



# Happy Thanksgiving

## Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

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Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2025

VOLUME 19 NO. 47



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### SIERRA MADRE DEBRIS BASINS MAINTENANCE UPDATE



November 21, 2025 – Sierra Madre is protected by a network of nine debris basins and one public rail & timber structure, designed to capture and manage mud, rocks, and runoff from the hills above the City. These basins maintained by the City of Sierra Madre or the Los Angeles

County Department of Public Works, and serve as the primary defense for foothill neighborhoods against potential debris flows.

Following the Eaton Fire, the slopes above Sierra Madre became more vulnerable to debris flows during rain events. Since that time, City and County crews have conducted sediment removal, restored basin capacity, and monitored conditions to reduce storm-related risks. During recent storm events, all cleared basins performed as intended, with no overflows or damage reported to downstream properties.

The table shown on page 5 provides an overview of each structure protecting Sierra Madre, including management, structure type, and recent status. (continued pg.4)

### THE SM WOMEN'S CLUB 49<sup>TH</sup> INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST



Photo by Dave Felt

There couldn't have been a more beautiful day for the Sierra Madre Woman's Club's 49<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Community Prayer Breakfast, held this year at Hartzell Hall, our town's United Methodist Church's social hall.

In the wake of our past year's challenges, SMWC President Sandi Krutell welcomed everyone. Our local ministers sharing their reflections on "Praise and Thanksgiving" were: SM United Methodist's brand new Reverend John Yoon, Church of Christ's Mr. Jack Scott, Episcopal Church of the Ascension's Father Michael Bamberger, Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center's Father Febin Barose, St. Rita's Deacon Chuck McDaniels, and Bahai'i Faith's Mr. Steven Licata all .

Special guests included Adriana Perez, Assemblyman John Harabedian's Field Rep., PUSD Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Blanco and PUSD's District 6 (Sierra Madre) representative Mrs. Tina Wu Fredericks. (Continued on page4)

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

**2025**

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

**Make certain you have your decorations  
up by: DECEMBER 16, 2025.**

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

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE  
DECEMBER 20th EDITION OF THE PAPER!**

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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HAPPY  
Thanksgiving



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## Let's Celebrate Together & Buy Local! 2026 SIERRA MADRE'S HOLIDAY WINTER VILLAGE FESTIVAL & TREE LIGHTING (6PM)

DECEMBER

06

12- 8:00 PM

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want more info visit [www.sierramadrechamber.com](http://www.sierramadrechamber.com)

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STORE HOURS:  
Tuesday-Friday 11am-4pm  
Saturday 11am-3:00pm

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SIERRA MADRE

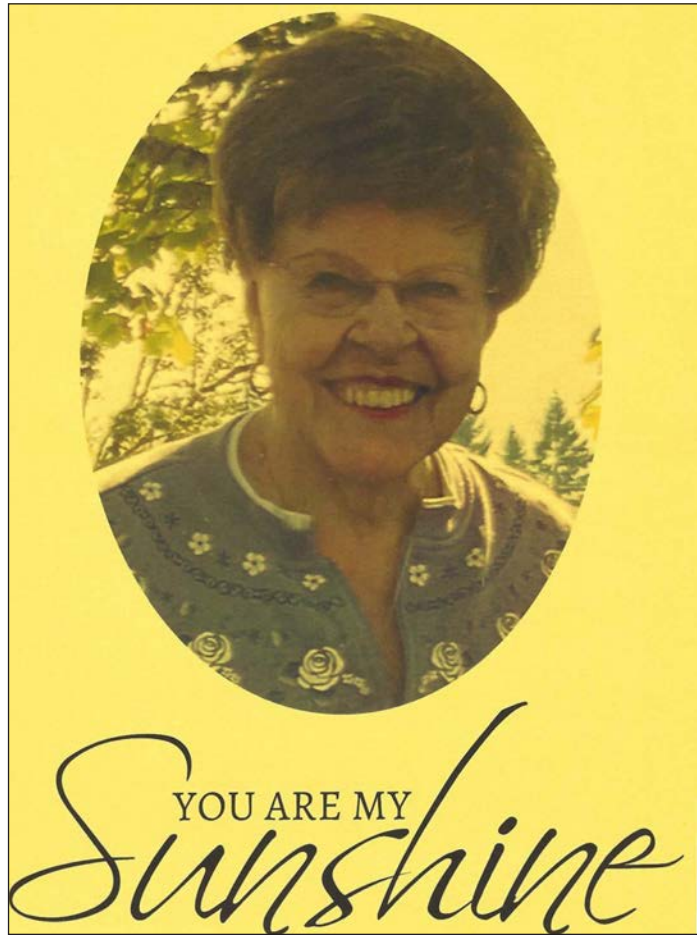
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REMEMBRANCE



CONNIE HASTINGS

Long time resident of Sierra Madre, Connie Hastings passed away September 18th at her home in Scottsburg OR. She grew up in Sierra Madre and was very active in the community.

