCATION & YOUTH	Page 7
PUZZLES FOR YOU	Page 8
FOOD, DRINK & FUN	Page 9
BEST FRIENDS	Page 10
THE GOOD LIFE	Page 11
OPINION	Page 12
LEGAL NOTICES	Page 13
SPORTS & FITNESS	Page 14
LOCAL DIV I CHAMPIONI-SHOP LOCAL	Page 15

CENTURY 21
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21

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<p style="background-color: #d4edda; padding: 2px;">FOR SALE</p> <p>MONROVIA \$400,000 Flat, abated lot with partial structure in Monrovia, ready for new construction or rebuild. Seller financing available. Investors welcome!</p>	<p style="background-color: #d4edda; padding: 2px;">FOR SALE</p> <p>BIG BEAR CITY \$425,000 3 Beds, 2 Bath, 1,301 sf Home Tranquil Big Bear home with central heat, fireplace, balcony, fenced yard, and wraparound deck. Perfect mountain retreat!</p>	<p style="background-color: #d4edda; padding: 2px;">FOR SALE</p> <p>WEST COVINA \$850,000 Charming 3-bedroom West Covina home with pool, family room, and den. Quiet street near shopping, dining, and freeways!</p>
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THE WINNERS

1st Place: 2024 Best Decorated Houses: 465 E. Montecito



2nd Place: 2024 Best Decorated Houses: 2082 Kaia Ln.



3rd Place: 2024 Best Decorated Houses: 649 W. Grandview



All photos by Dirk Bolle

To view additional, beautifully decorated homes go to: <https://www.dirkbolle.com/Scenic-Sierra-Madre/2024-Sierra-Madre-Decorations>

Family Portraits - Outdoor & Studio Options...

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HONORS AWARDS NOMINATIONS



NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- 2024 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- 2024 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
- CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
- PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD
- COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE AWARD
- WISTARIA AWARD
- GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

DESCRIPTION OF AWARD

- 2024 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: SIERRA MADRE RESIDENT WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BENEFITTED THE CITY DURING 2024
- 2024 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EXISTING IN SIERRA MADRE FOR MORE THAN 5 YEARS THAT HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF THE COMMUNITY.
- PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD: PERSON OR GROUP -FOR PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING SAFETY IN SIERRA MADRE.
- COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE AWARD: FOR YOUTH UNDER 18 FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY IN 2024.
- WISTARIA AWARD: RECOGNIZING A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP THAT ASSISTS WITH PROVIDING COMMUNITYWIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.
- GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: FOR A PERSON/ENTITY WHOSE LIFETIME OF SERVICE EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM.

E-MAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION DESERVING OF AN HONORS AWARD TO:

HONORSDINNER@SIERRAMADRECA.GOV

Deadline for Nominations is
5:00pm on December 31, 2024

REMEMBRANCE

RALPH EDWARD 'EDDIE' TRUMAN January 23, 1947 – December 11, 2024

Beloved husband to Elizabeth Converse, father to Kasey Truman, stepfather to Will and Joanclair Richter, grandfather to Quinn and Luna, avid bicyclist, and cherished community member, Eddie Truman passed away peacefully at home on December 11, 2024.

Born in Mulvane, Kansas, he was a Sierra Madre resident for over 50 years and made an indelible mark on his community.

A successful Thoroughbred horse trainer at Santa Anita, Del Mar, and other racetracks, he also established a library for backside workers at Santa Anita.

As a board member at The Gooden School and a teen counselor at Bethany Church, Eddie's kindness and wisdom earned him the admiration and friendship of many throughout his life.

His daughter Kasey described him as her "hero" and the most inspiring person she had ever encountered. "He has always been a guiding force in my life," she wrote. "He taught me to approach life and people with pure love." Stepson Will shared, "He pulled me out of the darkest period of my life with a quiet authority. I wouldn't be here without him. He taught me to give more than I take and not to take myself too seriously." Joanclair remembers riding the San Die-go Midnight Madness Fun Bike Ride with Eddie and the countless adventures shared by their family.

Eddie shared a deep bond with his granddaughter Quinn, whose joy and laughter brought sparkle to his eyes. Their mutual adoration created moments of pure happiness.

Traveling the world with his wife, Elizabeth was one of his greatest joys, as was embracing life's adventures with an ever-present "Let's go and do it" spirit. Whether playing cards, embarking on spontaneous trips, or simply sharing a moment with loved ones, he gave everyone the gift of feeling loved and seen.

Eddie's warmth, kindness, and zest for life will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. Ride on, Dearest Eddie, on that endless bike ride in the sky.

A gathering open to all will be held on January 24, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Clockers Corner, Santa Anita Race Track. Amazing Grace will be played at 12 p.m. to honor his passing.



Christmas

PARKING EXEMPTIONS

- **BEGINNING:** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 2024 AT 2:00 AM
- **UNTIL:** FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2025 AT 2:00 AM

Happy Holidays!

CECIL MARJORIE (PICKETT) GAUDET

Cecil Marjorie (Pickett) Gaudet, 99, of Sierra Madre, CA, passed away on December 14th, 2024.

Cecil is predeceased by her husband Dennis Warren Gaudet.

She is survived by and her memory lives on with her children Marjorie and Robert, daughter-in-law Kelly, son-in-law Greg, grandchildren Alan, Kevin, Kathrene, Jacob, Joshua, Jordan, grandson-in-law Travis, granddaughter-in-law Jessica, granddaughter-in-law Vanessa, great grandchildren Aaron, Alexa, Zackary, Damian & Bradley along with nephews, nieces, greats and great greats.



BETHANY CHURCH OF SIERRA MADRE

Candlelight COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND ✨ 6:00 P.M.

A SPECIAL SHORT SERVICE FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL SIERRA MADRE CANDLELIGHT WALK.

**AT BETHANY CHURCH OF SIERRA MADRE
93 N BALDWIN AVENUE
SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024 ✨**

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ST. RITA SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FAIR

Sunday, January 12, 2025
Time- 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Join us and take a tour of our beautiful campus! Meet the TK-8th grade teachers, learn about our Spanish, Music & Art Curriculum and speak with members of our Parent-Teacher Organization. All are welcome!

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The Sierra Madre Rotary Club wishes our friends and neighbors a happy and joyful holiday season and extend our heartfelt thanks for all of your support throughout 2024.

Among the 2024 community supported projects are:

- Awarded \$10,000 grant to the Sierra Madre Library Foundation
- Awarded \$3,100 grants to local community interests
- Sent ten 8th grade students to Teen Leadership Camp
- Sent nine high school students to Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

To learn more about how Rotary supports our community visit sierramadrerotaryclub.com

Rotary Club of Sierra Madre

SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

Weather Wise



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	50s
Mon	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	50s
Tues	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	50s
Wed	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows	50s
Thur	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
Fri	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 14, 2025 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 foothillsmedia.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.



Sierra Madre Public LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the Sierra Madre Public Library

December 23 — December 28

Monday

Baby Rhyme Time — Library at

9:00am

Preschool Storytime — Library at

10:00am

Tuesday

Library Holiday Hours: 10:00am —

2:00pm

Happy Holidays!

The Library will be closed from December 25 to January 1, 2025.

The Library will re-open on January 2, 2025.

Read, Discover, Connect
@ Sierra Madre Public Library
350 W Sierra Madre Blvd.
(626) 355-7186

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard, or too sad when you've got a Christmas tree in the living room." Nora Roberts

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To every child, a good example. To all, charity. To yourself, respect."

As I'm writing Walking Sierra Madre today, it has just dawned on me that Christmas is Wednesday! I'm decorated. I put all the Christmas ornaments the children made in Sunday School through the years right at the front of the tree. The little hands pressed into plaster of paris, are there, too, along with the pictures mounted in bread dough frames, the bead ornaments.

Leah made one year, the red globes that date from the beginning of our marriage, some fifty+ years ago...I guess they are now valuable antiques. They are also somewhat cracked and crazed (which, occasionally, our marriage was, too) but they are precious in my sight. I don't do nearly as much baking of bread and cookies as I used to, but I am making Christmas Jam. This is easy, looks spectacular and if you want to whip up a batch to give to special friends and family, you still have time.

CHRISTMAS JAM

You will need 6 half-pint canning jars. Fill them with hot water when you start making your jam. When you're ready to fill them, dump out the hot water and up-end them on a clean towel. Put the jar lids in a bowl with hot water until you're ready to seal your jars. All this makes sure you get a good seal.

- 3 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 orange peeled and seeded
- 10 oz. frozen sliced strawberries, slightly thawed
- ¼ tsp. ground cloves
- ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 pouch liquid pectin (this comes in during the cooking process)

Combine the cranberries and the orange in your food processor, pulsing till coarsely chopped. Add strawberries, cloves and cinnamon and process till mixture is finely chopped.

Toss all this in a large pot and add:

- 4 cups sugar
- ½ cup water

Blend, and stirring constantly over low heat, cook for 2 minutes. Increase heat to high and bring mixture to a rolling boil; stir in the pouch of liquid pectin. Stirring constantly, bring to a boil again and boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat, skim off foam (if there is any, usually there's very little). Ladle mixture into hot jars leaving ¼" headspace. Wipe rims and put on the lids. Let the jars cool, test the lids to be sure they are sealed. If you press down on the center of the lid, you'll find there's no give to it.

Let them cool right out in plain sight in your kitchen and label them with YOUR name and what's in the jar. Be extremely proud of yourself. It's so satisfying to create beautiful jars of good-tasting things purely for the joy of doing it and giving them as gifts.

I'm ready for Christmas and I'm sure you are, too. The picture is baby Jesus, the real Reason for this delightful season.



"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord... Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'" Luke 2:8-13

*"On a night like this, centuries ago,
A brilliant star rose in the East,
To show the Wise Men where to go.
They set out on a journey,
To find an unknown King.
Their hearts were filled with happiness
And praises they would sing!"*

("A Night Like This" from "Star of Wonder - A Christmas Musical" Book & Lyrics by Deanne Davis, Music by David Wheatley)

Merry Christmas, dear friends! May God bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon you, give you peace...and joy,

"Christmas, it's almost here! My favorite, favorite time of year!"
My book page: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com): Deanne Davis

Christmas is just a few days away and my books: "A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter" and "Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope" Would be really nice gifts for everyone you know. You can find them on Amazon.com "Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story is there, too.

If you'd like a little preview, take a look at: <https://youtu.be/>

CITY OF ANGELS (continued from page 1)

moment of time, I do believe it is in the eyes.

I was both blessed and cursed to have a job where I could arrive in the early hours of the morning. Los Angeles is almost empty at 5:00 a.m., and one encounters a different face of the city at that time of the day. The automobile traffic is light, the sidewalks are vacant, and the hustle and bustle of society is still slumbering in bed. I was only a couple of blocks away from work as I exited the freeway. A gentle looking homeless man was off the curb, in the street. I could see an emptiness in his face, as though life and all of its joy and meaning were erased, and what remained were the great burdens carried alone without family or love. As I sat at the red light, I watched as he stared off into an invisible place and time that I could not fully see, where the hardships of life actively haunted him.

