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HOMETOWN HERO JOHN SHEAR PASSES AWAY



Photos courtesy Benoit Photo/MVNews Archives

Beloved Sierra Madrean John Shear passed away on December 12th of natural causes. He was 102. His family posted news of his death on social media, "He had that smile and happiness 'til the end,"..... "John had a remarkable life with love for family and dedication to work that made such a positive impact on so many. He will forever be in our hearts."



John will best be remembered for his heroic act at age 90, when he risked his own life to save the life of a 5 year old girl at Santa Anita Race Track. He threw himself in front of a horse in order to save the little girl's and as a result he was badly injured. His bravery was praised around the world and earned him numerous honors.

A former jockey, he was a gaurd in the paddock at Santa Anita and at one time Hollywood Park since 1962. After recovering from his injuries, he went back to the work that he loved so well until his retirement. At Santa Anita, they named a race after him on his 100th birthday and also honored him by renaming the Santana Mile to the John Shear Mile.

In Sierra Madre he was the city's HomeTown Hero. For his 100th birthday in 2021 family, friends and well wishers gave him a 'drive by birthday party in front of his home. He stood outside waving and smiling to all who passed by.

John is survived by his wife Diane and son Michael. As posted by the family, services will be private.

To read more about John Shear and his bravery go to: <http://mtnviewsnews.com/v05/htm/n12/p01.htm>
S. Henderson/MVNews

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



The Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Sierra Madre wish to thank our community for their contributions to the Marine Corps Reserve dDDD" Toys For Tots".

We would also like to thank the Fire and Police Departments, Taylor's Market, and Syndicate Coffee & Bakery for allowing us to place boxes at their sites.

Many boxes of toys were collected and taken to the Marine Center on Thursday, December 14th for sorting and distributing to children in the San Gabriel Valley this Christmas. A volunteer group from Disney was on site helping sort the toys by age, gender, and type.. Sargent Robert Palmer stated that these presents will be placed in holding bin and picked up by those families in need this Christmas. Anything not distributed will be donated to Children's Hospital.

Pictured above, l to r: Barry Ziff, Judy Webb-Martin, Mary Lou Caldwell - Kiwanis; Julia Brady, Jeff Porter, John Cigna and in the rear, Geoff Woods - Rotarians.

KELLY KRIEBS TAKES HELM AS MAYOR; ROBERT PARKHURST SELECTED AS MAYOR PRO TEM



By Kevin McGuire

It's that time of the year. With the holiday season in full swing and the city decorated with lights and holly, it could only mean one thing. It's time for a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem in Sierra Madre.

The City Council met before a modest crowd on Tuesday, December 12, for the last meeting of 2023. As part of the final agenda item for the night, Mayor Edward Garcia presented Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Krebs with a "Recognition of Service" plaque featuring a small gavel. "I appreciate you supporting my role over the past year," Mayor Garcia said. "The City of Sierra Madre is immensely fortunate to have you sitting on this Council. I feel we made a good team this year."

Garcia and Krebs received Certificates of Recognition honoring their "outstanding and dedicated service to the City of Sierra Madre" on behalf of Assemblymember Chris Holden of the 41st California Assembly District. Director of Communications and Field Representative Timmie Mackie presented the Certificates.

In addition, the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem also received Certificates of Recognition from the Office of Representative Judy Chu. "We want to thank you for your commitment and for making Sierra Madre one of the best places to live," said Senior Field Representative Maile Plan, who presented the Certificates.

Mayor Pro Tem Krebs thanked Mayor Garcia for his service as well. "As Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Councilmember, he

has really done an amazing job over the last three years, and we look forward to another year of service," stated Krebs. "As Mayor, he takes his responsibility seriously. He takes calls from citizens; he is also proactively addressing city concerns; he is always prepared and diving into issues at hand," she said.

In recognition of Mayor Garcia's service, Mayor Pro Tem Krebs presented him with a "Recognition of Service" plaque featuring a detachable gavel, a certificate for dedication to service signed by the City Council, and a Certificate of Recognition from the Office of Senator Anthony Portantino.

"I want to thank the community for letting me be at the helm this past year," said Mayor Garcia. "It's been a good year. It's been a year of progress for Sierra Madre." The Mayor mentioned the many "inherited" infrastructure projects that the city started tackling this past year, including the water main replacement project, a topic of discussion and debate earlier in the evening. He also thanked Councilmember Gene Goss for his guidance as Mayor when he first started serving on the Council.

Once all recognitions had been acknowledged, it was time to select a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Goss motioned to choose Kelly Krebs as the next Mayor and Councilmember Robert Parkhurst as the new Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Kristine Lowe made the second motion, and it passed unanimously.

continued on page 3

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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2023

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WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE DECEMBER 23rd EDITION OF THE PAPER!

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SIERRA MADRE HONORS NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD
- COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE AWARD
- WISTARIA AWARD
- GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- 2023 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- 2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

NOMINATION DESCRIPTION

- **PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD:** FOR PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING SAFETY IN SIERRA MADRE.
- **COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE AWARD:** FOR YOUTH UNDER 18 FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.
- **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.
- **2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:** FOR A RESIDENT WHO HAVE BENEFITED THE CITY DURING 2023, AS A VOLUNTEER.
- **2023 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:** FOR AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EXISTING IN SIERRA MADRE FOR MORE THAN 5 YEARS THAT HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF THE COMMUNITY.

TO NOMINATE, SIMPLY E-MAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS WITH THE REASONS WHY YOU FEEL THIS PERSON OR ORGANIZATION IS DESERVING OF AN AWARD TO HONORSDINNER@CITYOFSIERRAMADRE.COM.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00PM ON DECEMBER 20, 2023

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REMEMBRANCE:

AMOS WASHINGTON BROUGHTON, JR.,

Amos Washington Broughton, Jr., age 96, passed peacefully into the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, November 22, 2023.

Amos was born in Medford, MA on February 11, 1927; however, he was raised in the province of Nova Scotia, Canada. Having dual citizenship, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during WWII three days before his 18th birthday, serving as a Radioman Third Class and was honorably discharged in August 1946.

He enrolled in Northeastern University in Boston, MA, and graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering.

During his college years, he met his wife, Patricia Greene, from Melrose, MA, and they married on December 30, 1949. They lived in several cities in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire over the next 12 years and while in New Jersey purchased property and built their 2-story home.

In 1961, with their then five children, they made a month-long camping road trek across southern Canada and down the US west coast to Southern California, settling in Temple City, CA where they had their sixth child.

In his late 30's, Amos and Patricia both made the life-changing decision to follow and live for Jesus, a commitment which ultimately led to all 6 of their children choosing the same life path.

In 1971 Amos started his own company, Action Engineering, Inc. representing various firms and their product lines in the industrial equipment field.

He was very active in volunteer Christian missions work, using his professional and building skills through many visits at hospitals and orphanages in Mexico and Africa installing clean water systems, at a Christian retreat center in France repairing dormitories and buildings, as well as other projects in the US.

He was found in weekly attendance at and participation in the ministries of both San Gabriel Union Church, San Gabriel, while raising his family and later at Sierra Madre Congregational Church in Sierra Madre. In his last few mobile years, he could be found on Sundays at Victory In Jesus Church in Temple City.

He was dedicated to leading Bible studies teaching others about Jesus' love, especially to those who were



often forgotten – in nursing homes, orphanages, and juvenile jail facilities.

When serving at the LA Central Juvenile Jail he found that their 42 hardwood chapel pews were neglected and completely carved with graffiti. Loading them up in his little truck two at a time over a couple of years, he completely restored them, sanding out the graffiti carvings and staining them to their original beauty.

He was a licensed small plane pilot, renting planes from the El Monte Airport to travel to other airport locations in Southern California, often just to enjoy breakfast at their restaurants.

He was an inventor and secured several US patents focused on industrial facility problems including waste-water treatment methods.

He took classes to learn how to repair and upholster furniture and for many years could be found on his large back porch with his used professional sewing machine, transforming a discarded upholstered chair or couch into something beautiful and comfortable.

After the passing of his wife, Patricia, in 2009, he continued to live in his Temple City home until 2019 when health issues required him to move into assisted living.

Amos lived his life with drive and gusto, a deep love of family, and dedication to living out his faith daily. He is survived by four of his five daughters, one son, 10 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. We, his family, are eternally grateful to God to have been loved by Amos and influenced by his life.

See dignitymemorial.com for updates on Amos' life celebration memorial service date, location and time.

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"That First Noel's come 'round again, Just like it does each year,

To tell us it's Christmas, finally it's Christmas, Joyfully it's Christmas,

The best time of the year, the best time of the year..."

This particular song goes on to tell us that the tree is in the window, the wreath is on the door, and about a million ornaments are scattered on the floor! Most probably you're way past that stage, the tree is up and gorgeous. You finally untangled the lights and put the angel up on top.

But here's the question you'll be facing in a few days when the presents are all unwrapped and everything you got everybody was exactly what they wanted: Why is it that putting up Christmas decorations is so much more fun than taking them down? Also, why is it that the Christmas decorations that seem so few and so light as you take them out of the plastic crates have doubled (like wire hangers) in size and tripled in weight and you can't remember when on earth you carried all those to the living room.



The picture today, speaking of Christmas trees, is of the absolutely magnificent Sierra Madre Christmas Tree in Kersting Court. I have to believe this is the best one ever, so beautifully decorated and with the brilliant blue sky behind it, this tree is the essence of Christmas. In fact, all of Kersting Court is a perfect place to spend a few reflective minutes. You could put down those packages, sit down and take a few deep breaths. We are all so rushed this time of year, a rest break can't hurt. You might even consider an ice cream cone from Mother Moo's. Give yourself a moment.

Everywhere I've been the last few days some smiling person has asked me, "Are you ready for Christmas?" They mean have I spent my very last dime on presents, are they wrapped and under the tree and are my cards in the mail? The answer to most of that is "No!" Once again this year I'm considering not doing any cards at all. My presents are going to the Post Office on Thursday to get them into the mail. I, shamelessly, report that I've done very little actual "shopping." I've discovered that all the small children and, actually, all the big ones, too, who inhabit my world like a gift card more than anything else. I love gift cards. You go to Amazon and order as many as you like in any amount. Not exhausting at all, unlike tramping up and down the mall. For years and years, I baked hundreds of cookies and little loaves of bread, which were adorably wrapped with lots of love and then given to the children's teachers. Much to my delight, I now know that they don't want that, no matter how much love you've packed into it. So, they, too, are now getting Amazon gift cards, which won't stick to their hips. You know, "a moment on the lips, forever on the hips!"