She worked at Hoegees Camp up in the San Gabriel Mountains as a teenager.

She was the first woman President of the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce in 1978.

Connie ran the Sierra Madre Glass shop and later opened R T Hastings Construction Co with her husband Bob.

She loved to swim, ski, fish, dance and entertain friends.

She was the daughter of Mary Perkins owner of Mary Market in the Canyon.

She is survived by her daughters Colleen, Doreen, Kathy and sons Michael, and Bob Jr., sisters Kathy Fisher, Maureen Daniels and Eileen Perkins, Grandchildren and Great Grand children nieces and nephews.

INTERFAITH BREAKFAST (continued from page 1)

and our Mountain Views News Owner / Editor, Susan Henderson. Our City Council was represented by Gene Goss and Kelly Kriebs (both former mayors, along with other former mayors Rachelle Arizmendi, Clem Bartolai, and Rob Stockly).

City Staff was represented by our new City Manager, Michael Bruckner, Assistant City Manager Miguel Hernandez. City Clerk Laura Aguilar, Planning Manager Clare Lin, City Librarian Leila Regan, our Interim Public Works Director Brian Dickensen, Treasurer Sue Spears and our Fire Chief Brent Bartlett and Police Chief-Gus Barrientos. Sierra Madre's Community Services and Commissions were also well represented: Supervisor Ted Tegart; Commission Liaisons: Library Board of Trustees with Leigh Gluck, Natural Resources by the City's James Carlson, Planning Commission by Kevin Brennan, Revenue Ad Hoc Committee with Roberta Malfitano; and Senior Commission by Mia Khadour.

Our various schools were represented by La Salle's Ernst Siy, Marshal High's Lori Touloumian, Alverno Heights Academy's Joanne Harabedian, Sierra Madre Middle School's Garrett Newsom, and Bridge Montessori's Ms. Aartha.

From our many non-profits, we had representatives from the British Home, Cancer Support Community, CERT, Chamber of Commerce; Civic Club; Disabled American Veterans; Emergency (Ham Radio) Communications Team; Fletcher Fund; Kiwanis; Sierra Madre Playhouse; Rose Float Association; SMEAC; Spero Foundation; and our VFW #3208.

From our Citizens and Older Americans of the Year we had: Heidi Hartman 2025, Mary Carney 2024, Bob & Sue Spears 2021; De & Pat Alcorn 2017; Clem & Nina Bartolai-2015; Marlene Enmark 2012 and Richard Mays 2011.

Started during a time of deep city strife, the Prayer Breakfast is one of only two "sit-down" events each year where our government officials, educators, non-profit leaders and other active and involved leaders and residents can come together and share what's going on "in person". Ideas flow, connections are made, and together we reflect on what makes Sierra Made the truly special community it is. Huge thanks to our SMWC members helping before and during the Breakfast. And please, mark your calendars now for our 50th Annual Interfaith Community Prayer Breakfast next year on Wednesday, November 18, 2026.





FREE SUPPORT & PROGRAMS FOR  
ANYONE IMPACTED  
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- Healthy Lifestyle Classes such as yoga, meditation, cooking classes and more.
- Lunch and Learn, October 29: Breast Cancer Screening, Treatment & Recovery

For a complete list of free programs please visit our website.

626-796-1083  
www.CancerSupportSGV.org  
331 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

REGISTER HERE



SENIOR HOLIDAY EXCURSION

Senior Excursion  
Mission Inn  
Festival of Lights  
Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025  
3:00-10:00pm

222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca 91024  
-Bus will depart from the Hart Park House Senior Center. Please arrive 15min prior to departure time.

The 2025 Mission Inn Festival of Lights returns this holiday season celebrating the 33rd Anniversary featuring gold and red lights displays, décor, activities, and attractions along Main Street. Enjoy millions of holiday lights at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa along with holiday-themed decorations in the downtown area at what has become one of the nation's most popular holiday events and lights display.