The place he was occupying in the street, the tattered clothes that hung from his shoulders, the unshaven face of stubble, compelled me to think of him in a certain way, but even amongst the darkness of that winter morning, with only a dim light above, I was overcome by the bright and inviting light that radiated out from his eyes. They made me to think of Heaven. So I wondered, just maybe, this is an angel. I could not keep my mind off him that day, and I am sure I was supposed to say something to him - even if it was just a kind word to let him know that the world cared. I did none of that, much like the old penny of the street, so tarnished and dirty. I just "stepped past" him and kept driving.

Many years later, upon a mouse-like quiet morning, I motored through Los Angeles in those early hours when the moon was still in sight. My office was in a different location now, so it altered my drive from freeway to the city streets. The windows of the donut shops and coffee houses had their usual suspects clinging to their cups of caffeine.

I was five minutes past Dodgers stadium as I turned in the direction of Santa Monica and the mid-city Los Angeles area where I worked. It was a pleasant and fairly straight ahead drive from here, and soon, I would be settling into my office chair. I had developed an odd habit of timing each of my trips going into work, and on some miraculous mornings, a vast succession of lights would flip to green as I traveled in some engineering feat that turned the city of stop-and-go into a journey down a country road. It was not uncommon, since the street I traveled on had two lanes on each side, to have another car glued to my door for several miles as we galloped through the city as one. So it was on this morning, block after block we went.

I was out in front for a few yards, and then several blocks later,

the other car took a small lead. Our industrial horse race sped past the houses, lights and buildings of the city. There was one section at the end of this drive that I feared. It is a poorly lit section of homes and the cross traffic would be traveling between 35-60 MPH, depending upon the driver. One morning, I arrived to see the hedges were destroyed, fully knowing what had happened. Massive rocks were placed around that house on that corner a few weeks later and about a year after, as I passed this intersection, a fresh accident, with two cars resting against the boulders. I told myself, if I should die in my car, it would be in this place on some quiet morning.

I was also very intrigued by this place because I felt a great sense of pain or pleasure depending on the color of the light. This particular morning, I arrived at the top of a small hill where the road gracefully bent and straightened before me. I was not far from work now -- it was the home stretch. A quarter mile into the distance, the intersection's light towered over the trees of the sidewalk. If it was already green, with the length of road I had to

travel, I could not legally make the light. If the light was changing from red to green, however, I could catch the light with a second to spare.

On the mornings I made the light, I had a feeling of euphoric victory, having beat "my opponent." On this morning, I was in luck, as the light was just changing from red to green - "perfect," I thought, I would definitely catch it. The other driver, still beside me, knew this as well, as he slightly darted a bumper ahead of me to make sure he would also catch the light. Then, in a flash, a person suddenly appeared in my lane. I hit the brakes and stopped. There was still 15 seconds left to catch the light, but I would now miss it.

The homeless person bent down in the street in the full brightness of my headlights, and as he rose to his feet, he lifted up his hand to his face, and there, between his index finger and thumb, as one might hold a precious diamond, I could clearly see a shiny new dime. He looked into my window with those eyes of an angel, and then he stepped out of my way and onto the sidewalk. The next thing I heard in the distance was a tremendous crash, and as I looked down the street, I could see two cars beside the boulders. With the signaling light still showing green in our direction, it should have been three cars, had it not been for a precious dime.

If we allow our eyes to see and our hearts to feel, we shall discover a great many things of Heaven and earth. Even in the darkest places of this city where others fear to travel, there are heroic people who are committed to kindness, and carry the healing words of hope to those who have none. The old tarnished pennies of Los Angeles are being picked up and polished, and with great effort, they are being restored. The saviors of the Los Angeles are performing their miracles every day of the year, since the homeless have never take a holiday off. The people of the streets are being brought back to life, and the joyous reunion is shared with family and friends.

This city loves to celebrate its victories. We immortalize our heroes with statues or the retirement of their numbers, but we all know that some victories are harder to achieve than others, and those victories reign as the most eloquent and meaningful of all. To honor some of the noblest of this city, we might humble ourselves and take a knee to offer thanks. Maybe the use of our time is that which is required to make the world a better place. Maybe this is the day we will support the heroes of this city with our money.

As we consider the real meaning of Christmas and the story of the world's greatest gift, let us count our blessings. Let us open our eyes and our hearts to the knowledge that it is an expensive endeavor to feed and shelter thousands of hungry people every day. It takes many dimes and dollars to care for the less fortunate of our city.

The power to change this world and to leave it a better place is in our hands and in our hearts. There are many fantastic organizations in the Los Angeles area that are worthy of your time, talent and money. One of the special ones, the Union Rescue Mission - www.urm.org -- is an organization that has been making miracles happen in Los Angeles for more than 100 years. Some of the people on the streets tonight were once in the military, fire or police department, sworn with a solemn oath to protect its citizens. It has now become our duty to protect them. We love to identify this glorious place where we live as the City of Angels.

A true angel is always looking out for others and sharing the kindness of Heaven with earth.

May your Christmas and Holidays be filled with joy!
Craig Hakola



Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

City Holiday Closures and Reminders



Pasadena residents and businesses are reminded that City Hall and most city services will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, Wednesday and Jan. 1. Specific closures, exceptions and reminders are noted below.

Pasadena residents and businesses with any power emergencies on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 should call Pasadena's Water and Power (PWP) Department at (626) 744-4673. For water-related emergencies, call (626) 744-4138. Customers can access their accounts and make payments through the automated phone system at (626) 744-4005 or online at PWPweb.com.

The city's City Service Center (CSC) will also be closed Wednesday and Jan. 1. You can contact the CSC via the web or mobile app, or by calling (626) 744-7311. Requests submitted over the weekends will be monitored. City trash collection will have a one-day delay of trash collection during both Christmas and New Year's week.

Residents can drop off their Christmas trees this Thursday through Jan. 2, for recycling at Eaton Blanche Park (3100 E. Del Mar Blvd.) or Robinson Park (1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave.) between the hours of 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please remove all stands, ornaments and lights prior to drop-off. Curbside Christmas tree pickup will take place Jan. 2 through Jan. 16 on residents' regular pickup day.

Pasadena Transit and Pasadena Dial-A-Ride will not operate on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, or New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

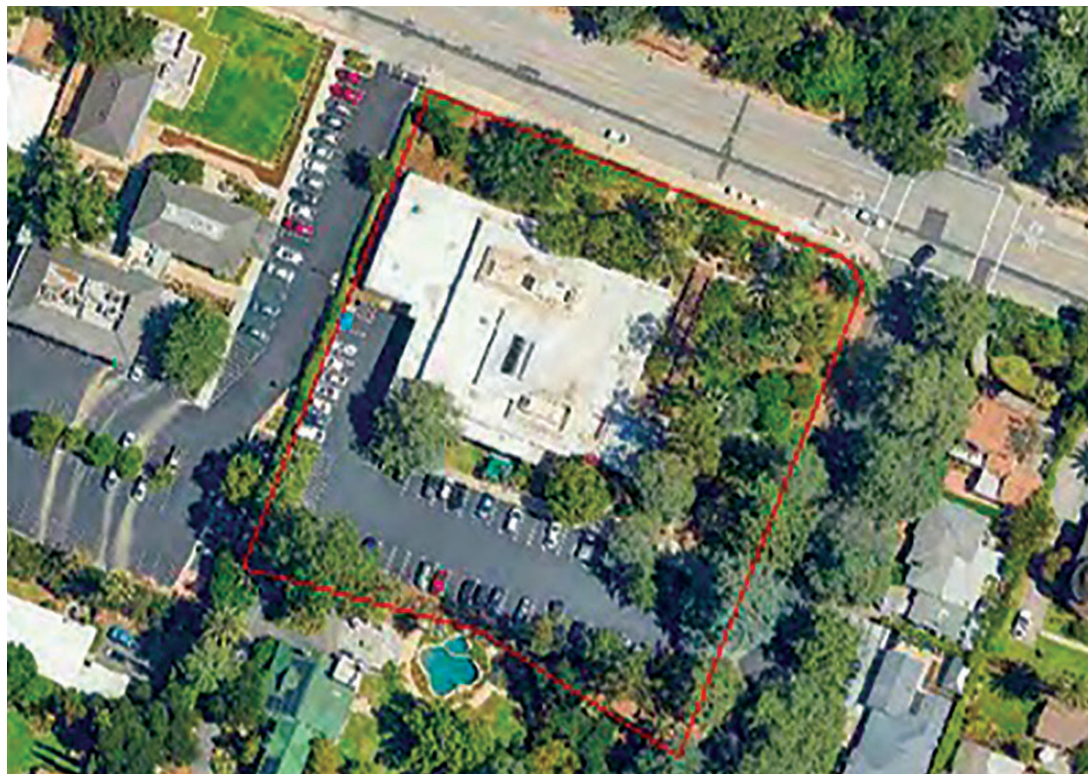
All parking meters are free and parking time limits will not be enforced on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, Jan. 1. Also, overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced from Monday through Jan. 3, and will resume at 2 a.m. on Jan. 4. Violations for red curb/no parking zones, driveway blocks and blocking fire hydrants will continue to be issued at all times.

All Pasadena Public Library branch sites will close on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 1 p.m. and will reopen on Thursday. Library branches will again close on Dec. 31, at 1 p.m., and will reopen on Jan. 2.

The city's Permit Center will be closed on Wednesday and Jan. 1.

Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to be staffed for all patrol, jail, fire, paramedic and other emergency services. Call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies. For non-emergencies, call (626) 744-4241. If you "See Something, Say Something," Report suspicious activity to Pasadena Police at (626) 744-4241.

All recreation and community centers will be closed on Wednesday and Jan. 1. All parks will be open for picnics, fun, and play; however, no holiday site reservations are accepted.



County to Prepare EIR for Altadena Library

Altadena Library officials announced Tuesday that Los Angeles County is set to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the upcoming Altadena Main Library Renovation Project and asking for comments and concerns regarding any environmental issues associated with construction and operation of the proposed project.

According to the L.A. County report, improvements would include an expansion of the building footprint approximately 700 square feet, interior space reconfiguration, access improvements, seismic retrofit, and replacement of aged building infrastructure to address mechanical (elevator and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), plumbing (including additional and accessible restrooms), and electrical and structural elements of the facility.

Infrastructure improvements are expected to include some modernized Audio Visual spaces with newer technology and updated communications infrastructure and structured cabling. Upgrades to plantings and irrigation and adding outdoor functional spaces are also planned.