Every Christmas my mind and heart are filled with memories of Santa's Band, which was my wonderful husband, John's, favorite Christmas decoration. I tell this story every year because it gives me such joy to think how happy he was to see it put out each Christmas.

Many years ago he went to Costco and came home with his eyes alight and excitement spilling out of his every word as he described this wonderful band of little musicians attached to bells and electrically driven so every time you turned it on, it played a Christmas carol. They had quite a repertoire and the band was led, of course, by Santa. John went to Costco numerous times and came home each time with more stories of the glories of Santa's Band. I finally sat him down, took his hand, looked deep into his eyes and said, "You know, honey, you can buy Santa's Band yourself, with your own money!"

He had never thought of that. Back he went and Santa's Band decorated the top of one of our bookcases every year from then on. Yes, it got up there after I spent an hour untangling all the wires, bells and little musicians. But he loved it. Apparently, all the children loved it, too, and there was lively discussion when it came time to let our house on Alegria go, as to who should have Santa's Band. It is my understanding that our daughter, Patti, and son, John, alternate years of who will put up Santa's Band. I was only too happy to hand it over to them and let them untangle all those wires, bells and musicians. John is listening to God's Band now in heaven where the carols probably sound better than Santa's Band. Deck the halls!

The song up at the beginning goes on to say:

"But that's not the reason we celebrate the season...
Oh, it's that baby in the manger,
Christ child in the manger,
Mary kneeling by his side,
Joseph beaming down with pride.
Peace on earth, good will to men,
We celebrate that night again." *

I'm hoping all your Christmas memories are merry and bright! To quote Tiny Tim from Dickens' A Christmas Carol, "God Bless us every one!"

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

Would be a really nice gift for everyone you know.
You can find it on Amazon.com...you know, like gift cards!
"Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story is there, too.
If you'd like a little preview, take a look at: <https://youtu.be/Ka1KYrONrd0>

SIERRA MADRE CITY HALL TO REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON DECEMBER 18TH

Last week, Sierra Madre City Manager Jose Reynoso issued the following statement:

In light of the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID and the low staffing levels, we regret to inform you that City Hall will be temporarily closed until Monday, December 18th.

Reduced staffing levels are a direct result of the impact of COVID on our workforce. We understand that City Hall provides various vital services, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this closure may cause.

During this closure, we encourage residents to utilize our online services and resources for any non-emergency matters. Many services, including bill payments, permit applications, and general inquiries, can be addressed through our official website at www.cityofsierramadre.com or by reaching out to the respective departments via email or phone.

Senior Center and Emergency services and public safety operations will continue uninterrupted, and residents are urged to contact 911 for any life-threatening emergencies.

We understand that these are challenging times for everyone, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Rest assured that we are closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates as soon as City Hall is ready to resume normal operations.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we navigate through this current challenge.

As indicated, all city offices are expected to reopen to the public on Monday, December 18, 2023.

CREATIVE ARTS GROUP

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REORGANIZATION (continued from page 1)

This will be the first time Mayor Kriebs and Mayor Pro Tem Parkhurst will serve in these roles. Edward Garcia, Gene Goss, and Kristine Lowe will return as Council Members.

Though the appointments made by the City Council are mainly ceremonial as part of the traditional annual rotation, the roles are essential to this small town. For example, these appointments will immediately affect the City's liaison appointment to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District and County Board of Supervisors.

The primary voting delegate for these agencies is the Mayor, with the Mayor Pro Tem serving as the alternate. And, of course, the Mayor signs contracts, resolutions, and ordinances after they receive the necessary approval of the City Council. If the Mayor is unavailable, these tasks become the responsibility of the Mayor Pro Tem.

The term for the two positions runs from December 12, 2023, until December 10, 2024.

Catch breaking news at:
mntvnews.com

Mountain View News Saturday, December 16, 2023

Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2024 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 foothillmedia.org/sierramadre and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum)..

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

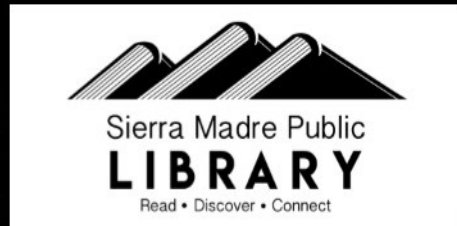
Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

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.



This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

December 18 —December 23

Sneak Peeks:

December 20 –2:00pm-6:00pm

December 22 –10:00am-2:00pm

Sneak a peek of the temporary Library at 350 W Sierra Madre Blvd! Drop in to make something festive at our Winter Art Table and explore the temporary space.

(Please note that books cannot be checked out or in, and public wi-fi or printing will not be available)

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Explore [SierraMadreWomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/SierraMadreWomansClub)

Pasadena Altadena



News From Your Community For Your Community

Officers File Racial Claims against the Pasadena Police Dept.

Speaking through an attorney, three Pasadena police officers announced Wednesday that they are all in the process of filing lawsuits against the city for racial discrimination and harassment among other allegations such as retaliation for speaking up.

All three are still active in the department said attorney Brad Gage during a press conference in front of the Pasadena Police Department.

All three are African American.

One of the officers, Taisyn Crutchfield, alleges that she was put in danger after officers did not respond to her call for backup when she responded to a call to a man with a gun.

Both officers, Jarvis Shelby and Milton White are claiming there were harassed and assaulted by a commanding officer.

Gage said, "If Black police officers are threatened or physically assaulted what does that mean for members of the community?"

City officials also released a statement to the media, "There are at least two sides to every story, and complainants and their lawyers are free to take their side to the media. The City of Pasadena cannot respond in a public debate regarding the claims, as they involve personnel matters, which are confidential under California law. With that said, personnel complaints against any Pasadena police officers are investigated thoroughly and fairly, and all personnel throughout our ranks are always held accountable for their actions."

South Pasadena Restoration Concert

The Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library are set January 28 to present a Restoration Concert featuring Susan Greenberg (flute), Michele Zukovsky (clarinet), and Pierre Tang (piano). The concert will be held at 4 p.m. in the historic Library Community Room at 1115 El Centro St. in South Pasadena. Tickets are available at the door for \$25.

The Restoration Concerts Committee, a committee of the non-profit organization, The Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, has a goal to bring world-class music at an affordable price to the concertgoers in South Pasadena and surrounding communities. As the name suggests, net proceeds from the concerts provide for restorations, enhancements and other benefits to the South Pasadena Library and Community Room.

For more information go to: friendsofpasadenalibrary.org/restoration-concerts.



Tournament Unveils Parade Opening Act

Buckle up for excitement as Pasadena Tournament of Roses officials announced Friday the names of a stellar lineup for the 2024 Rose Parade Opening Spectacular presented by Honda.

"Prepare to experience an electrifying and creative performance that will have you cheering, dancing and feeling the world brought together by the magic of music," they said. "An array of incredibly talented performers will take the stage alongside Honda's awe-inspiring float, 'Keep Dreaming.'"

To kick off the 135th Rose Parade, a magical convergence of musical brilliance awaits as four extraordinary artists ignite the atmosphere with their unique talents and vibrant energy – David Archuleta, Cassadee Pope, Michelle Williams and Rush Davis.

David Archuleta, show-stopping performer and hailed

as a vocal sensation since his ascent on "American Idol," effortlessly delves into emotional depths, drawing a devoted following across diverse musical landscapes with his mellifluous tones and heartfelt renditions. Cassadee Pope, whose journey from punk rock roots to victory on "The Voice" has forged her into a vocal powerhouse, enchants audiences with an emotive depth that permeates every note, paired with an undeniable stage magnetism. Michelle Williams, revered as a luminary of Destiny's Child, graces the stage exuding charisma and unparalleled vocal prowess, firmly establishing herself as an iconic pioneer in the realms of contemporary R&B and pop culture. And then there's Rush Davis, an artist whose mastery in blending genres—fusing house, Vogue beats, Underground club music with hip-hop, R&B, and

soulful melodies—illuminates his performances, redefining the horizons of modern music with his innovative soundscapes.

Together, these four musical luminaries merge their talents to create an ensemble set to captivate, mesmerize, and ignite the stage with an electric fusion of their unique styles, setting the tone for the magnificence of the Rose Parade.

Celebrating a remarkable 30-year legacy as the parade's Official Vehicle, Honda shines brightly once again in the 2024 Rose Parade, marking their 14th consecutive year leading the floats as the Presenting Sponsor.

The Rose Parade will be held Monday, January 1, followed by the CFP Semifinal at the 110th Rose Bowl Game.

For more information visit: tournamentofroses.com.

Shoppers Lane Electric Vehicle Charging Depot

PWP rebates for new plug-in EVs will end December 31.

New electric vehicle ("EV") charging stations are now available at Shoppers Lane near the corner of San Pasqual St. and South Mentor Ave. Following the success of the Marengo Charging Plaza, one of the nation's largest fast-charging locations, and the Arroyo Electric Vehicle Charging Depot, Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) built the new Shopper's Lane Charging Depot through a successful public-private partnership. It features 12 Tesla V3 Superchargers, and eight PWP-branded Tritium 150-kW DC Fast-Chargers. The depot provides destination charging for consumers, and additional options for residents and visitors seeking to extend electric range.

PWP continues to expand transportation electrification infrastructure, and currently offers over 100 publicly accessible EV charging stations throughout the City. Robinson Park is under construction to add five DC Fast Chargers, and 20 Level 2 chargers. Victory Park is also under construction to add four DC Fast Chargers, and 21 Level 2 chargers. Both projects are expected to be complete and operational in early 2024. Four new Level 2 chargers are currently operational at Playhouse Village Park with an expansion project of 20 additional Level 2 chargers currently in the design process. A 37-charger expansion project at the Del Mar Station Garage is also operational. PWP EV Rebate Changes Starting January PWP reminds customers that

PWP rebates for new plug-in EVs will end December 31. This change is part of a planned program update consistent with regional utilities and state programs. Please note that the \$250 rebate for qualifying used EVs will continue. Customers can receive an additional \$250 bonus rebate if they purchase a used EV from a Pasadena auto dealer. An additional \$1,000 is available for customers currently participating in PWP's income-qualifying programs.

Eligible customers can also take advantage of upcoming changes to the Federal Tax Credit. Starting January 2024, buyers can transfer the tax credit to the car dealer at the point of sale, which will reduce the vehicle's up-front purchase price. Residential electric customers are also eligible for a \$600 rebate when they install a qualifying "Wi-Fi enabled" or "Internet Connected" EV charger at their home. Residential electric customers are eligible for a \$200 rebate when they install a standard (Non-Wi-Fi/ Non-Internet Connected) EV charger. Charger incentives are also available to commercial customers. If an electric panel upgrade is needed to add an EV charger in your home, PWP can help. A \$1,000 rebate is available for a permitted panel upgrade if it coincides with an EV charger install with associated wiring circuit.

Phasing out new EV rebates helps PWP expand opportunities to address barriers to EVs for low-income residents, as well as additional benefits for city-wide charging infrastructure. For more information about available incentives, EV charger types, and where to find charging stations, visit PWPweb.com/EV.

Pasadena Fire Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Pasadena Fire Department has partnered with the ABC-7/Spark of Love Toy Drive since its inception 31 years ago. It is one of the highlights of serving the Pasadena community each year. We are thankful for the commitment to partnership that our Pasadena businesses and individuals have shown over the many years! Because of your consistency, literally hundreds of children in Pasadena are able to receive lots of holiday cheer through your donations! We are confident that this year will be no different.

They accept New, Unused, Unwrapped Toys and Sporting Equipment They accept gift cards! They do NOT accept clothing or shoes They accept toys for boys and girls ages 0 – 17 Toys can be dropped off at any of our Pasadena Fire Stations or, if you're a local Pasadena business that wants to support by having a Spark of Love toy drive, let us know how many boxes you need. We will also come to pick up the toys.

This year's Toy drive ends on Saturday, December 24.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net/fire/spark-of-love

Pasadena Senior Center Receives Transformativ Seven-figure Donation



The Pasadena Senior Center announced Monday that it has received a \$1.25 million donation from an anonymous donor – the largest gift to the center in the past 40 years.

The historic seven-figure gift will provide vital general operating support immediately and into the future. The funds will be partially invested in the center's endowment and the remainder will support general operations for the next four years that will address pressing needs as they arise.

"We are thrilled and extremely grateful that this generous benefactor believes in the important work we do," said Akila Gibbs, the center's executive director. "The Pasadena community is aging faster than most other cities of the same population size, so this makes our presence and work all the more vital."

With a mission to empower and enrich the lives of older adults through caring service

with opportunities for social interaction, recreation, basic support and needs services, education, volunteerism and community activism, the Pasadena Senior Center opened in 1960 as the first nonprofit senior center in Southern California and one of the first in the nation.

In addition to online classes, onsite events and other activities and services, members and nonmembers of the Pasadena Senior Center are encouraged to visit the website regularly for a quarterly online magazine, free food delivery for older adults in need, COVID updates specifically for older adults and more. The center is an independent, donor-supported nonprofit organization that has served older adults for more than 60 years. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

For more information visit: pasadenaseniorentrcenter.org or call (626) 795-4331.

Pasadena Library to open New Bookstore in January

The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library recently announced that their new bookstore will open soon with a variety of used books, DVDs, CDs, LPs and lots and lots of children's books for you to select from. They are hoping for a Tuesday Jan. 9 as their opening date. Look for more details to follow in the January/February issue of Off the Shelf. The new location will be the former Jefferson Elementary School campus, 1500 E. Villa Ave. (between Hill and Allen), east of the Jefferson Library Branch. Opening hours will be Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They hope to expand hours in a few months. **Donations are gladly accepted now!** A donation bin is located



to the east of the Jefferson Branch Library on the grass near the huge tree. Donations will be accepted only at this location not at any branch libraries. We are accepting all used books in good condition, except textbooks, magazines and cassettes.

Won't fit into the bin? For large donations, please contact Adrienne at phrogg8@gmail.com to make an appointment.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net/library.

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San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming



San Marino City Council Reorganizes

At the City Council Meeting Wednesday night they honored outgoing Mayor Steve Talt, for his leadership and dedicated service to the City of San Marino and its residents, with the presentation of a tile plaque. The meeting continued with the reorganization of City Council, as Dr. Steven Huang was selected as Mayor and Gretchen Shepherd Romey as Vice Mayor.

"Thank you former Mayor Steve Talt for your tireless dedication to the City during your tenure. Congratulations to Mayor Dr. Steven Huang and Vice Mayor Gretchen Shepherd Romey on your appointments!"

Light Up San Marino: Vote now through December 17

Vote for the most festive home or business in town now through December 17! This year, 3 winning entries will be selected by the Mayor, Recreation Commission, and YOU! Community members have the opportunity to participate by voting for their favorite entries by "liking" them on Facebook. Winners will receive a gold-ribbon yard sign and gift card to The Huntington Store.

Coffee & Crammin'

Monday-Wednesday, December 18-20 from 3:30 - 8:30 PM, Barth Community Room

Drinks and study snacks will be provided for students in grades 9-12 using the Community Room to prepare for finals. Registration is not required.

Family Storytime

Tuesday, December 19 at 10:30 AM, Children's Area

Storytime features activities for children ages 5 and under that will promote early literacy and lifelong learning through songs, movement, fingerplays, and books. Storytime is also an opportunity for caregivers to learn ways they can incorporate learning activities into everyday routines. Registration is not required. Please watch our social media for cancellations.

Holiday Tree Collection Schedule

Athens Services will be providing their annual Holiday tree curbside collection, beginning on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 through Friday, January 12, 2024. Follow these steps to properly recycle your holiday tree:

1. Remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, and the tree stand
2. Cut tree in half if over six feet tall
3. Place curbside on your regularly scheduled trash day

If your tree is flocked or artificial, it is considered trash and will need to be disposed of by requesting a bulky-item pick-up. Residents can report any issues to Athens by visiting their website or calling (888) 336-6100.

Holiday Fire Safety Tips

Home and fire safety is a year round project; however, for many Fire Departments the holiday season is the busiest time of year. Cooking with family and decorating homes and businesses are long-standing traditions; unfortunately, these same activities may increase your chances of a serious fire. Following these few simple fire safety tips can keep kitchen equipment, electric lights, candles, and the ever-popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Have a fire safe holiday season.

- Check to make sure your smoke alarms are working
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Use battery-operated candles, avoid any open flames
- Check decorations for a certification label
- Keep combustibles at least three feet away from heat sources
- Never leave a source of fire or heat on unattended
- Never use charcoal or gasoline-fueled devices indoors
- Water your tree daily
- Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when leaving the house or going to sleep
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking
- Close your doors when sleeping
- Make sure that the flue and chimney is clean before lighting a fire in your fireplace. Use a fire screen to prevent embers from escaping.
- Make sure all embers are fully extinguished before going to bed.
- Drink responsibly and never drink and drive
- Find more Holiday Fire Safety tips on the City's website. Home fire inspections are available upon request by contacting the San Marino Fire Department at (626) 300-0735.

Meetings

Public Safety Commission

Monday, December 18 at 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers and Zoom (Public Access)

Design Review Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 PM; Barth Room and Zoom (Public Access)

Tournament Announces the 2034 Mid-Parade Act



the Pasadena Tournament of Roses announces the third consecutive Mid-Parade Performance presented by Explore Louisiana. The 2024 Mid-Parade Performance fulfills Louisiana's promise to feed your soul and bring the beats and melodies that define their rich musical heritage. Prepare to be swept away by the rhythms of GRAMMY-nominated Zydeco sensation Sean Ardoin, the remarkable Cajun fiddler Amanda Shaw, and the legendary guitarist James Burton as they bring an exhilarating Mid-Parade Performance that will have the crowd on their feet!

The 2024 Rose Parade theme, "Celebrating a World of Music: The Universal Language," couldn't be more fitting for Louisiana to showcase their vibrant float and the iconic purple, green, and gold colors symbolizing justice, faith and power.

The musical performance from of Louisiana's own is supported by an impressive cast of colorful characters. Dressed in traditional gold, purple & green Mardi Gras costumes, dancers, still walkers, brass band musicians and a host of vibrant characters, including festival queens in their formal gowns, make this performance what will surely be one of the most joyful and inviting performance of the Parade.

Louisiana is a hub of celebration with over 400 festivals annually. Still, the grandest of them all is Mardi Gras. During this jubilant celebration, the streets come alive with dazzling parades, vibrant costumes, and infectious energy, igniting a spirit of pure excitement and joy.

From boat and pet parades to unique traditions like chasing chickens, Louisiana's diverse culture yields unparalleled, family-friendly experiences. Each Mardi Gras celebration embodies the spirit of its community, making each one distinct. Between parades, Louisiana offers soul-satisfying experiences. Dive into the rhythms of Cajun, zydeco, and jazz music, deeply rooted in the state's heritage. Explore 21 state parks, go glamping, mountain biking, hiking, or paddling in diverse landscapes. Savor fresh, world-renowned seafood in culinary experiences.

Mardi Gras and other festivals draw visitors worldwide, showcasing Louisiana's rich heritage. After Mardi Gras, explore festivals celebrating the state's history, culture, seafood, and music. Plan your adventure at ExploreLouisiana.com.

Mark your calendars and celebrate the spirit of Louisiana, its captivating music, and the larger-than-life energy of Mardi Gras right in the heart of Pasadena on January 1, 2024, in the 135th Rose Parade.

PWP now Accepting Essays for Academic Scholarship

Sidney Jackson, General Manager of Water and Power announced that the department is now accepting essays and applications for the 2024 Academic Scholarship. Each year, Pasadena Water and Power ("PWP") honors two outstanding high school seniors in Pasadena with a scholarship to a two- or four-year accredited, post-secondary institution for the upcoming academic year.

The first-place scholarship

is \$5,000, and second place is \$2,500. To apply, students must write a minimum 500-word essay about a topic related to the utility industry. This year's essay prompt focuses on the benefits and challenges to electrification for the community and the utility.

Submissions must be received by April 5, 2024.

To learn more about the scholarship program, including how to apply, visit: PWPweb.com/Scholarship.

Reward Extended for Unsolved Murder in Pasadena

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger announced last week that she introduced a motion to extend a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for the murder of 27-year-old Ernesto Jimenez (pictured)



in Pasadena.

Affectionately called "Big Ernesto" by the local community, Mr. Jimenez was shot while walking to Villa Park on November 13, 2020. He often played music at the park and was known for his caring nature. He was not a gang member and had no gang affiliations.