Some demolition and grading are required, they said, includes removal of concrete, pavement, and removal of existing turf, planters, and shrubs. Grading is designed to slope walking paths, landscapes, and other surfaces away from buildings towards on-site drainage features. Areas of pavement and concrete removal include area for the new entry/lobby along much of the south side of the Main Library and walkways to bridge on north side of facility.

The comment period began this week and ends on January 2. Email all comments to: sdonnelly@planning.lacounty.gov.

or by mail to Sean Donnelly, AICP, Senior Planner LA County Planning Foothills Development Services Section 320 West Temple Street, 13th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The Initial Study is available for public review during regular business hours at Altadena Main Library 600 E. Mariposa Street and online at: planning.lacounty.gov/environmental-review/public-notice.

For more information about the library visit: altadenalibrary.org.

City Wins Project of the Year Award

Director of Public Works, Gregory de Vinck, announced Thursday that the City of Pasadena had been awarded the 2024 American Public Works Association ("APWA") BEST Project of the Year Award for an outstanding public works project: Washington Park Community House.

According to officials, Pasadena's project was selected from amongst similar-sized cities in the Southern California region for the prestigious recognition.

The Washington Park Community House project received the Project of the Year award in the Recreational and Athletic Facilities category, recognized for its innovative design and strong community engagement. The center features sustainable, Craftsman architecture with abundant natural light through skylights and large windows, and incorporates solar shading on the south and west facades for enhanced energy efficiency. The use of high-thermal resistive and eco-friendly materials ensures a comfortable, green environment for visitors.

Located in one of Pasadena's oldest neighborhoods, the Washington Park Community House harmonizes within the historic Washington Park, ensuring the design reflects community needs and values. This thoughtful blend of historical context and sustainable practices positions the Washington Park Community House as a landmark of tradition and progress, serving as a vital resource for the community.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net.

City of Pasadena Announces Acting Director of Housing

Pasadena city officials announced Tuesday that James (Jim) Wong has been selected to be the Acting Housing Director with the City of Pasadena. Wong started Monday.

Wong will oversee a department with an annual budget of \$46.3 million and 91 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, of which 67 employees participate in the highly successful Municipal Assistance, Solutions, and Hiring (MASH) program. MASH is a unique temporary fulltime paid job training program for dozens of adult participants that provides services to homeowners as well as City departments. Wong will act in the director role until the recruitment for a permanent director is completed in early Spring.

Wong has 40 years of experience in housing programs and administration, most recently serving as a Senior Project Manager with the City of Pasadena since 2004. He has been with the City of Pasadena Housing since 1990, when he began as a Program Coordinator III where he administered a homebuyer assistance loan program.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and a Master's Degree in Architecture and Urban



Planning from UCLA.

"Jim will be a tremendous asset to our city as an acting director due to his strong background in housing administration, a proven track record of delivering critical housing programs, and being a respected presence within the housing community," said City Manager Miguel Márquez. "I am confident he will build on the exceptional work established by Bill Huang, our retiring Housing Director. Jim works effectively with both the community he serves and his team, leveraging their expertise to develop creative solutions to the housing challenges ahead."

"I feel fortunate to have sustained a career in affordable housing and am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the City of Pasadena in this new capacity," Wong said.

Pasadena Announces 2025 One City, One Story

The Pasadena Public Library announced Thursday the book selection for Pasadena's 2025 One City, One Story community reading celebration: James by author Percival Everett. A 19-member selection committee led by Senior Librarian Christine Reeder and made up of community volunteers worked for many months to determine this year's One City One Story honoree.

Now in its 23rd year, One City, One Story is designed to broaden and deepen an appreciation of reading and literature and to promote tolerance and understanding of differing points of view by recommending a compelling book that engages the community in conversation.

James is a reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – both harrowing and savagely funny – told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

1861, The Mississippi River. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a new owner in New Orleans and separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson's Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, who recently returned to town. Thus begins a dangerous and transcendent journey by raft along the Mississippi River, toward the elusive promise of the free states and beyond. As James and Huck begin to navigate the treacherous waters, each bend in the river holds the promise of both salvation and demise. With rumors of a brewing war, James must face the burden he carries: the family he cannot protect, and the constant lie he must live. And together, the unlikely pair must face the most dangerous odyssey of them all.

Scorchingly plotted, unexpectedly comical, witheringly observed, and ingeniously inventive, James is, of course, also absolutely heartbreaking, populated by unforgettable characters realized in incredible dimensionality. A single sitting read with short chapters and a galloping pace,



the novel offers a wide-eyed look from the shadows of Huck Finn's mischievous spirit, allowing Jim to fully emerge with a reclaimed voice defying the conventions that have traditionally consigned him to the margins. Percival Everett is a distinguished professor of English at USC. His most recent books include James (2024 National Book Award, 2024 Kirkus Prize Winner for Fiction and finalist for The Booker Prize), Dr. No (finalist for the NBCC Award for Fiction and winner of the PEN/ Jean Stein Book Award), The Trees (finalist for the Booker Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction), Telephone (finalist for the Pulitzer Prize), So Much Blue, Erasure, and I Am Not Sidney Poitier. He has received the NBCC Ivan Sandrof Life Achievement Award and The Windham Campbell Prize from Yale University. American Fiction, the feature film based on his novel Erasure, was released in 2023 and was awarded the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, the writer Danzy Senna, and their children.

One City, One Story community programs will be held throughout the month of March, highlighted by a conversation with the author on Saturday, March 15 at 2 p.m., at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E. Colorado Blvd. For more information on One City, One Story, visit: CityOfPasadena.Libguides.com/OneCityOneStory.

Pasadena Condition Based Tree Removal List Released

Gregory de Vinck, Director of Public Works released a list last week of over 100 city trees pending removal for dead, dying, and hazardous trees on a non-emergency basis throughout Pasadena, as well as trees recently removed on an emergency basis. The Street Maintenance Division has posted the non-emergency removals and notified adjacent residents consistent with the City's Tree Removal Policy.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Public Works Department's Urban Forestry webpage to learn more about tree maintenance and tree planting efforts: cityofpasadena.net/public-works/urban-forestry.

Residents are also encouraged to contact the Citizen Service Center at 626-744-7311 to submit service requests or report concerns related to public trees: cityofpasadena.net/citizen-service-center.

The full list of trees either removed or to be removed can be found at cityofpasadena.net/city-manager, under the weekly newsletter for Dec. 12.



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LCPC PARENT ED SUPPORTS FOSTERALL IN CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

La Cañada Presbyterian Church's Parent Education Program (LCPC Parent Ed) recently hosted donation collections and events supporting its local mission partner, FosterAll. To celebrate the holiday together and show appreciation to foster families who have opened up their hearts and homes to children in need, LCPC Parent Ed held a Christmas toy drive collecting new toys for boys and girls. Answering the call, LCPC parishioners and Parent Ed participants donated over 200 toys for the toy drive.

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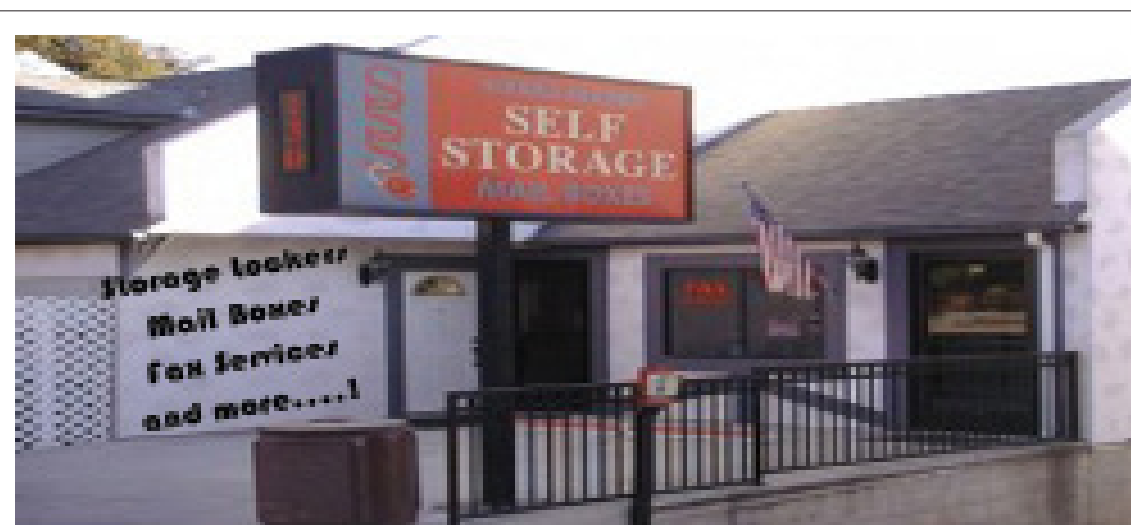
Make a donation to **Sierra Madre Search and Rescue** or the **Living Beauty Cancer Foundation** by December 20, and you could win a necklace or earrings! Just bring in your donation receipt (any amount) and you'll be entered for a chance to win!

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FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS ISSUE ROSE PARADE SAFETY TIPS

As the 136th Rose Parade and 111th Rose Bowl Game approaches on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, Pasadena's Fire and Police Departments are issuing the following safety tips for the thousands of overnight campers who will line the 5.5 miles down the Colorado Boulevard route. The Rose Parade route will be a safer place if everyone follows the rules and regulations listed below.

What You Can Do:

Overnight camping is permitted only on the night of Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

A position on the sidewalk may be maintained along the parade route beginning at noon, Tuesday, December 31. All persons and property, such as blankets, chairs and personal items, must remain on the curb until 11 p.m. At that time, spectators may move out to the blue "Honor Line" but not past it.

Small, professionally-manufactured barbecues elevated at least 1 foot off the ground are allowed on the parade route as long as they are 25 feet from buildings and other combustibles. A fire extinguisher must be readily available.

Minors under the age of 18 may be on the parade route from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. only if they are supervised by an adult.

Dress for cold weather! Children and seniors may need extra layers of clothing to avoid hypothermia. Remember hats and gloves.

Drink healthy fluids and consume nourishing meals to avoid dehydration.

"If You See Something, Say Something." Report suspicious activities and packages to emergency authorities along the parade route.

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1 and know the cross streets from where you are calling. For non-emergencies, call (626) 744-4241.

What You Can't Do:

Appearance in the parade is prohibited for any entries/marchers who have not been approved by the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. Stay off the street and do not pass the blue "Honor Line."

Tents, sofas, and boxes of any type that can be used as stools or seats are prohibited along the route.

Unoccupied chairs are not allowed and will be removed from the parade route.

Bonfires are strictly prohibited and considered "illegal burns."

ALL fireworks are prohibited except as part of official scheduled events.

No items may be sold along the parade route without a City permit.

Selling space along the parade route, other than grandstand seating, is illegal.

It is illegal to buy, sell or give away horns on the parade route.

No public areas—sidewalks, curbs, gutters, streets or ramps—may be blocked or roped off.

No ladders or scaffolding may be used as elevation for viewing the activities.