"More than three years have passed since Ernesto's life violently ended while he was simply just strolling to his neighborhood park," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "I'm hopeful that this reward will lead to someone stepping forward to provide a critical tip or bit of information to help solve this case. Ernesto's family is heartbroken. They and the Pasadena community at large deserve answers, justice, and closure."

"We are not going to let a coward violate the safety and security of our city," Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo said. "We owe it to the family to find the person(s) responsible. I thank Supervisor Barger for never forgetting our local families who deserve closure."

Anyone with information about this case can anonymously contact the Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1(800) 222-TIPS (8477)

Fire & Police Departments Issue Parade Safety Tips



As the 135th Rose Parade presented by Honda approaches on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, Pasadena's fire and police departments are issuing the following safety tips for the thousands of overnight campers who will line the route on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023. 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 Sunday, December 31, 2023.

A position on the sidewalk may be maintained along the parade route beginning at noon, Dec. 31, 2023. 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.

Pets are not recommended along the parade; keep them 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: www.faa.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 Sunday, 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 Monday, January 1.

Visit Pasadena will open the Visitor Hotline at (877) 793-9911 starting Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023 until Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visitors can also utilize the digital 2024 Spectator Guide.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net.

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HOLIDAY BUBBLES NEVER TOO EARLY

Is it me or did we start Christmas Holiday early this year, I've already been to two parties and another for this weekend.

Fiction is sometimes better told than fact. The wine industry is no exception. I am told German draft-dodger Jacob Schram made camp in Calistoga in 1860 looking for a place to plant his vines. One hundred sixty years later "Schramsberg" is producing some of my all time favorite sparkling wines to this very day. Is it good enough for me? It certainly was for Richard Nixon. In 1972, Barbara Walters hosted then-President Nixon and China's premier Zhou Enlai with it, and Schramsberg sparkling wine has been served at state functions by every president (and yes, in the Dills household) since the mid-eighties.

Sparkling wines are all blends and can be vintage, although the Schramsberg Blanc de Noir is a composition of grapes and regional combination. Blanc de Noir (meaning "white from black") is 85% pinot noir and 15% chardonnay - thus the blend title - and that is just fine with this writer. With any "bubbles" yeast plays an important role in the fermentation role of the wine's richness and body, making the wine crisp and low in tannins (The Monks found this out by accident). Many readers ask me about sparkling wine or champagne storage. I buy champagne to drink right away, but if you are able to purchase a six-pack to save a few dollars, that's fine. This Schramsberg, if stored properly, in a nice cool place bottle on it's side, it will be good for years to come, but why let it sit all alone when it should be enjoyed?

Yes, the holidays are here, and my research tells me that consumption of bubbles goes way up during the holidays. This is not a picnic sparkling wine - this is one of my favorites and I savor every zesty sip. Enjoy with a special friend, dinner, or a nice soft cheese.

Closure: Corked
Dills Score: 91
Retail: \$38 , Vons supermarket about \$31.



Each week I will give you my Dills Score. I have added points for value. I'm starting with a base of 50 points; I added 8 points for color, 8 points for aroma or "nose", 8 points for taste, 9 points for finish, and 8 points for my overall impression, which includes my value rating.

DUARTE CITY COUNCIL SELECTS NEW MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

At the Duarte City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 12, the Council hosted its annual reorganization and selected Vinh Truong, District 2, to represent Duarte as Mayor and Cesar A. Garcia, District 6, as Mayor Pro Tem.



Duarte Mayor Vinh Truong

"General Colin Powell once said 'Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand.' Everybody does deserve an opportunity, but when we sit here on this dias, that opportunity is for our constituents and our residents, not for us. I believe that is who I am and who I will continue to be." said newly appointed Mayor Vinh Truong. " Not only do I have all of Duarte to represent but I have to represent my kids and my wife at home."

Vinh Truong's family migrated from Vietnam to the United States in the late 1970s and settled in Duarte in 1985. He has held a seat on the Duarte Economic Development Commission and served as a board member of the Santa Anita Family YMCA. In 2019, Mayor Truong was appointed to Duarte's Financial Advisory Task Force, which allowed him to learn about the City's financial condition and engrain in him the value of economic growth. He is a team player and leader and looks forward to building a solid foundation and stable city for the next generation in Duarte.

Cesar A. Garcia was appointed by the City Council to fill the District 6 vacancy in December 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Garcia was raised in the City of Duarte and his family has lived in Duarte for over 27 years. His positive experiences beginning at a young age in the City of Duarte inspired him to give back to Duarte's unique community. He cares deeply about the City of Duarte and its residents, including its youth, seniors, and families. He values teamwork and strives to serve the community with confidence, pride, respect, and responsibility.

"To be able to sit here with the rest of my colleagues is truly a full circle moment for me. I always knew I would continue to serve my community but I never thought at this capacity," said newly appointed Mayor Pro Tem Cesar A. Garcia. "The greatest lesson my family ever taught me was how to serve others. It feels really good to be serving this community because of my family's history with Duarte. My grandparents bought their first home here, my parents met at Mike's Food, and this is also where I met my wife. I am humbled and will continue to serve this community in any capacity."

A representative from the office of Senator Susan Rubio presented Councilmember Jody Schulz with certificates from Senator Susan Rubio and Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio thanking her for her service as Duarte's mayor.

"This has been a tremendous honor and one of the most profound things I've done professionally," said Councilmember Jody Schulz. "The amount that I've learned about myself, others, government, the residents and the connections I've been able to make with the residents in the community is something I'll cherish forever."

Councilmember Schulz further expressed her gratitude to her husband, Gunther, and her daughter, Isabel, who is the reason she initially ran for office and continues to be her inspiration. She stated, "The most fulfilling and proudest part of serving is having my daughter by my side and flourishing in the public arena, as a person with autism, who has grown tremendously being at the forefront of events in the City with her mother as Mayor. It has been such a blessing, and I'm very grateful that I had this opportunity to share with her. I'm incredibly grateful for my husband and for all the support my family has received from people in the community as well as my colleagues and City staff."

For additional information about the Duarte City Council, please visit the Duarte City website or contact the City Manager's Office at (626) 357-7931.

ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown

THE CIRCUS BY DAN CLARK IN "A 2ND HELPING OF CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL"

"Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they didn't have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean.

The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals, and all the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armor." He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family happy.

The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, "I'd like to buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady stated the price.

The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. Then he leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again stated the price. The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man understood what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking and embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied; "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our own tickets with. Although we didn't get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide.

That day I learnt the value to Give. The Giver is bigger than the Receiver. If you want to be large, larger than life, learn to Give. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, only with what you are expecting to give, which is everything.

The importance of giving can never be over emphasized because there's always joy in giving. Learn to make someone happy by acts of giving."

SENIOR LUNCH
Lunch service is returning to the Hart Park House Senior Center!!!
The City of Sierra Madre and the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program have joined together to bring healthy meals to our senior community! Meals are served Monday-Thursday and a frozen meal for Friday.
Service begins at 12pm so please arrive by 11:30am. Meals will be served on a *first come first served basis* with a \$3.00 suggested donation.
CALL 626-355-5278 FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.ywca.org

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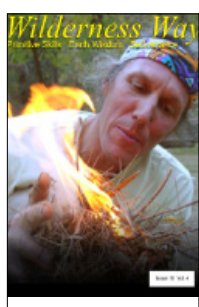
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CHRISTOPHER Nyerges [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com]



[Nyerges is an author / lecturer / educator who has written such books as "Extreme Simplicity," "How to Survive Any-where," "Guide to Wild Foods," and other books. Information about his books and classes is available at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance, or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

WHO IS SANTA CLAUS?

On a recent radio talk show, a woman complained that Santa Claus has gained a more prominent role during the Christmas season than the Jesus child. She argued that this was a sign that "we" have allowed secularism – and maybe even paganism – to creep into the Christmas tradition. Really?

She obviously didn't know that there really is a Santa Claus, that is, an actual historical figure upon which the modern "San-ta Claus" is based.

Nikolas of Myra was an historical 4th century Bishop in the Catholic church of Asia Minor (modern-day Demre, Turkey). Yes, he was a member of the still young and developing Catholic church, and he was a priest! He was born on March 15, 270, in Pataya, Lycia, in Asia Minor, now Turkey. At that time, however, the area was culturally Greek, and was politically a part of the Roman diocese of Asia. He was the only child of wealthy Greek parents, who both died in an epidemic when Nikolas was young. Nikolas (also spelled "Nicholas") inherited a fortune from his parents, and was then raised by his uncle (also named Nikolas), who was a Bishop of Patara, and who trained young Nikolas into priesthood.

Nikolas was said to be religious from an early age, and he always fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Because of his outspoken beliefs, he was persecuted by the Romans and was imprisoned during the persecution of Diocletian.

In case you never heard of the "persecution of Diocletian" (I hadn't – I was probably playing hookie that day and missed that history lesson), it was the most severe of the Roman Empire's persecutions against Christians, simply because they were Christians. It was also known as the "Great Persecution." In 303, four emperors issued a series of dictatorial laws which essentially did away with any legal rights of Christians. The edicts demanded that the Christians comply with traditional Roman "religious" practices, meaning, giving sacrifices to the various Roman gods. This persecution was severe, but weakest in the British colonies where the Empire had the least sway. It was the most severe in the Eastern provinces, where Nikolas lived.

Nikolas refused to worship the Roman gods, so he was tossed into a prison, where he was reportedly hungry and cold for about 5 years. With the rise of Constantine, the persecutions came to an end in 313. Constantine is known for "Christianizing" the Roman Empire, and re-naming all the Mythraic and so-called "pagan" holidays so they could all now be regarded as Christian holidays. With Constantine in power, Nikolas was re-leased. Shortly after his return to his homeland in 317 A.D., Nikolas became the Bishop of Myra.

He was later invited to attend the First Council of Nicaea in 325, the famous council where much of the modern dogma of the Catholic church was determined. Nikolas of Myra was one of many bishops to participate in the Council at Constantine's request. He is listed as the 151st attendee at the Council. There, Nikolas was a staunch anti-Arian. Arius, from Alexandria, held the belief that the "Son of God" did not always exist, but was created by the Father. Of course, no one could "prove" either point, but those are the sorts of things they all debated. Nikolas disagreed with Arius, and defended the then-developing orthodox Christian viewpoint. According to stories told, Nikolas got so angry at Arius that he punched him in the face! Really? Pro-to-Santa Claus punches a fellow man of the cloth? Wow! That would make an awesome video!

Back in his homeland, Nikolas became known as the generous bishop. Remember, he inherited wealth from his parents, and he would sometimes give gold and other valuables to those that he learned were in need. In one case, it is said that Nikolas tossed a bag of gold coins into a needy family's yard, anonymously. He was said to be humble, and didn't want to be seen giving money to people, so he did it secretly. He was so famous for giving such gifts in private when he traveled the country-side, children were told to go to sleep quickly or Nikolas would not come with gifts. This, apparently, is the origin of telling children to go to sleep or that Santa will not come.

In one story, he apparently snuck into the home of a family where the three daughters of a poor man were about to get married. Nikolas put some gold into the stockings which the girls left by the fire to dry. This, apparently, is the origin of hanging up stockings on Christmas eve.

He was also well known for the gifts that he gave to newly married couples during the already-established Christmas season.

Nikolas was a complex man, part of the new Catholic tradition which celebrated the birth of Jesus on the already-observed winter solstice. (Early Judeo-Christians did not celebrate the birth of Jesus, a date that has been lost to history, but historians know that Jesus was definitely not born on December 25).

Nikolas died on December 6, 343, which is to this day known as "Saint Nicholas Day." Upon his death, he was buried in the cathedral of Myra. He is revered as a saint in most versions of Christianity and is especially honored in Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

By the year 450, churches in Greece and Asia Minor were being named in honor of Nikolas. He was officially honored as a saint by the Eastern Catholic Church in 800. December 6 began to be celebrated as Bishop Nicholas Day in France by the 1200s.

As time went on, when ever someone received a mysterious gift, it would be attributed to Saint Nicholas!

The Dutch called Saint Nicholas "Sinterklass," which is the most likely manner in which the name Saint Nicholas gradually evolved into "Santa Claus." Along the way, Saint Nicholas was given some of the attributes of Odin, the Norse God, who could travel through the sky and who had a secret home somewhere around the north pole. Come to think of it, even the Superman story borrowed from Odin. Remember how Superman sometimes went to a secret cavern in the Northern coldlands and conversed with his ancestors via ice crystals?

The image continued to evolve over the years, with the Coca Cola company giving the world our modern Santa Claus, a somewhat sanitized and plumper Saint Nicholas with their early 20th century ads. This is when we began to see the fatter bearded man in the red suit.

Today, the man you see in the mall is the condensation of fact and myth, embodying the generosity of one Catholic Bishop, the good will of all who gave gifts in his stead, and bits of the mythology of Odin. Nicholas was not a "pagan," and he was not a myth. He lived, and he continues to be in the hearts and minds of all those who keep him alive.

Katnip News!



Meet MILLIE & MISHA!

Meet Misha and Millie, a perfectly adorable pair of siblings. These bonded sisters, aged about 6 months, are on the lookout for their forever home together.



Misha & Millie

These little furballs are shy but are blossoming each passing day into more confident kittens. Although they are not yet keen on being held and put into a carrier, we are working on socializing them more every day with lots of pets and playtime.



Misha is now a big fan of exploring new spaces and loves a good chin scratch. Her purr is just the sweetest! Millie is our couch potato and loves napping belly-up. She is also very food motivated and loves playing with her new toys. Turning a shy kitty into a more social one creates a very special bond.

Go to www.lifelineforpets.org/millie--misha.html, or use this QR code to go directly to their page to see more.

Pet of the Week

Two-year-old Harmony is an adorable low-rider who will bowl her way into your heart. Or your legs, if you're not paying attention!

This 60-pound bowling ball seems to move through life without a care in the world. When she gets "the zoomies" and runs around the yard at Pasadena Humane, she has the appearance of a mini tornado-one that is laughing with a beaming smile the whole time.

When she finally slows down for a minute, Harmony adores getting a nice belly rub as she rolls around in the grass. She kicks her legs in the air like it's the best thing ever.

Harmony has lived with other dogs, so she might like a friend with similar size and energy level. She's also quite content to be the only apple of your eye!

The adoption fee for dogs is \$150. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

View photos of adoptable pets and schedule an adoption appointment at pasadenahumane.org. Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Sunday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE



Our holiday show begins this Friday! Cori Cable Kidder's Holiday Spectacular: A 1940s Christmas Revue will play on our stage from Nov 24 (the day after Thanksgiving) through Dec 23.

These original WWII-era military-themed holiday concerts star Sierra Madre Playhouse's Patsy Cline, Cori Cable Kidder, who received an Ovation nomination for her 2015 Sierra Madre Playhouse performance following a four-month run of sold-out performances of Always...Patsy Cline. You won't want to miss Cori performing military and holiday classics of the 1940s, with live musical accompaniment by Sean Paxton on piano and a 3-piece band.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE DEPARTMENT BEAR PROTOCOL

SMPD responds appropriately to bear calls when:

- Bear(s) is a continuous nuisance (rummaging through trash bins, living at or returning to the same location or there is property damage).
- Bear(s) displays aggressive behavior toward humans or domestic animals.
- Bear(s) is walking towards a school or heavily populated area.
- Bear(s) attempts or enters a residence or structure.
- Bear(s) is in the backyard of a residence and possess a public safety threat.

Help protect others by reporting all bear incidents, including sightings. The options of reporting bear incidents is based on public safety concerns. You can report bear incidents directly to CA Fish and Wildlife at www.wildlife.ca.gov, to the City of Sierra Madre at wildlife@cityofsierramadre.com, and to the Sierra Madre Police Department.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE! CALL PATRICIA 626-818-2698 TODAY!

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TIPS ON CARING FOR AN AGING PARENT

Dear Savvy Senior: Where can I turn to for caregiving help? I help take care of my 80-year-old father and work too, and it's wearing me out. Worn Out Wendy

Dear Wendy: Taking care of an aging parent over a period of time – especially when juggling work and other family obligations – can be exhausting. But help and resources are available. Here's what you should know.

Identify Your Needs

To help you determine and prioritize the kinds of help you need, a good first step is to make a detailed list of everything you do as your dad's caregiver and the amount of time each task takes. Identify the times when you need help the most and which tasks others might be able to do for you.

Then list the types of care needed, such as simple companionship or doing active chores, like shopping or running errands. Once you determine this, here are some tips and places you can reach out to for help.

Care Helpers

If you have siblings or other loved ones close by, start by asking them if they could come and help with specific tasks. And see if friends, neighbors or faith group members could help too.

You also need to check into local resources that may be available. Many communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that help seniors and caregivers with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and respite services, which offers short-term care so you can take an occasional break. Call your nearby Area Aging Agency (800-677-1116) for referrals to services.

There are also a bevy of online services you can use to help you save time on certain chores. For example, online grocery shopping and home deliveries, and online pharmacy medication refills and deliveries. You can also order meal-kits or pre-made meals online through numerous meal service delivery companies and arrange needed transportation with ride sharing services like Lyft or Uber.

Or, if you can afford it, you may want to consider hiring someone a few hours a week to help with things like cooking, housekeeping or even personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. Care.com or CareLinx.com are two good websites to help you find someone, or you can work



with a local home care agency.

Financial Aids

If you're handling your dad's financial chores, make things easier by arranging for direct deposit for his income sources, and set up automatic payments for his utilities and other routine bills. You may also want to set up your dad's online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor his account anytime. Or, if you need help, consider hiring a bill paying service like Silver Bills (SilverBills.com), which charges a flat fee of \$150 per month.

BenefitsCheckup.org is another excellent tool to look for financial assistance programs that may help your dad, particularly if he's lower income.

Technology Solutions

To help you keep tabs on your dad when you are away at work or if he lives alone, there are affordable technology devices that can help. For example, there are medical alert systems and smart speakers that help with communication and allow him to call for help if needed. Home video cameras with two-way speakers that allow you to monitor and talk to him when you're away. Electronic pill boxes that can notify you if he has taken his medications. And to help you coordinate his care with other members of his care team there are websites like LotsAHelping-Hands.com.

Other Resources

There are also a number of other organizations you can draw on for additional information like the Family Care Alliance (Caregiver.org), which provides a state-by-state listing of caregiving programs and services; the Alzheimer's Association (ALZ.org/help-support/caregiving) that provides information unique to the challenges of dementia caregivers; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Caregiver.va.gov), which offers caregiver support services to veterans and spouses.

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.



THE GIFT OF HEALTH
by Michele Silence

Who wouldn't want a gift that could last a lifetime, reduce their chance of getting a chronic disease, or offer relief from living with one? Health is invaluable. Often taken for granted, it can change in an instant. Feeling good and enjoying daily activities can make health seem like an afterthought, but a shift from being healthy to unhealthy can occur as swiftly as a doctor's visit. Consider the gift of health for your loved ones this season, irrespective of their circumstances. Whether it's your elderly grandmother or your son in a wheelchair, everyone can benefit from fitness.

Keep it simple and engaging. Consider getting a bike for a child who spends too much time sitting, with the promise that each hour they ride contributes to a total that earns them a desired reward. Perhaps your wife would relish a group exercise class she's mentioned. Think about what could enrich their lives. For an exceptional gift, include your time. For instance, get your dad walking shoes with a commitment to join him for a half-hour walk twice a week.

Gifts of health are simple, quick and don't require lots of internet surfing, driving around or deep thought. Someone who has chronic back pain may appreciate a package including a massage, chiropractic visit or acupuncture session along with tools like a foam roller, massage ball and stretching strap. Individuals with painful arthritis might benefit from water aerobics classes, Tai Chi, cycling or strength training.

If you have a friend or loved one who previously exercised but isn't anymore, tap into their former interests. What activities did they do before and what versions and intensities can they do now. If someone used to hike but became too busy at work, a new hiking backpack along with navigation tools might reignite their motivation.

Books can also be great as are subscriptions to home workout videos. If there's something you have been wanting to do, add that to a gift. Example, if you've always wanted to try rock climbing and you want to give a gift to someone on your list who is super fit, get some free passes for both of you to try it.

Rediscovering past interests is a great starting point for those who used to be active but have paused their routines. However, for some who might feel uncertain about where to begin or what would suit their current lifestyle, engaging with a fitness consultant could be invaluable. These professionals offer insights tailored to individual preferences and capabilities, providing guidance on suitable activities and pacing. Rather than immediately diving into strenuous activities, a consultation allows a comfortable starting point, enabling them to explore and



Michele Silence, M.A. is a 37-year certified fitness professional who offers semi-private/virtual fitness classes and a weight management support group. If you have questions or ideas for this column Contact Michele at michele@kid-fit.com. Visit her Facebook page at: [michelesilence](https://www.facebook.com/michelesilence).

discover what best fits their needs and interests. Remember, as long as they start moving more they are taking steps to improve the quality of their life.