Only officially certified and properly identified service animals are recommended along the parade or at game; keep all other pets safe at home!

Throwing any object into the parade—or at passing vehicles or pedestrians the night before the parade—is dangerous and prohibited. Violators will be cited and their property will be seized.

Unauthorized vehicles obstructing emergency travel lanes or parked in restricted areas will be towed at owners' expense. No exceptions.

Open containers of alcohol are illegal on public streets, sidewalks and all other public areas. Violators will be cited or arrested.

The throwing of any objects into the roadway or parade route, including seemingly harmless items as tortillas, marshmallows, or flowers, is prohibited.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) will be in place for both the parade and Rose Bowl Game. Anyone who attempts to fly a drone will be subject to fine, arrest and/or imprisonment. Information about the TFR and all federal drone regulations can be found on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) website: Gov

Pasadena Fire Department responds to more than twice the number of calls on parade day than any other day. These calls include reports of hypothermia, illegal burning, miscellaneous medical issues, assaults and alcohol-related incidents. Be safe and smart!

For your safety and for the safety of others, please remember the City's no-smoking policies [Pasadena Municipal Code section 8.78.071 (A) 4] prohibit smoking in outdoor public gathering events/special events/parades/fairs. This policy includes the use of cannabis and vaping devices (aka e-cigarettes). The public is advised to NOT use any vaping products.

Enhanced security measures will be in effect on the parade route. Pasadena police officers will resolve problems quickly and remove anyone from the scene who violates the law or disturbs the peace. Police canine teams will also be patrolling Colorado Boulevard. "If You See Something, Say Something."

Colorado Boulevard will once again close to motor vehicles earlier than in prior years for the staging of the Rose Parade. Colorado Boulevard will close beginning at 10 p.m. on December 31, and will remain closed through the conclusion of the staging and clean-up following the parade. If you plan to host a New Year's Eve event, viewing party, or anticipate vendor deliveries, and your property's access is via Colorado Boulevard, please let your guests and vendors know that they must arrive before 10 p.m. or park in areas without restricted parking and walk in. The parade route will reopen by 2 p.m. on January 1.

Visit Pasadena will open the Visitor Hotline at (877) 793-9911 on Friday, December 27, and it will run through Thursday, January 2. Hours of operations are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday - Sunday.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net and: tournamentofroses.com.

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(626) 355-3463
Head of School: Joanne Harabedian
E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org
- Arcadia Christian School**
1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006
Preschool - TK - 8th Grade
626-574-8229/626-574-0805
Email: inquiry@acsclions.com
Principal: Cindy Harmon
website: www.acsclions.com
- Arcadia High School**
180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee
bforsee@ausd.net
- Arroyo Pacific Academy**
41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca.
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School**
Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal
2660 East Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, Ca 91107
626-793-2089
https://school.abvmpasadena.org/
- Barnhart School**
240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588
Head of School: Tonya Beilstein
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.org
- Bethany Christian School**
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527
Preschool-TK-8th Grade
Principal: Jonathon Hawes
website: www.bcsclions.org
- Clairbourn School**
8400 Huntington Drive
San Gabriel, CA 91775
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172
FAX: 626-286-1528
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org
- Foothill Oaks Academy**
822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 301-9809
Principal: Nancy Lopez
www.foothilloaksacademy.org
office@foothilloaksacademy.org
- Frostig School**
971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 791-1255
Head of School: Jenny Janetzke
Email: jenny@frostig.org
- The Gooden School**
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(626) 355-2410
Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner
website: www.goodenschool.org
- High Point Academy**
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Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org
- La Salle College Preparatory**
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org
Interim Principal Ernest Siy
- Monrovia High School**
325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2800 Principal: Principal Darvin Jackson
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us
- Odyssey Charter School**
725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neil
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org
- Pasadena High School**
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba
website: http://pchs.pusd.us
- St. Rita Catholic School**
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Principal: Jon McMaster (626) 355-6114
mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org
Website: www.st-ritaschool.org
- Sierra Madre Elementary School**
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428
Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso
E-mail address: marchesso.jodi@pusd.us
- Sierra Madre Middle School**
160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom
E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us
- Walden School**
74 S San Gabriel Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166
www.waldenschool.net
- Weizmann Day School**
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(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School
- Wilson Middle School**
300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us
- Pasadena Unified School District**
351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us
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We've written up a list of things to... ...improve upon during the new year!

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A New Year Around the World

Many people all over the world ring in the New Year on the 31st of December at midnight. Some ring in their new year in a different season. Read my clues to learn about new year celebrations. Fill in the puzzle!

- In _____ it is a time to pray, think about the old year and forgive (in the fall).
- People in _____ hang straw rope on their doors to ward off evil spirits; eat tasty rice cakes.
- In _____, schools are closed. People use New Year's Day to rest from the parties and fireworks they went to the night before!
- In _____, people decorate with colors: yellow for happiness, red for love, white for health!
- In _____, the "first footer" - the first person to come through your door in the new year - brings good luck!
- In _____, during the festival of Songkran, people splash water on each other for fun. Some even use elephants to spray water (April).
- In _____, parades are held with fireworks and dancing "dragons."
- In _____, people celebrate for 6 days with parties, fireworks and dancing.
- In the _____, people wear polka dots and eat round fruits for good luck; streets are lined with bright lanterns.
- In the _____ people watch a giant crystal ball drop at the stroke of midnight. People promise to better themselves in the new year.
- In _____, heads of households go door to door to wish neighbors well. Kids get sweets wrapped in colorful paper.
- In _____, people release a flower-filled boat for the ocean goddess, Lemanjá.
- In _____, the President addresses the country; people make toasts; exchange gifts.
- In _____ it is a joyful time, lasting about 12 days. There is a reading of the Koran at home. There are lighted candles. A leaf for each family member shows life and growth (March).

Canada, Thailand, Philippines, Mexico, Israel, China, Russia, Egypt, Iran, Australia, United States, Japan, Scotland, Brazil.

PUZZLES FOR YOU

SCIENCE FICTION

ACROSS

1. Le Corbusier's art
5. *"The Matrix" protagonist
8. Captures
12. Funkiness in the air
13. Vegetative state
14. Capital of Vietnam
15. Fairy tale villain
16. Beware of these in March
17. Spiker and Sponge of "James and the Giant Peach"
18. *Bioengineered humanoid in "Blade Runner"
20. The Beehive State
21. Burn with coffee, e.g.
22. Tire meas.
23. Sea nymph
26. Salad dressing option
30. *Pierre Boullé's Cornelius
31. Hoity-toity
34. Back arrow key
35. Covered with sphagnum
37. Tiny Tim's guitar
38. Allegro ____, in music
39. Sign of escape
40. Apprehension
42. Emergency responder, acr.
43. Neuron junction
45. Sleeping sickness vector
47. *Katniss Everdeen's sister
48. Hammerin' Hank
50. Tennis "innings"
52. *2010 film starring DiCaprio
56. Meat of coconut
57. Desperate
58. Karl of politics
59. *1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver
60. Fail to mention
61. Bo Peep's females
62. *"Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" author
63. Was ahead
64. *Spock's are pointy

DOWN

1. Point of entry
2. Side of a ruler, e.g.
3. S or C follower, in business
4. Two-word threat
5. Relating to node
6. Make corrections
7. Kiln for hops
8. *Captain Nemo's submarine
9. Tolstoy's Karenina
10. This and that
11. Bro's sibling
13. Droning insect
14. Niger and Nigeria language
19. In an unfriendly manner
22. Parent org.
23. "He named ____"
24. Strong adhesive
25. Pine juice
26. Original thought
27. Garment enlarger
28. *"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author
29. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ____"
32. *Frank Herbert's famous novel
33. "I Like ____" 1950s campaign slogan
36. *"Where no man has gone before" TV series
38. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
40. "It's no ____!"
41. Beale of Memphis, e.g.
44. South Korean port
46. Main dish
48. Japanese cartoon art
49. Like thick smoke
50. Solo, pl.
51. Long narrative poem
52. Worshiped one
53. Minnesota's southern neighbor
54. Last word on radio
55. Famed loch
56. Rogue or rascal

CROSSWORD

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PROPERLY PERFECT: A Local Hideaway Worth Savoring

There's a certain charm about a place that feels just right—the kind of spot where the barstools are as inviting as the dining chairs, and the martinis arrive as crisp as the commentary on the game playing on the nearby TV. For me, The Proper in La Cañada checks all the boxes of what I call proper dining.

Years ago, The Proper made a name for itself with its extensive selection of gins. While the new ownership has kept a few of those old favorites, the heart of the restaurant has shifted to something more: a true local hideaway. It's a place that feels like a blend of Stoney Point, Smitty's, and Houston's—classy yet approachable, elegant yet comfortable.

If you're starting your evening here, I suggest kicking things off with a classic Caesar salad or their delightful deviled eggs. On my visit last week, I indulged in the Scottish salmon. Cooked to perfection, it came paired with creamy mashed potatoes that transported me straight to a little slice of heaven in the foothills of La Cañada.

And let's not forget Happy Hour, which runs from 4 PM. It's a must for those who appreciate a great deal without sacrificing quality. For just \$20, you can sink your teeth into The Proper Burger, served with your choice of beer or house wine. Sit at the bar, and you'll likely meet Cameron, always armed with a smile and a creative drink idea. The service is a standout feature, with Manager Ashley roaming the room, making sure every guest feels like a VIP.

The crowd here is what truly sets the tone—friendly, familiar, and undeniably proper. Whether you're a creature of habit like me, perched at the bar with a martini in one hand and an eye on the big game, or seeking a full dining room experience, The Proper delivers. It's the kind of place that doesn't just welcome you in but invites you to stay awhile. In the end, The Proper is more than just a name—it's a promise of an experience that feels, well, proper.

The Proper in La Canada on Foothill
Join me this Saturday for my radio show on 870 AM KRLA

RT ROGERS BREWERY - SIERRA MADRE

RT Rogers Brewing will be hosting a Christmas jazz performance by Jim Wright and Jim Miller this month on two nights. Wednesday December 18th and Saturday December 21st.

These two musicians were regular performers at Cafe 322 playing jazz with the Fuzzy Logic Bopset many years ago, and Mr. Wright plays twice monthly at RT Rogers Brewing on a regular basis, playing his tap-guitar, which allows him to play bass and guitar simultaneously.

Mr. Miller will be on the drums.

These experienced musicians will play jazzy Christmas tunes, and some jazz standard favorites.

There is no cover, and the performances are from 6:30 to 9PM.

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Dec. 4th Jim Wright - Solo Tap-guitar

Dec. 18th & 21st
Jim Wright/Jim Miller
Xmas Jazz

All shows 6:30 - 9PM
No Cover

Oh, Jimmy. That rhythm does something to me.