For the tech person on your list there is so much to choose from. Virtual reality headsets like Meta Quest offer immersive fitness experiences. VR treadmills and fitness devices are novel and fun. Devices such as an Apple Watch can track activities, track types of workouts, measure heart rate, offer GPS for outdoor activities, offer fitness challenges, share activity progress with others for motivation, analyze workout performance over times and more. Simple fitness apps like Caliber can allow users to customize their fitness experience, provide coaching and specialize workouts. Health apps like Future help keep track of an individual's personal health metrics and workout trends.

Also, don't forget about those who are already engaged in exercise routines. An avid runner would love a new pair of running shoes (they are expensive and a gift certificate is best here so that they can get the ones best for them). A tennis player might enjoy a new bag for gear, box of balls or restringing their racket. Even someone who has a gym membership would love to have their dues covered for a few months or a certificate for new workout clothes. Just remember, anyone who is currently working out may have favorite clothes, shoes and equipment so it's best to not introduce something new that they may find unsuitable. Certificates are a safe and appreciated choice for this population.

Remember, the gift of health is the most enduring present one can give. Every step towards a healthier lifestyle is an invaluable investment in well-being, one that lasts far beyond the moment of gifting. Even for those who are healthy and fit, gifts promoting health are priceless and can last a lifetime.

If you still need help coming up with ideas for a special someone, contact me via my email or Facebook page.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*



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

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

Monday & Wednesday 10-1045 AM

Chair Yoga

Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercises and overall relaxation. Classes are ongoing and held in the Hart Park House Senior Center.

WELCOME TO

Beginner Every Thursday 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Intermediate Every Friday 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Bring your lei, flower skirt or just your desire to dance! Join in on the fun in the Memorial Park Covered Pavilion on Thursday, the Hart Park House Senior Center on Friday.

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SENIOR CINEMA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 1:00PM

It's a Wonderful Life PG, 2hr 10min

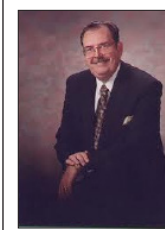
An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never existed.

Paper Bag Snowflake Craft

We will be adding some fun to holiday decor with lovely paper bag snowflakes. All materials will be supplied. Space is limited to 10.

Monday, December 11 1:30pm in the Hart Park House

Call 626-355-5278 to reserve your spot!



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

CULTIVATING THE FINE ART OF LISTENING

If confession is good for the soul, I must confess here, I have not been successful at everything in my life. Oh yes, there are a few things I have been successful at, which I won't mention right now. But many things I have failed to succeed at. One thing I have failed to succeed at, even though I have tried all my life, is listening. My ears work, and I can hear many things, but it's listening when I fail.

My first experience in this area of listening was when I met The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. At that time, we were students at a Bible Institute studying for the ministry.

We met in September, and we had become a couple by January. One night, we were traveling with a group, and she casually asked, "Wouldn't it be nice to get married?" Having failed in woman-ology and thinking it was just a casual question, I said, "It sure would be nice to get married." I thought that was all there was.

The next day, in the school halls, everybody congratulated me, and for the life of me, I did not know what they were talking about. I just thought I passed a test for the first time. Later, I realized they congratulated me on my engagement to get married. I was the last one to know. Sure, I heard what she said, but I wasn't listening to what she said. I have learned through life that there's a big difference between hearing and listening. Not long after that incident, we married and have been blissfully married for over 53 years.

As a husband, I had to learn many things, and I wasn't very successful. I assumed when your wife asks a question, she is asking to get an answer. It took me a long time to realize that was never the case.

Early in our marriage, she said, "Correct me if I'm wrong..." Then, she explained the situation from her perspective. Thinking she was asking for my evaluation, I usually would do what she asked and correct her. The first time I did this, I was not prepared for the outcome.

Looking at me, she graciously said, "If I want your opinion, I will ask for it." I thought that's what she asked for. I was only doing what I thought she said.

It took me a long time to understand her meaning when she said, "Correct me if I'm wrong." And believe me, I paid a heavy price for learning that too slowly. I only wish I would have known it earlier in our marriage.

Early in our marriage, I was busy correcting her when she asked to be corrected. That's

when I began to understand that hearing and listening are two different occupations. I can hear everything she is saying, but I'm not listening to what she is saying. I'm not quite sure how to connect these two things.

Finally, I began to understand what she meant. When she said, "Correct me if I'm wrong," she was not asking for a correction but something completely different. She wanted to hear from me, "My dear, you are absolutely correct."

I remember the first time I responded to her in like fashion. I still see the smile she had on her face when I said it. It was then I realized what she was looking for. She was not looking for my opinion but rather for my approval. I began to understand what people meant when they said, "A happy wife is a happy family."

It is like the old joke about Abraham Lincoln and his wife. Lincoln's wife came to him and said, "Abe, does this dress make me look fat?" Fortunately, Honest Abe understood hearing and listening.

Throughout life, I have met many people obsessed with always being right. No matter what they are doing, they want to be recognized as doing it right.

Even though I'm still trying to develop a learning curve in this area, I have learned that my happiest days are not when I am right. I used to think they were, but I have graduated to a different understanding.

Recently, I noticed that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has used the phrase, "Correct me if I'm wrong," more times than I've ever heard her say that. I'm not sure if it's intentional, but at my level of understanding, I'm going to accept it and say to her every time, "Oh, my dear, you are absolutely correct."

The smile on her face when I say that is very satisfying and worth my effort. I must make a choice in life: her smile or my being right. At my level of experience, I always choose the former. She asks some other questions that I'm working on, and hopefully, I will accomplish my goal before I die. I will need to learn how to connect my ears with my brain. That will be my challenge for the New Year.

While thinking about this recently I remembered a very wonderful verse in the New Testament. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: (James 1:19).

I need to cultivate the fine art of listening. That simply means that I'm going to be slow to speak and only speak when I have thought through what I am hearing.

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Mountain Views News Mission Statement

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

STUART TOLCHIN PUT THE LIGHTS ON GOLF, MOUNTAINS AND MEMORIES



My son Aaron, much like the Governor and the Fonzy, has difficulty reading. After struggling to read one of my articles, he asked, "Why are you always criticizing?" So I decided to write an article that praises something. On Tuesday as I walked my dog Dream, my right leg began to hurt. The pain was severe and my first thought was, "Oh no I won't be able to play golf tomorrow." Usually I meet a friend for golf at the nearby course on Wednesdays. We play pretty early and this morning a magnificent rising orange sun was visible. Good beginning I thought but worried about the pain in my leg. Then I realized that golf is such a forgiving sport that I could play pain or no pain. In fact, today's article is a tribute to golf.

Think about it. Golf is played in beautiful open spaces. Eaton Canyon is set at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains right below the Mount Wilson trail leading to the Observatory. Many of you know that it was here that Dr. Edwin Hubble described and measured the expansion of the universe.

Almost exactly 35 years ago to the day, I had fasted in celebration of Yom Kippur, hiked to the top of Mt. Wilson with a friend, and visited the observatory. Ironically, my friend's leg had started to bother him so he got a ride home with somebody and I was left to hike alone.

As luck would have it a raging thunderstorm broke out as I made my way down. I tried unsuccessfully to stay dry by sheltering under some trees. At some point I emerged from the trees and began yelling and gesturing at a plane overhead. I realized it was futile and best not to fall asleep in the rain so I did jumping jacks for what seemed like hours to stay awake until I was rescued by the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team. Luckily my girlfriend at the time had phoned the police after she couldn't reach me knowing I was hiking. At about 4 am the rescue team found me! I remember a rescuer putting socks on my hands to stop me from freezing.

As I play beneath the Mount Wilson Trail I remember and appreciate the fact that I am still alive. As you have probably already guessed I am not the most responsible person and very far from perfect. Golf is the perfect sport for me. Because of my immobility I use an electric cart while my younger partner walks the course pushing his handcart. We are of very different abilities but golf is very forgiving. Unlike tennis or ping pong, players are not on opposite sides of a net competing against one another.

While golfing we compete against the course and ourselves and can appreciate our partners best shots. Sure many golfers compete and bet but I am such a worthless player that I don't bet and don't keep score. Frequently my partner helps me find my ball after an errant shot has become almost lost among the trees.

Speaking of partners, I must offer praise. These are generally older men that I have met while golfing. Many are Republicans but are nevertheless men with whom I have enlightening and interesting discussions. Were it not for golf I might never have made these continuing connections and I believe they have expanded my perspective.

Another wonderful aspect of golf is the way it caters to older people and people of limited mobility. Electric carts are available and very importantly to me these carts can be used to transport the golfer and the heavy clubs back to the car after a tiring round.

Finally golf is wonderful in that invariably even I can make a surprisingly beautiful shot. It might be a long curving putt or an effective short chip shot, or a trap shot - it is very satisfying. Today the weather was fine. I looked at the beautiful mountains and was very aware of how fortunate I was to be where I was, alive and connecting with a friend.

How did I do? Terribly if you look at the score which I don't, but wonderfully, notwithstanding my sore leg which really had little impact on my playing. By the way, it's almost midnight and my leg no longer hurts. Stuarttolchin@gmail.com I would love to hear from you.



DINAH CHONG WATKINS CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE WRONG KIND A CHRISTMAS STORY



The evening started out as a typical Norman Rockwell family vignette. I was chopping up tomatoes for the salad, my husband and my 5 year old son were playing with Legos at the kitchen table, then a split second miscalculation of a chef's knife, tomato, finger and, "Sh#\$!" I cried out loud, very loud.

They turned in my direction. "Are you okay?" asked my husband. "Yes." I answered, pressing a carrot chip against my finger tip to stem the bleeding.

"Mommy said a bad word! Will she get punished?" my son asked, confusion clouded his face. My husband and I locked eyes. I was pretty sure he could not read my mind - yet again. "Umm yes, Mommy said a bad word."

Distraught, my son jumped out of his chair, "Will you punish her now?"

My husband and I locked eyes again, this time I knew he had better read my mind.

"After you go to bed, now let's clean up before dinner." he replied.

I replaced the carrot chip with a Band-Aid and dinner was a quiet affair. My son was mopey, uninterested even in the lure of a freshly baked Pillsbury Refrigerated Cookie Dough cookie. Later, when my husband tucked my son into bed, he turned to him,

"Daddy, I don't want Mommy to be punished." "But Mommy said a bad word and we have rules." My son's lips quivered and he took a deep breath, "I want to take Mommy's punishment for her."