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INGREDIENTS

- Unsalted butter for the baking dish
- 6 large egg yolks
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 6 croissants, cut into 1-inch pieces (about 1 pound)
- 4 ounces bittersweet chocolate, cut into chunks

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oven to 375° F. Butter an 8-inch square or other shallow 2-quart baking dish.
- In a large bowl, whisk together the egg yolks, milk, cream, sugar, vanilla, salt, and nutmeg. Add the croissants and chocolate and mix to combine.
- Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish and bake until set and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown

THE NEWS -

THEUNIS BATES EDITOR-IN CHIEF "THE WEEK"

All across America people are turning off the news. Some of them are liberals still traumatized by the election, for whom the idea of hearing about President-elect Trump's latest All-CAPS pronouncement is just too triggering. Some are right leaning bros, who believe that traditional media outlets have become too woke and that only moon landing skeptical podcasters can be trusted to tell it like it is.

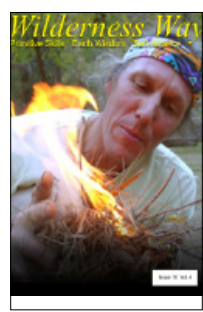
But a good number of those tuning out I'm confident, are doing so because they feel like the firehose of breaking news is drowning them. It is our curse to live in interesting times—just consider all that's happened in the past few days. There was an attempted coup in South Korea; a resumption of civil war in Syria; a U.S. president pardoning his prodigal son, after repeatedly promising not to; and a whole convoy of Trump related happenings, from his nomination of a MAGA vengeance artist as FBI director to his suggested annexation of Canada.

In normal times, any of these stories would dominate the headlines for days. But these are interesting times, and so each shocking development gives only a brief moment on the chyron before being pushed aside by yet another world-shaking story. We are not designed to cope with such an onslaught, and so our caveman brains tell us to seek safety or at least to switch off CNN, delete that news app, and take up whittling or some other adrenaline reducing activity. Such a flight response is understandable but not conducive to a healthy democracy, which requires an informed citizenry.

Yet being informed is not the same thing as being overloaded. Fewer of us would suffer from news fatigue if we weren't being blasted from all directions and at all hours with news alerts and updates: On our phones, home screens, in our email inboxes, on our never ending social media feeds, and even on TVs at the bar. No news is bad news, but too much news is simply exhausting.



CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



[Nyerges is the author of several books including "Self-Sufficient Home" and "How to Survive Anywhere." He also leads wilderness classes every weekend. He can be reached at School of Self-Reliance, Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com]

IN SEARCH OF THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas was always a special time growing up. And I always felt the desire to really get to know its special meaning. So when I was in my early teens, I became aware of a fact that I was not taught in Catholic school: Jesus – in whose honor this holiday re-volves – was a Jewish rabbi who lectured in the Synagogue and kept the traditional Jewish Holy Days of his time. We know the date of Jesus' birthday is not known to his-torians, and was certainly not December 25. OK, so that opened a can of worms....

Using ordinary encyclopedias and the library, I began to uncover a side of Christmas that I never knew existed. First, I was a bit surprised to find that many people suggest-ed that Jesus never existed at all, but they were searching for "Jesus Christ," which is a combination of his Latinized name and a title. Rarely do these "researchers" grasp that in his time, his name would be rendered as Iesu, or Jeshua, or Yeshua. His first name is rendered as Isa in the Koran. His full family name would likely have been Yeshua ben Josephus, or Jeshua ben Pandira, depending on which scholars you accept.

I learned that while Jesus was observing the Jewish Holy Days, the known world at that time was commemorating nearly every Holy Day that Christianity celebrates today, but under a different name. Holy Days of Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Saint Valen-tine's Day, Candle-mas, and more, were all being commemorated during the Roman empire. Though they were commemorated under different names, the customs associ-ated with each are still with us.

By the Third Century as Christianity was becoming a religious and political force, Con-stantine made a political choice to cement his Christian empire. Since there was re-sistance to dropping the old so-called pagan customs, Constantine "Christianized" the entire gamut of pre-Christian Holy Days and changed their names. (This is, obviously, the very short 25-cent version – you can read the long version in any encyclope-dia.) The feast of Saturnalia was changed to the Mass of Christ, or Christmas.

By the way, the word "pagan" in its origin had no religious overtones. It merely meant a country-dweller, from the Latin "pagus." The complaint that the pagans in their obser-vation of their Holy Days were riotous and drunken was only partly right. History clear-ly demonstrates that among the "pagani" there was no more or less drunken revelry than there was among those now calling themselves Christians.

Though December 25 is not the winter solstice, it is the day when someone observing the sun-rises notes that the sun begins again its northern ascent back from that south-ernmost point of the horizon that it reached on the winter solstice. It is the birth of the sun that that pagans celebrated, which Constantine made the birth of the Son. It is thus the day that modern Chris-tians use to commemorate the birth of the One they re-fer to as the Son of God.

My first childhood reaction to learning of this "pagan history" of Christmas led to my disenchantment and depression. A few years later when I became a Buddhist, I was surprised to learn that my Buddhist friends celebrated Christmas. "It's a social and secular holiday too," they told me. "It's part of the popular culture," as they all had their warm parties and exchanged gifts in their eagerness to be a part of American culture. That opened my eyes to yet another side of this.

This season and its myriad symbols are ancient, yet it is still up to each of us to use these sym-bols, and this time, for a spiritual leap-forward, and not as an excuse to grov-el in material-ism. This year we have a great opportunity for going inward, and seeking the real meaning of Christmas.

Gift-giving, for example, can be a mindless act, or it can be a true communion between two be-ings. And gift-giving doesn't have to be a physical object. It can be a service, some act of love, or even walking someone's dog, or cooking a meal when they have the need. That's the sort of gift-giving that I love to do with my closest friends. Of course, giv-ing a special coin to someone in need is always appreciated!

The evergreens, the trees, the wreaths, the lights, all good symbols of spiritual renewal and eternal spiritual life. That's what they're there to remind us of.

Santa Claus is a latter day addition to the winter solstice time. Saint Nicholas was a real Catholic Bishop from Asia Minor who gave gifts to newlyweds around the Christ-mas season.

The Christmas season's ancient symbols are intended to remind us that even at our darkest moment, there is hope for us finding the light again. That is why solstices were commemorated in the first place. So in the Christian tradition, it was Jesus whose life demonstrated that there is a way to live, a way that each of us should follow, that can lead us out of our spiritual darkness. That is why we commemorate the birth of Jesus at this time. And that basic principle is why so many cultures – modern and ancient – have taken the time to make this time of the year so very special.



Katnip News! NOAH FOR CHRISTMAS?



Are you hop-ing Santa will bring you the sweetest, cud-dliest boy ever?



Meet Noah! This spunky little guy is full of life, al-ways ready to play with his fellow kitty friends and his favorite humans. When he's not busy having fun, he will follow you around and loves nothing more than to curl up for cuddles.

He's all soft black with one adorable white whisker! Santa's looking for a forever home where Noah can shower his new mom or dad with LOVE. Could that be you? Come meet Noah and let him charm his way into your heart! He's 7 mos. old, fully vetted and healthy.

Please fill out the application at <https://www.lifelineforpets.org/noah.html>.

Pet of the Week

Beautiful Delilah is a 3-year-old Malinois mix who is looking for a calm, loving home where she can feel safe and cherished. This sweet girl is a little on the shy side at first, but once she gets to know you, she's a bundle of love and affection. Delilah enjoys her walks, especially when she gets the chance to sniff around and explore. She recently went on a field trip with a volunteer and loved splashing around in a creek while on a hike.



Delilah is a very well-behaved girl and knows all her training cues. She's a big fan of pets and treats, especially hot dogs, and she'll happily return to you for some love after a good game of ball. While she's a bit nervous around new environments or busy places, she's always gentle and polite, sitting patiently at crosswalks and enjoying a leisurely stroll when the coast is clear. This wallflower will thrive in a quieter, low-traffic home, ideally as the only pet. She's looking for a family who can give her the space and calm she needs to blossom into her confident, loving self. If you're looking for a sweet and devoted companion to share your quiet moments with, Delilah is waiting to meet you! Delilah and all other dogs over 40 pounds old have their adoption fees waived from December 19 – 31 during the Roses & Wet Noses adoption promotion at Pasadena Humane.

The normal adoption fee for dogs is \$150. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines. Walk-in adoptions are available every day from 2:00 – 5:00. For those who prefer, adoption appointments are available daily from 10:30 – 1:30 and can be scheduled online. View photos of adoptable pets at pasadenahumane.org. 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. Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email.

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From The Desk of Steve Sciurba, Safe Path For Senior

WHEN A LOVED ONE CAN'T COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS:

For many, Christmas is a time for family gatherings, festive meals, and shared laughter. However, for some, the holiday season is marked by a bittersweet emptiness—the absence of a loved one who cannot make it home.

Whether due to work commitments, distance, or unforeseen circumstances like illness, the feeling of separation during Christmas can be especially hard. The empty chair at the dinner table or the quiet phone calls instead of joyous reunions can evoke a sense of longing that feels heavier during this time of year.

"Christmas is all about family for me, and not having them here makes it feel incomplete," says Emma Thompson, whose husband, a member of the military, is stationed overseas this holiday season. "We try to make the best of it with video calls, but it's just not the same."

Technological advances have made staying connected easier, with many families relying on video calls and social media to bridge the gap. However, these virtual connections cannot replace the warmth and closeness of physical presence. For families facing separation, the holiday season can be a time of reflection, fostering deeper appreciation for their loved ones.

Experts suggest that while it's okay to feel sadness, focusing on creating new traditions, such as sending care packages, crafting heartfelt messages, or scheduling a future celebration, can help alleviate the pain of absence. "The key is to hold onto the love and memories shared, even if circumstances prevent a physical reunion," says Dr. Sarah Green, a family therapist.

Though Christmas may not always be the same when a loved one is absent, the spirit of togetherness can still shine through—reminding us that love knows no boundaries, whether near or far.

HOW TO HELP A HOARDING PARENT

Dear Savvy Senior:

My dad has always been a pack rat, but since mom died a few years ago he's become more of a hoarder. The clutter in his house has gotten out of control and I don't know what to do. Any suggestions? Distraught in Centerville



Dear Distraught:

Unfortunately, hoarding or clutter addiction is a problem that's become increasingly common in the U.S. It affects approximately 6 percent of Americans age 65 or older. The problem can range anywhere from moderate messiness to hoarding so severe it may be related to a mental health disorder like obsessive-compulsive disorder. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources that can help you help your dad.

Why People Hoard

The reasons most people hoard is because they have an extreme sentimental attachment to their possessions, or they believe they might need their items at a later date. Hoarding can also be a sign that an older person is depressed, anxious or showing early symptoms of dementia.

Common problems for seniors who live in excessive clutter are tripping, falling and breaking a bone; overlooking bills and missing medications that are hidden in the clutter; suffering from the environmental effects of mold, mildew and dust, and even living among insects and rodents.

What to Do

To help you gauge your dad's problem, the Institute for Challenging Disorganization (ICD) offers a free "Clutter Hoarding Scale" that you can download at ChallengingDisorganization.org.

If you find that your dad has a moderate cluttering problem, there are a number of things you can do to help.

Start by having a talk with him, expressing your concern for his health and safety, and offering your assistance to help him declutter.

If he takes you up on it, most professional organizers recommend decluttering in small steps. Take one room at a time or even a portion of a room at a time. This will help prevent your dad from getting overwhelmed.

Before you start, designate three piles or boxes for your dad's stuff – one pile is for items he wants to keep-and-put-away, another is the donate pile and the last is the throwaway pile.

You and your dad will need to determine which pile his things belong in as you work. If he struggles with sentimental items that he doesn't use, suggest he keep only one item for memory sake and donate the rest to family members who will use them.

You will also need to help him set up a system for organizing the kept items and new possessions.

Find Help

If you need some help with the decluttering and organizing, consider hiring a professional organizer who can come to your dad's home to help you prioritize, organize and remove the clutter.

The National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals (NAPO.net) and the ICD (ChallengingDisorganization.org) both offer directories on their websites to help you locate a professional in your area.

If your dad has a bigger, more serious hoarding problem (if his daily functioning is impaired, or if he is having financial difficulties, health problems, or other issues) you'll need to seek professional help.

Talk therapy and/or antidepressants can help address control issues, anxiety, depression, and other feelings that may underline hoarding tendencies, and make it easier for him to confront his disorder.

To locate help, contact Helping Elders Live Productively (H.E.L.P.). This is a free education, counseling, and referral resource that helps older adults and their families who are experiencing hoarding, by connecting them with legal services, mental health assistance and support groups. Call 310-533-1996 for a referral or visit Help4srs.org/support-services-for-seniors-who-hoard.

You can also find professional help through the International OCD Foundation, which provides a hoarding center on their website at Hoarding.iocdf.org.

And to get help with challenging cleanup jobs, the biggest provider is Steri-Clean, Inc. (see Hoarders.com or call 800-462-7337), a hoarding cleanup company that has franchises located throughout the country.

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

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



OUT TO PASTOR
A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder
THE WORST CHRISTMAS I CAN REMEMBER

The best holiday for me is Christmas. I enjoy everything about Christmas except paying for many gifts. But looking back, it's all been worth it. I can't think of anything I would ever change.

It's the one time of the year that families get together who usually aren't together during the year because of work schedules and so forth. I look forward to our great Christmas gatherings. There was a time in our family when the number of family members increased every year. I thought when we had children, that would be the end of it. But wouldn't you know all of our kids decided to have their own kids? And it's even come to the point where some of our grandkids are having their own kids.

Oh boy, when will this stop? Actually, I hope it doesn't stop.

Everybody looks forward to the Christmas holiday and everything associated with it. It is very hard to have a bad Christmas, no matter what seems to happen.

After our Christmas holiday, I was sitting in my easy chair drinking coffee and reflecting on all the Christmases I had as a child. Those were fun times. I got to see relatives I haven't seen the rest of the year.

It was then I remembered something—the worst Christmas I ever had. I had forgotten about this, but all of a sudden, it came to mind.

When I was young, before I became a teenager, my parents would take me and my siblings downtown to meet Santa Claus. We would sit on his lap, take a candy cane from him, and tell him what we wanted for Christmas.

When we were done, he would say, "Ho, ho, ho," give us a Merry Christmas look, then send us back to our parents.

I vividly remember the first time I told him that I would love to have a pony for Christmas. He agreed to bring me a pony, and then he did his "ho, ho, ho" routine. When I got up that Christmas, I noticed no pony under the Christmas tree. As I thought more about it, I realized that nothing was under the Christmas tree that I had asked Santa for. I couldn't understand it. My parents told me Santa would bring me the Christmas presents I asked for. Of course, I believed them.

Several Christmases passed, and the same thing happened or didn't happen. And I was just a little bit confused about this guy called Santa Claus. Why wasn't he good to his word?

I remember the year I turned 13. I was now a teenager, and so I had graduated to that smart lev-el of being a teenager.

At school, we were having some kind of Christmas party, and they were talking about Santa Claus coming down the chimney to put presents under the Christmas tree and in the stockings hung by the fireplace. I didn't think too much of it at the time.

That Christmas Eve, as we were getting our Christmas tree all "holidayed" up, I felt that some-thing was missing with our Christmas decorations. Then, it hit me rather strongly.

"Dad," I cried in alarm. He looked at me and said, "What's wrong son?"

I looked at him angrily and asked, "Dad, where is the chimney?"

With a curious look, he responded, "What are you talking about?"

"It's beginning to make sense," I seriously said to my father. "I now know what's wrong with our Christmas. I now know why I haven't got my pony."

My dad had no idea what I was talking about and asked me to explain.

"This week in school they were telling us all about Christmas and Santa Claus and Rudolph the red nose reindeer. One of the things they told us was that Santa Claus comes down the chimney to bring his gifts."

I paused for a moment and then continued, "So, that's why I've not got my pony for Christmas. Dad, where is our chimney?"

My dad was momentarily confused and had no idea how to respond to what I was saying.

"Well, son," my father said, "we don't have a chimney. We don't even have a fireplace so we don't need one."

"How then is Santa going to get me my Christmas presents under our Christmas tree I asked for while sitting on his lap?"

Thinking back over that now, I couldn't help but laugh. My father had a hard time explaining to me why we didn't need a chimney for Christmas time. Every year, just before Christmas, I ask, "Dad, will we have a chimney this year?"

After a while, he got tired of hearing me ask that question and refused to come up with any more excuses.

I was confused about Santa Claus and Christmas, not knowing what to believe. It took me some time to sort out the Christmas holiday.

As I reflected on this, I thought that many things in life need sorting out. We believe something and then find out it wasn't the truth.

Jesus addressed this in John 8:31-33, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The truth about Jesus and His birth sets us free, and that truth can only be found in the Word of God.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com

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A member of the California Newspaper Publishers Association

Mountain Views News Mission Statement

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

STUART TOLCHIN PUT THE LIGHTS ON



SOCIAL INSECURITY CAN WAIT TIL NEXT YEAR

With absolutely no intent I have become a member of a Social Class which is completely at the mercy of continuing governmental programs. I do no work and have no in-come other than Social Security and sharing in my wife's pension. I do pay taxes on the So-cial Security I receive which seems unfair to me; but I do pay the taxes. Although I feel ca-pable of working productively, these feeling change when I attempt to get up off the couch or out of bed. Every morning, I manage to eventually get up, walk the dog, make coffee, wait until 7:00 and pick up the newspaper and on Thursday early mornings I sometimes manage to move the trash barrels from the garage to the curb so that they can be picked up and emp-tied later in the morning but often my wife beats me to it. My wife does all the cooking and cleaning and just about everything else while in nice weather I sit outside on our deck and look at the mountains and the graceful birds floating across the canyon. Sometimes I pay close attention to the tiny green hummingbirds which seem so busy as they hover around the bird feeder. Okay that's about all I do. Oh. I almost forgot; on Wednesday mornings I play 9 holes of golf and on Wednesday nights and early Thursday morning I do my best to write my 700-word article for this very paper. That about it, that's all I do other than being driven by wife on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings to share a meal with my son, daughter, and granddaughter. Every couple of weeks I go to the nearby Kaiser -Permanent facility and pick up medications. My life is quite pleasant. Down the hill and turn right to the golf course, turn left to Kaiser, go across the street to the restaurants. What is my particular class of persons? Well, to my 5-year-old granddaughter I was always old. I am over 80 but it's not my fault. It just happened. Much like my few contem-porary living male friends I have a younger, more efficient, more competent wife who finds herself in a position she also never intended. She does not complain as much as she could but we both wish things were different. Well, things aren't different. As my friend Henry says things are what they are. (What is, "It is what it is?") Advances in science and medicine have increased the average lifespan by decades. Social Security benefits were intended to assist older people in their few re-maining years after retirement. Well now these later post-retirement years often last for decades and one wonders how Social Security can manage to keep up the payments. The new incoming President appears extremely interested in cost-cutting. Still there is time for old folks and everyone else to learn to appreciate themselves and find security in appreciat-ing what life has already given to them and that cannot be taken away. Thank you to my wife for her love and care. Thanks to my friends and family for what you have given me. Thanks to Susan the editor for inviting me to write in this paper and thanks to you readers for sticking with me. Thank you to America for the good place you have been so far and let's all hope that what has been good remains that way or even gets better. Let's all have a great long Holiday and be like the old Brooklyn Dodger fans who said "Wait till next year" before we start worrying again. There will be plenty of time for that if you know what I mean.

HOWARD Hays As I See It



"The press doesn't stop publishing, by the way, in a fascist escalation; it simply watches what it says. That too can be an incremental process, and the pace at which the free press polices itself depends on how journalists are targeted." - Naomi Wolf

My Dad was in the toy business when us baby boomers were little kids. Every year he'd meet with those who'd created companies like Kenner, Fisher-Price, Hasbro and Mattel.

But later he shifted from toys to commercial real estate. He said those who'd created the companies were by then mostly gone; replaced by young MBAs who knew everything about the mechanics of corporate operations - but had no particular interest in toys.

The Washington Post brings to mind Woodward and Bernstein, Watergate and the Pentagon Papers. Current owner Jeff Bezos is runner-up to Elon Musk in net worth after dominating world retail, but never seemed to have any particular interest in journalism.

Bezos overruled his editorial board by nixing their already-prepared endorsement of Kamala Harris. In the following days, the Post lost a quarter-million subscribers. He explained his decision as somehow related to a general public distrust of journalism. But many point to Bezos' hopes of benefiting from regulatory relief for his primary business under Donald Trump - along with NASA contracts for his Blue Origin space transport company.

Bezos made a \$1 million contribution to Trump's inauguration, with a meeting planned for Mar-A-Lago. Former WaPo Publisher Katharine Grahame observed, "News is what someone wants suppressed. Everything else is advertising." The Inauguration will be streamed live on Amazon Prime Video.

Patrick Soon-Shiong is known as the richest man in Los Angeles (net worth \$6.2 billion). He's had careers as surgeon, microbiologist, bioengineer and biotech entrepreneur. But before his purchase of the Los Angeles Times in 2018, no apparent particular interest in journalism.

Like Bezos at the Post, Soon-Shiong blocked the Times' planned endorsement of Kamala Harris - with editorial board members resigning in protest. "I am resigning because I want to make it clear that I am not OK with us being silent", said editorials editor Mariel Garza. "In these dangerous times, staying silent isn't just indifference, it is complicity."

Two thousand subscriptions were cancelled. Soon-Shiong later fired the rest of the editorial board and announced plans for an AI-powered "bias meter" - followed by more staff resignations and cancelled subscriptions.