They came down the stairs, my husband and my son. My husband's face showed surprise, pride? My son's was of concern, relief? "He wants to take the punishment for you."

"What? No! That's alright, I did the bad thing I deserve it." "No, he made his decision."

My husband led my son to the bathroom. My heart was reeling, overwhelmed with love and gratitude to my son but not as sweet feelings towards my husband.

My husband unwrapped a fresh bar of hotel soap (always useful I tell myself when I pack it along with the complimentary Keurig coffee pods) and gave it to my son.

My son hesitated and then swiped it twice on his tongue. He gagged, the organic orange ginger soap did not live up to the hype.

Afterwards, when I put my son to bed, he looked up at me and smiled, "Mommy, now I can go to sleep because you don't have to be punished."

My heart swelled at his sacrificial act of pure love. In this greater way, Jesus Christ sacrificed himself on the cross so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

May God bless you and your family this Christmas!
Dinah Chong Watkins column appears every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.
For more Close Encounters Of The Wrong Kind go to www.ceotwk.com

RICH JOHNSON NOW THAT'S RICH IT IS GETTING CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS!



This Christmas season, I'm reminded of the three stages of man:
1. He believes in Santa Claus
2. He does not believe in Santa Claus
3. He becomes Santa Claus

"You know you're getting old when Santa starts looking younger." Robert Paul

The corollary to the above comment is to remember this very important rule: "Nothing is as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas."

If you're a Star Trek fan your Christmas card should read: "To coldly go where no snowman has gone before."

"There are 17 more shopping days until Christmas. So, guys, that means 16 more days till we start shopping, right?" Conan O'Brien

Speaking of becoming Santa Claus, I came across an experience that should make us "seniors" take notice and take notes. Here goes:

Grandpa was feeling his age and the thought of shopping for Christmas gifts for his rather extended family was just too daunting. So, Grandpa decided to include in each Christmas card, a check. In each card he wrote, "Merry Christmas. Buy your own present." And mailed the Christmas cards off early.

The normal activities of Christmas ensued and it was only after the holiday he realized he had received very few Christmas cards in return. Not like his family. He went into his study intent on writing a few relatives to ask what happened. As he cleared the clutter off his desk he was horrified when he discovered the stack of gift checks he had written out. Gramps forgot to enclose them with the Christmas cards. "Buy your own Christmas present" took on a whole new meaning that Christmas lol. Isn't that right Grampa Grumps?

Another telling reaction to Christmas:

"It's Christmas Eve! It's the one night of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we cheer a little more. For a couple of hours out of the whole year, we are the people we always hoped we would be." Bill Murray

Speaking of Christmas spirit, Comedian George Burns once said, "Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family living in another city."

Lame Christmas Card Idea: Here is a certifiably lame Christmas card idea. In fact, I won't tell you the answer here. Figure out the message of the following that makes it a Christmas expression: Are you ready?
"A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z"

What makes it Christmas? I'll give you the answer at the bottom of this column if you don't figure it out.

Someone named Earthman Adam offered us this warning: "I left Santa gluten-free cookies and organic soy milk. He put a solar panel in my stocking."

We now have a clever retort to someone being snarly during the holidays. "Don't get your tinsel in a tangle." Thank you unknown person.

"Christmas is a time when you get homesick, even if you're home." Christmas Carol Nelson The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much!

Christmas is a magical time of year...I just watched all my money magically disappear.

"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store" Dr. Seuss

One of my heroes is humorist Andy Rooney (you may remember from the television show "60 Minutes") Andy, among other things has given us:

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly."

As a grown-up I have learned that all the "Christmas magic" I felt as a kid was really a mom who loved me so "darn" much.

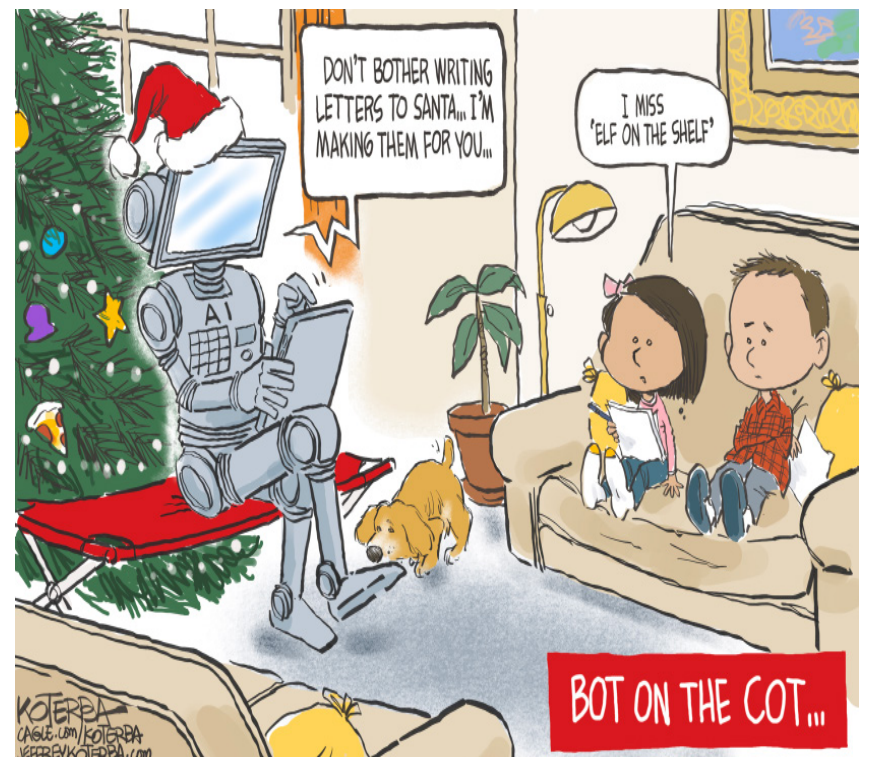
Double dare you to write this on a Christmas card to someone: "Being related to me is the only Christmas gift you need."

And of course, I have to end with a quote that puts each Christmas into its proper perspective:

"The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in "His" presence!"

By the way, if you always wanted to go to a New Year's Eve Dinner soiree but the lateness of the hour held you back...YOU'RE IN LUCK! Come to Nano Cafe's New Year's Eve EVE dinner/dancing soiree. Saturday night, December 30th from 6:30 - 10:30. The night before New Year's Eve. Call (626) 325-3334 and make your reservation. 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. My band, JJ Jukebox will be playing the music to dance, drink and dine to. Look forward to seeing you there.

And finally...the answer to the Lame Christmas Card Idea up above: "No L" Think about it. No L...Noel!



Professions Code)
Publish:ES Mountain Views News
Dates Pub: Dec. 2, 9,16, 23, 2023

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023258242

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: KONA ICE NORTH VALLEY LA 18017 CHATSWORTH STREET 270 GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344; KONA ICE OF SIMI VALLEY 18017 CHATSWORTH STREET 270 GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344. LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) FOODIE FRIDAYS LLC 18017 CHATSWORTH STREET 270 GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344 This Business is conducted by: AN LLC. Signed: FOODIE FRIDAYS LLC JOSHUA HALL, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/01/2023. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/02/2023. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish:ES Mountain Views News
Dates Pub: Dec. 2, 9,16, 23, 2023

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023256736

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CASTAIC INN 31411 RIDGE ROUTE ROAD CASTAIC, CA. 91384. AON 201622510114 LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) DSM HOSPITALITY LLC 31411 RIDGE ROUTE ROAD CASTAIC, CA. 91384 This Business is conducted by: AN LLC. Signed: DSM HOSPITALITY LLC, PANKAJ VANMALI PATEL, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/20/2023. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2016. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this

state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023258442

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: VOQUE HEALING CENTER 2445 HONOLULU AVE MONTEROSE, CA. 91020. LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) SHOOHIG SUSAN AVAKIAN 2445 HONOLULU AVE MONTEROSE, CA. 91020 This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SHOOHIG SUSAN AVAKIAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/29/2023. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/2023. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish:ES Mountain Views News
Dates Pub: Dec. 2, 9,16, 23, 2023

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023256127

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BOUNCE LA 830 N MELROSE HILL LOS ANGELES, CA. 90029;BOUNCE 830 N MELROSE HILL LOS ANGELES, CA. 90029 AON C5309105 LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) BOUNCE INC. 25876 THE SHD ROAD 318 STEVENSON RANCH, CA. 91381. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: BOUNCE INC., LUISA ANNABELLE TAYLOR, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/29/2023. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/2022. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing

of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2023257256

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A & M PLUMBING 702 S. BEL AIRE DR BURBANK, CA 91501; A & M PLUMBING P.O. BOX 10093 BURBANK, CA. 91510. LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ARARAT GHADIMIAN 702 S. BEL AIRE DR BURBANK, CA. 91501. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ARARAT GHADIMIAN, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/30/2023. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/2023. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish:ES Mountain Views News
Dates Pub: Dec. 2, 9,16, 23, 2023

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JASON LAVERT DEWITT CASE NO. 23STPB12011

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JASON LAVERT DEWITT

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by BRENDA DeWITT in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that BRENDA DeWITT be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with full authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/10/2024 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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12/9, 16, 23, 30, 2023
MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF FRANCIS JOSEPH SPEERS aka FRANCIS J. SPEERS aka FRANCIS SPEERS Case No. 23STPB13156

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of FRANCIS JOSEPH SPEERS aka FRANCIS J. SPEERS aka FRANCIS SPEERS

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Michael Speers in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Michael Speers be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests au-thority to administer the estate under the Independent Admin-istration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many ac-tions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10, 2024 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 67 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your ap-pearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the de-cedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative ap-pointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an in-ventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or ac-count as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
JANICE LEE SHEN ESQ
SBN 290049
CUNNINGHAM LEGAL
2700 FOOTHILL BLVD
STE 306
PASADENA, CA 91107
CN102265 SPEERS Dec 16,23,30, 2023

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DANA GELBERT CASE NO. 23STPB13549

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the lost WILL or estate, or both of DANA GELBERT.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GEORGE P. MILTON in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GEORGE P. MILTON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's lost WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The lost WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/12/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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12/16, 12/23, 12/30/23
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...visit Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves!



Kids: color stuff in!