Soon-Shiong killed an editorial which argued that with Trump's cabinet picks, it's especially important the Senate takes its role seriously. It wouldn't be allowed unless it ran with an opposing view (the Senate shouldn't take its role seriously?). Eventually, it was replaced by a piece about the good things Trump could potentially do for education.

Still pending is the \$10 billion lawsuit Trump filed against CBS over Kamala Harris' interview on "60 Minutes" last October. Trump accused the network of "malicious, deceptive, and substantial news distortion calculated to confuse, deceive, and mislead the public" by editing the piece to fit into the 60 minutes.

There's an \$8 billion deal in the works to merge CBS parent Paramount Global with Skydance Media, which will need approval from the incoming FCC Chairman. For Paramount Global to get what it wants from the FCC, Trump will get what he wants from CBS.

ABC's \$15 million settlement to resolve Trump's defamation suit against the network came as a surprise. Settlements are usually reached just before trial; rarely before any evidence has been presented - and with Trump's deposition scheduled for the following week.

The case seemed a slam-dunk for the network. Trump sued because ABC's George Stephanopoulos said on air he'd been found "liable for rape", when in fact it was "liable for sexual assault". But the original judge in the case, Lewis Kaplan, had told Trump in 2023 the victim was indeed "raped", "as many people commonly understand the word". The "reckless disregard for the truth" and "actual malice" needed to show defamation would be tough to establish, anyway.

But ABC's corporate ownership (Disney) figured the \$15 million payout would be preferable to finding themselves on Trump's "enemies list". Those making these decisions at that level have no particular interest in journalism.

Rolling Stone quotes an ABC reporter, "It is frightening. My fear is this sets a tone for the next four years and that the tone is: Do not upset the president . . ."

Former federal prosecutor Joyce Vance reacted, "I'm old enough to remember . . . cases where newspapers vigorously defended themselves against defamation cases instead of folding before the defendant was even deposed." From human rights lawyer Qasim Rashid, "This is the cowardice of legacy media out to make profit, rather than uphold principle." Added election lawyer Marc Elias, "Another legacy news outlet chooses obedience." And from reporter Oliver Willis, "This is actually how democracy dies."

Now Trump is suing the Des Moines Register - for having published pre-election polling results for Iowa that didn't match the eventual outcome.

While ringing the opening bell at the NYSE earlier this month, Trump announced, "The media's tamed down a little bit. They're liking us much better now, I think. If they don't, we'll have to just take them on again, and we don't want to do that." He's confident that moving forward, the media "watches what it says."

RICH JOHNSON NOW THAT'S RICH



TINKLE BELLS

I have a confession to make: My favorite Christmas song is not a Christmas hymn. Don't get me wrong, the Christmas hymns are all beautiful. But, if the truth be told, my favorite Christmas song is American in origin. The Xmas classic was written by two Jewish guys from the east coast. Don't be so shocked and surprised. After all, Christmas is about another Jewish guy. Anyway, where was I?

These two Jewish songwriters, Jay Livingston and Ray Evans also wrote TV theme music. Most notably the theme music to "Bonanza" and "Mr. Ed" (Remember, a horse is a horse of course of course?). Talk about bona fides. They also wrote my favorite redundant song "Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be) made famous by Doris Day's performance in the Hitchcock Thriller (and ironically the title of my future biography) "The Man Who Knew Too Much".

Yes, my favorite yuletide hit was written the year of my birth, 1951. It actually started out titled "Tinkle Bells" until co-writer Jay Livingston's wife reminded him what the word "tinkle" usually refers to. So, the title was hastily renamed "Silver Bells".

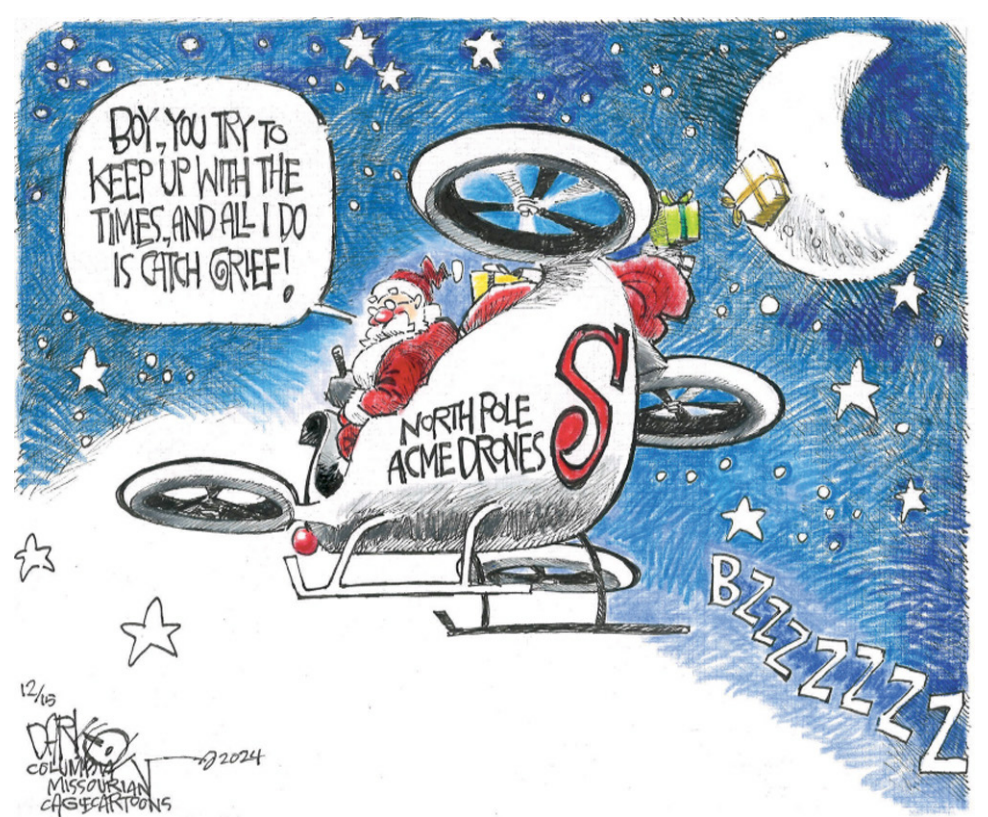
I find wonderfully amazing the worldwide attention paid to Christmas. Christians make up roughly only about one-third of the world's population. About 2.4 billion. 64% of Americans identify as Christians yet 91% of Americans celebrate Christmas. And why not? Tis the season of family, exchanging gifts and putting up decorations. Worldwide 160 of the 195 countries officially celebrate Christmas.

Continuing my confessions, this may sound existential, but yes, I truly believe Jesus is who He says He is. I think his true nature shines through in the joy we share celebrating His birth every year. Here is a wonderful description of Jesus written in 1926: One Solitary Life

"He was born in an obscure village. The child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never went to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things usually associated with greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. And went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave. Through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone. And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race. And the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that have ever marched. All the navies that have ever sailed. All the parliaments that have ever sat. All the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life."

This Christmas Eve, when you are tucked under your covers, nice and toasty warm, staring at the ceiling, as you start to nod off wish Jesus a Happy Birthday. Consider asking Him if He is real, that He reveal Himself to you in a meaningful way. If Jesus is really who He says He is, it is up to Him to make Himself known to you. And by the way, from yours truly, my three kids and my two cats Gizmo and Mabel... Merry Christmas!





Mountain Views News Saturday, December 21, 2024

SIERRA MADRE RESIDENT MAKENNA DOMINGUEZ WINS D1 WOMENS 2024 SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Makenna Dominguez, playing for the University of North Carolina won a National title as a member of the University of North Carolina's Womens Volleyball team.. Last title won by the Tar Heels was in 2012, the University's 23rd Title. After having most of the players leave the program in 2023, only four seniors remained.

Four seniors rallied a young team to win the National Title! Makenna Dominguez attended Sierra Madre Elementary and Middle School. She currently plays for the El Salvador National Team and will continue her collegiate Soccer career at LSU, while completing her Master's degree.

"We are thrilled to be adding a player of Makenna's caliber and experience to our team. She arrives after being part of a national championship winning team this past season at UNC," said head coach Sian Hudson. "Her level of experience will be invaluable to our team and the younger players in our program. She is a versatile player who can play in the midfield or attacking positions. She is technically gifted, dynamic and has the ability to play the right pass, at the right time."

The California native has experience on both the collegiate and international soccer levels as she was also named to the Salvadoran National Team this year.

At UNC, Dominguez appeared in a total of 40 matches, tallying 17 shots, two assists and 1,027 minutes on the pitch. She played in a career-high 22 matches in her senior season this year in the Tar Heels national championship run.

Dominguez played in the Concacaf Gold Cup this past February and March, making her first national team appearance with El Salvador. During this time, she played in the group rounds against Guatemala, Canada, Costa Rica and Paraguay.

In high school, Dominguez attended Flintridge Preparatory and played with Strikers FC, where she received All-American honors from TopDrawerSoccer.com. She entered college as a four-time first team all-league and all-area selection at Flintridge Prep, where she scored 105 goals and dished out 87 assists in her first three seasons. She also served as team captain and earned team-MVP twice.

GOT THE HOLIDAY BLUES?

The holiday season is often celebrated as a time of joy, family gatherings, and festive cheer. But for some, it's a season filled with sadness, stress, and loneliness. If you're feeling more down than merry during the holidays, know that you're not alone. Many people experience feelings of sadness, depression, or isolation during this time, even though it's popularly regarded as the happiest time of the year.

It's easy to feel like something is wrong when the world around you is glowing with bright lights, cheerful music, and images of smiling families. The pressure to feel happy, festive, and social can be overwhelming. The truth is, it's perfectly okay to not feel upbeat during the holidays. It's normal, and it can happen to anyone for any number of reasons.

The holiday season often stirs up a mix of emotions, and it's not always about gifts and parties. For many people, this time of year highlights what's missing or amplifies personal struggles.

One significant factor is the weight of high expectations. Everywhere you look, advertisements, movies, and music paint a picture of perfect holiday moments filled with love, laughter, and warmth. But reality often falls short of that ideal. If you're dealing with personal challenges, the holidays may feel more like a glaring reminder of what's missing in your life rather than a time for celebration.

Grief is another reason the holidays can be difficult. If you've lost a loved one—whether recently or years ago—the holidays can bring a wave of emotions. Traditions that once brought joy may now feel hollow, and memories of happier times can make their absence more poignant.

For some, loneliness is especially hard to cope with during this season. While many people are surrounded by family and friends, others lack that support system. If you find yourself alone, the contrast between your quiet holiday and the bustling family scenes depicted in media or among others can feel especially painful.

Even the winter season itself can play a role in dampening spirits. Shorter daylight hours, colder weather, and more time indoors can affect your mood. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a well-documented condition that can lead to sadness or fatigue, making the holidays even more challenging.

Have you ever felt out of place at a holiday gathering or party? You're not alone. It's natural to assume that everyone else is enjoying themselves, but many people feel disconnected at these events. Social gatherings, which are often portrayed as highlights of the season, can sometimes feel draining rather than uplifting.

One of the hardest parts of the holidays is the re-

lentless pressure to be happy. From every direction, we're reminded that this is "the season to be jolly." This unspoken expectation to be cheerful, energetic, and full of holiday spirit can feel suffocating, especially if you're already feeling low. It's important to remember that it's okay to admit when you're not okay. You're not obligated to force yourself into a festive mood, especially when life's challenges feel overwhelming.

If the holidays are tough for you, there are ways to navigate this season with self-care and kindness.

Start by reaching out to someone you trust. Whether it's a friend, family member, or professional, sharing your feelings can help you feel less alone. Sometimes, simply talking about what you're going through can bring relief.

Setting boundaries is another vital step. If social events feel like too much, it's okay to say no. You don't have to attend every party or gathering. Prioritize your well-being over societal expectations.

Finally, be kind to yourself. Allow time for rest and recharge from the holiday hustle. Engage in activities that bring you comfort and joy, even if they don't align with traditional holiday celebrations. Whether it's reading a book, watching your favorite show, or enjoying some quiet time, small moments of peace can make a big difference.

The holiday season isn't always easy, and there's no shame in acknowledging that. If you're feeling overwhelmed, sad, or disconnected, those emotions are valid and deserve attention. Whether you're experiencing a small dip in mood or a deep sense of loneliness, it's okay to honor where you are emotionally.

You don't have to fit into the mold of a picture-perfect holiday to find meaning or comfort. Let go of the pressure to pretend everything is fine. Your well-being is what truly matters. Give yourself permission to experience the season in your own way and remember—it's perfectly okay to



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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

Panel 1: A snowman and a girl ask a dog, "HEY, HENRY AND HENRIETTA. WHAT DID YOU GUYS GET YOUR KIDS FOR CHRISTMAS?"

Panel 2: The dog replies, "WE COULDN'T DECIDE, SO WE GAVE THEM ALL THE SAME THING." The girl asks, "WHAT'S THAT?"

Panel 3: The dog says, "COLD CASH." The girl says, "I'M SPENT."

Panel 4: The dog looks sad.

December Events Around Town!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>One Time Events</p> <p>December 7
Prospect Park Walking Tour - Tour Pasadena's historically and architecturally significant neighborhoods. 9:30 - 12:00 pm</p> <p>December 7
Arcadia Snow Festival at The Arcadia Community Center - Kids can enjoy snow sledding, holiday crafts, face painting, games and more. 9:00 - 2:00 pm</p> <p>December 8
Happy Holidays: A Musical Concert to Benefit the Arboretum Library - Enjoy classic holiday songs in Ayres Hall at 2:00 pm</p> <p>December 8
Castle Green Holiday Tour - Fun self-guided tour of the historic Castle Green. with live music, snacks and more. 11:00 - 3:00 pm</p> <p>December 13
NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet - With jaw-dropping acrobatics, stunning sets and costumes. Pasadena Civic Auditorium. 4 & 8 pm</p> <p>December 14
Flower Arranging: Holiday Door Swag at The Huntington - Join Flower Duet in this hands-on workshop and create a décor piece with evergreens, flowers, and more. Adults only. 10 - 12 pm & 1 pm - 3 pm</p> <p>December 15
Messiah Sing-Along at Lake Avenue Church - Pasadena's favorite Sing-Along Messiah returns! This sing-along is led by a 100-voice choir and orchestra. 4- 5:30 pm</p> <p>December 21
Flower Arranging: Winter Centerpieces at The Huntington - Learn to make a festive centerpiece with evergreens, flowers, magnolia leaves and pinecones. Adults only. 10 - 12 pm & 1 pm - 3 pm</p> <p>December 28
Architectural Legacy Tours - Two of Pasadena Heritage's popular tours, the Churches of Pasadena & the Hillcrest Neighborhood 10 & 1 pm</p> <p>December 29
Equestfest at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center - Watch the Rose Parade's beautiful horses and talented riders perform. 12 - 2 pm</p> | <p>Ongoing Events</p> <p>November 30 - December 24
A Christmas Carol at A Noise Within - This timeless story of Ebenezer Scrooge is filled with music and merriment.</p> <p>Now - January 5
Enchanted Forest of Light at Descanso Gardens - Enjoy a one-mile walk through a shimmering wonderland featuring fresh delights.</p> <p>Now - December 31
Winter Frolic at Kidspace Museum - Kids activities include sock skating, dressing a snowman, building an ice fort, and more.</p> <p>December 6 - 8
Los Angeles Ballet Presents The Nutcracker at Pasadena Civic Auditorium - Set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score, this production stays true to the traditional tale set in 1912 LA.</p> <p>December 7, 8
57th Annual Holiday Look In Home Tour - Tour four beautiful homes and gardens with live holiday music and a boutique. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm</p> <p>December 7, 8, 14, 15
Old Fashioned Holiday: A Victorian Celebration at the Queen Anne Cottage - Victorian-era style holiday with carolers, dancers, holiday market and a visit from Santa Claus. Food trucks, a bar, and the Peacock Café. 10 - 3 pm</p> <p>December 13, 14
Pasadena Symphony and Pops Holiday Candlelight Concert - Savor holiday choruses in Pasadena's exquisite All Saints Church.</p> <p>December 13, 14, 15, 21, 22
Holly Dolly Christmas - Musical tribute to Dolly Parton's life and career including beloved songs and holiday favorites.</p> <p>December 26, 27, 28, January 2
Rose Bowl Stadium Holiday Tours - Walk in the footsteps of legends and go behind the scenes of "America's Stadium". 10 am & 12:30 pm</p> <p>December 28 - 31
Float Viewing - Experience the magic of creating the Rose Parade floats before Parade Day</p> <p>December 29, 30
Bandfest at PCC's Robinson Stadium - Watch Rose Parade bands perform their stunning award-winning field shows.</p> |
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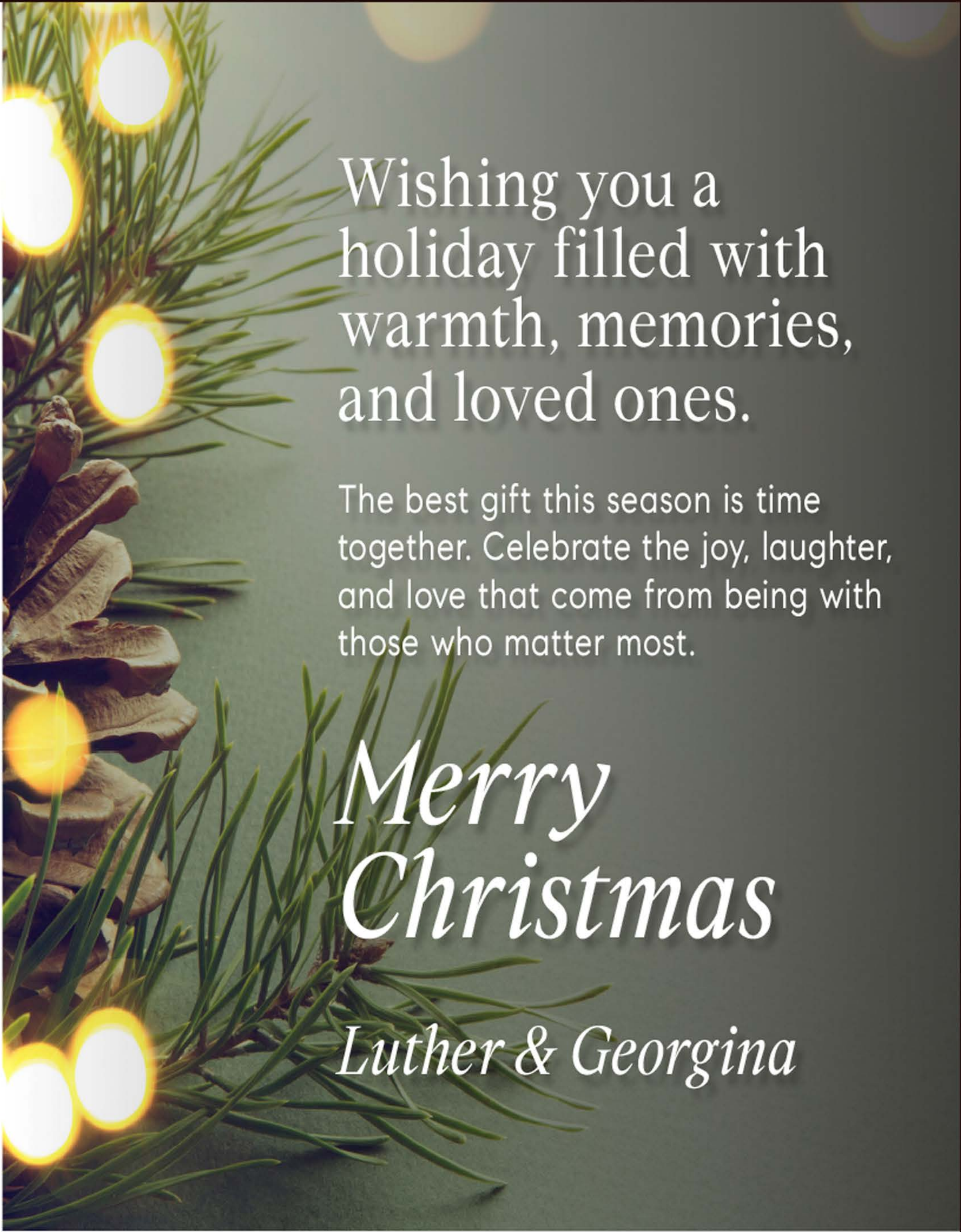


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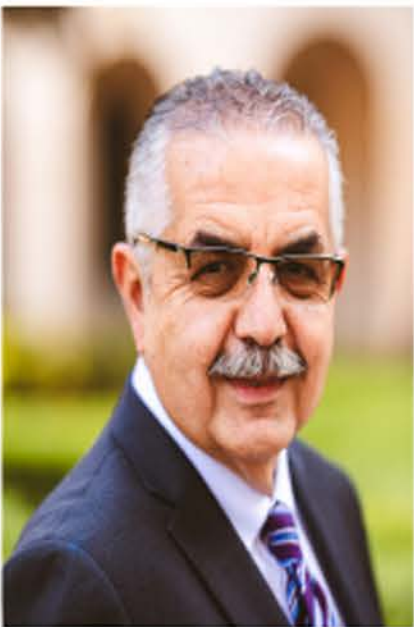


Wishing you a holiday filled with warmth, memories, and loved ones.

The best gift this season is time together. Celebrate the joy, laughter, and love that come from being with those who matter most.

Merry Christmas

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