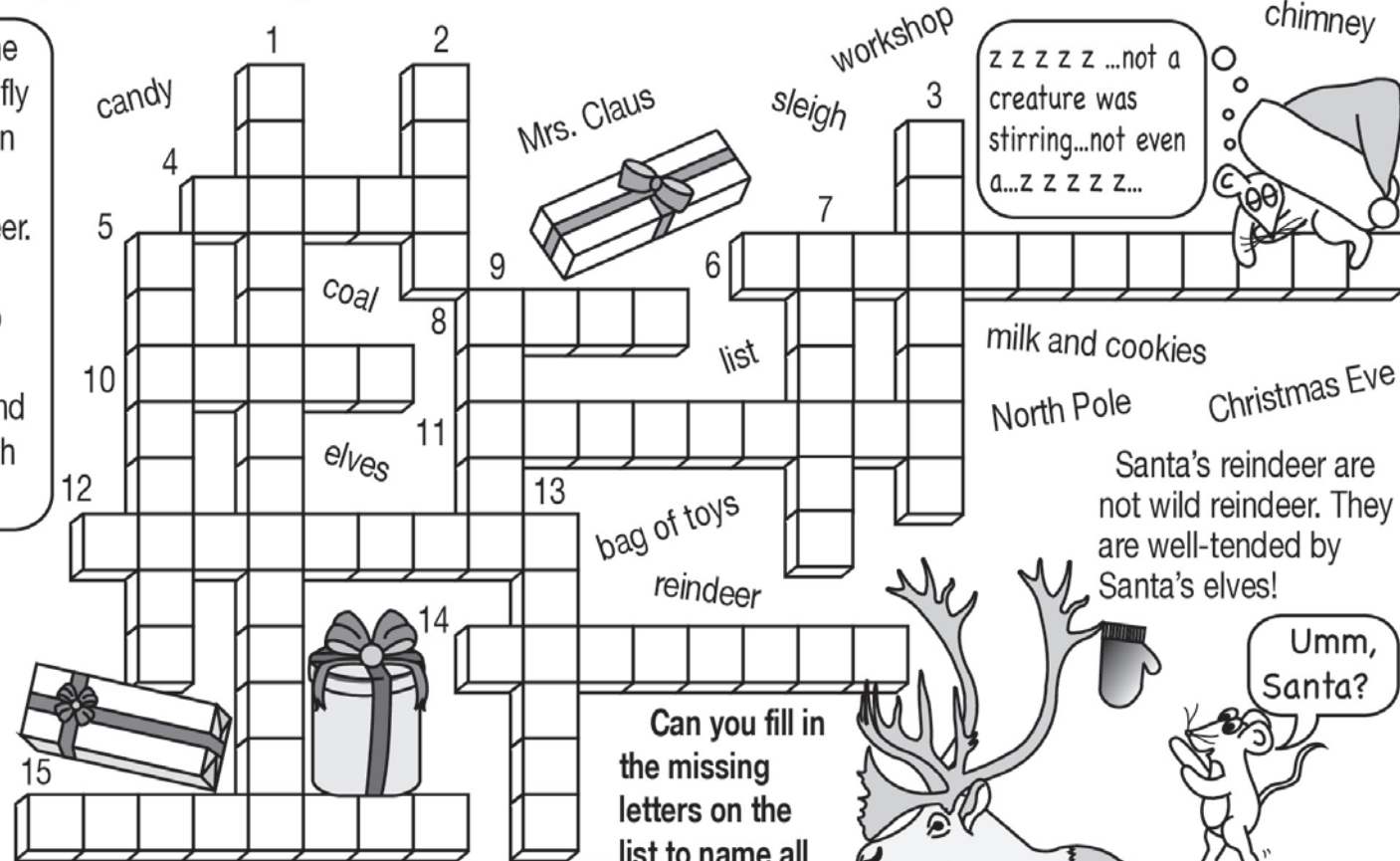
I can't find my hat. Do you see it?



Where is my mitten? Can you find it?

I'm ready for the big night when I'll fly around the world in a sleigh pulled by my magical reindeer. I love to come down chimneys to put toys under Christmas trees and stuff stockings with lots of goodies!

All About Santa



Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle:

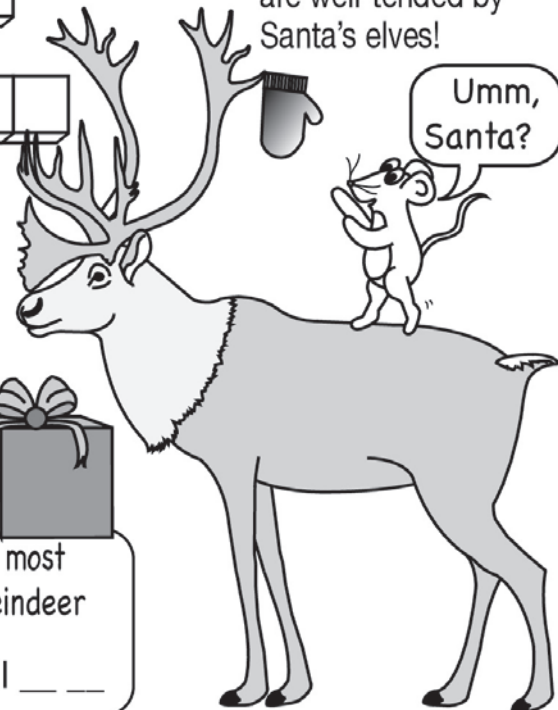
1. said to be Santa's favorite treat on Christmas Eve
2. Santa writes this to remember each child's behavior
3. where Santa enters the house to deliver presents
4. they build the toys and help Santa with all chores
5. Santa Claus' cheerful wife; keeps Santa organized
6. night Santa flies around the world in his sleigh
7. jolly phrase that Santa shouts from his sleigh
8. if you misbehave, expect a lump of _____ in your stocking
9. Santa might leave sweet treats like _____ canes in stockings
10. also known as Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle or Father Christmas (Russia)
11. where Santa lives - it's very cold, but Mrs. Claus keeps the house cozy
12. Santa carries the perfect gift for every good boy and girl in his _____
13. to get to every house in one night, Santa flies in a big red _____
14. wild _____ are still found in Siberia, Greenland, Alaska and Canada
15. where all the toys are made and the elves work their magic

Can you fill in the missing letters on the list to name all of Santa's reindeer?

- D _ _ s h _ _ r
- D a _ _ _ e r
- P _ a n c _ _ _
- V _ _ x _ _ n
- _ _ o m e _ _
- C u _ _ i _ _
- D _ n _ _ e r
- B _ i _ _ z e n

...and the most famous reindeer of all...
u d o l _ _ _

Umm, Santa?



HUDDLE UP



With **HARVEY HYDE**

\$\$\$\$. WHEN IS ENOUGH ENOUGH?

We understand that when we do a job, we hope and expect to be paid for the work we do. Some of us may even get a "bonus" for doing extra or special work for assisting the company or business in achieving it's goals. In sports, no one recognizes great talent and ability more than I do, BUT... How much "appreciation" is just too much!?

Football, basketball, baseball, hockey... and now, college athletics (a job?) – We have been putting a lot of dollars into the hands of these "players." Not doctors, medical researchers, teachers,

Fifty million a year. How much is that per inning? Or \$500,000 to each player for winning an added tournament during their regular season. And now, a 700 million dollar contract for a pitcher and pinch hitter with an arm problem. This guy will bring publicity to his team and a couple of good stories for TV and the sports page. So, who will really pay for these and so

many other high dollar contracts? Yes, sports is big business. They (teams, venues etc) must be making money. Congratulations to the players and coaches and others who can get that kind of money ... But these teams are not in the business of losing money... so who will eventually pay? I guess we will.

Media people may think it's great. They get to write these stories... and.... They get into games free with a media credential anyway so they can write these stories. But the rest of us will be checking the season's ticket prices that go up every year. How about parking, beverages, food, memorabilia, jerseys, programs, popcorn etc. AND for some of us, we will also be paying for the chance to watch some of our favorite teams on TV. Yep, teams make lots more dollars on television rights (networks and cable and streaming)

Okay, those are the professionals. What about the college athlete? The youngsters who are going to school and also playing a sport. The "amateur" athletes. Enter: Name Image Likeness (NIL) and the PORTAL. No longer does a student get into college with an athletic scholarship and a chance for a free college degree. Get coaching as a freshman and sophomore, practice and training and food, housing to become part of a university team program. Working up to the chance to play on the first string the junior senior year reaching for victories and traditions.

Now, an unsatisfied player--- underappreciated or over played by another at his position---can look elsewhere to play and be more appreciated at a different school. There are agents and

scouts who are looking for just such a player. The word on the streets is that it can cost between one and three million dollars to "sign" a transfer quarterback to a major program. Other positions can take advantage of this option as well. For the college athlete... have a great freshman and sophomore year, then go "free agency." Look for the highest bidder. Someone will pay. Get NIL also. Look for the program in a city that has good media options and appeal for sponsorships.

Gone are the days I remember when an athlete on scholarship could not get anything that was not available to the rest of the student body. A free dinner at a restaurant? NO! A trip back home to see a dying relative? NO! Free tickets to a game? NO! In past days, I did believe some of the rules were unfair. But the powers that be have certainly reversed their rulings and philosophy regarding amateurs in many sports and levels.

Do I blame the players? How can I? It seems to be about money, making a living, getting paid on all levels. Even high school parents are planning their kids next moves toward the future through making money. Not getting a great education at a great school but how can they manipulate the system to get to the bank. Start here, transfer there. For some, school and sports may not be just for making friends, being proud of from where you graduated. High power players and high power dollars are a big deal.

We'll watch and see how/when/if the increase is passed on to us. Will we need a second job?

Happy Holidays.. Look for me @coachharveyhyde. or Harveyhyde.com

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JOHN HARABEDIAN was born and raised in Sierra Madre, in the heart of the 41st Assembly District. John is a California State Commission President, attorney, father, and former City Councilmember and Mayor. He was elected to the Sierra Madre City Council in 2012, re-elected in 2016, and twice served as Mayor. As Mayor, John worked to improve city services, strengthen fire protection, and support local businesses. Professionally, John has worked as a prosecutor at the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and as an attorney at Latham & Watkins.

A proud graduate of Loyola High School, John earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University, master's degree in comparative social policy from Oxford University, and law degree from Stanford University. John and his wife Young-Gi are the proud parents of three boys.



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Paid for by John Harabedian for Assembly 2024 FPPC ID #1462230



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