For more information please contact Community Services Department  
626-355-5278

\$20/Per Person  
\*Registration Required



Register Today!

BASIN SUMMARY AND STATUS UPDATE (cont. from page 1)

**YUCCA TRAIL RAIL AND TIMBER STRUCTURE STATUS AND ACTION PLAN**  
Following the Santa Anita Fire above Sierra Madre in April 2008, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works constructed a rail-and-timber structure on Yucca Trail, located above Woodland Drive, and adjacent to the Nature Friends facility in Sierra Madre's lower canyon area. Completed in 2009, the structure assisted in managing anticipated mud and debris flows during heavy rain events. It has performed as designed—capturing debris approximately two inches in diameter or larger while allowing muddy water to pass between the timber planks.

In 2015, the County determined that the post-fire risk of mud and debris flows had subsided and informed the City that it intended to remove the structure unless Sierra Madre agreed to assume ongoing maintenance responsibilities. In 2015, the City assumed ownership and maintenance of the structure and basin; however, funding for ongoing maintenance of the basin has been limited.

Post Eaton Fire, the Yucca Trail basin is the only remaining site requiring clearance. Planning and coordination are underway, a contractor has been selected, and work is scheduled to begin once weather conditions allow—likely in early December—and will take about two-months to complete. Approximately \$60,000 in funding for this work was approved in the Fiscal Year 2025/26 adopted budget.

**BASIN MONITORING AND EXPECTED UPGRADES**  
City and County public works departments continuously monitor debris basins and watershed conditions. When sediment or debris accumulation reaches established limits, crews perform timely removal and maintenance to restore capacity and reduce downstream risk.

Under normal, unburned watershed conditions, debris basins are cleaned out when they reach 25% of total capacity. Under burned watershed conditions, the threshold is lowered to 5%. Once these limits are reached, the basin is cleared and returned to 100% available capacity.

Several real-time webcams are available for public viewing to help residents and emergency personnel observe watershed and debris basin conditions during storm events. The following cameras provide direct visibility into the basins above Sierra Madre:

- Bailey Canyon Debris Basin 1
- Bailey Canyon Debris Basin 2
- Sierra Madre Dam Bridge
- Sierra Madre Canyon 1 (Sierra Madre Dam)
- Sierra Madre Canyon 2 (Sierra Madre Dam)

To view Sierra Madre specific debris basin monitoring cameras listed above, please go to: the City website [sierramadrecalifornia.gov](http://sierramadrecalifornia.gov).

These feeds are part of the State's AlertCalifornia monitoring network operated by UC San Diego. The system provides high-resolution, continuously updated imagery that allows City personnel and emergency responders to assess slope conditions, debris flow potential, and storm impacts in real time.

In addition to utilizing the existing camera network, the City is exploring a partnership with UCSD to install new monitoring stations at City-maintained debris basins and structures. This effort aims to strengthen situational awareness, improve early detection capabilities, and enhance operational decision-making during severe weather events.

For more information, contact Sierra Madre Public Works at (626) 355-7135 or visit the City website [sierramadrecalifornia.gov](http://sierramadrecalifornia.gov).

To receive Emergency Alerts, please register at Nixle and Genasys Emergency Communications.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library announce their December Book Sale is coming up fast. It will be held on Friday, December 5 (3:00-7:00 p.m.) and Saturday, December 6 (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) Featured this time will be a number of NEW gifts and holiday books, CDs and DVDs! Look for 2025 Fiction and Non-Fiction books suitable for gifts as well as large-format books on Art, Cooking, Culture and History. A special collection on Craftsman and Bungalow houses will be for sale; also a large collection of children's books on the American Revolution, just in time for the country's 250th birthday.

Don't forget our WONDERFUL \$5.00 Bag Sale on Saturday. Choose from all of our Bargain books and Media to place in a large grocery bag for only \$5.00!

This will be the last Book Sale for a few months as we work to fill the empty shelves of our BRAND-NEW Friends' Bookstore in the remodeled main library. Look for our special Grand Opening in June 2026.



# SIERRA MADRE

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## Weather Wise



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Sun</b>	Ptly Cldy	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
<b>Tues:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 9, 2025 5:30 pm

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](mailto:PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com) by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

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

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at [foothillsmmedia.org/sier-ramadre](http://foothillsmmedia.org/sier-ramadre) 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](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).

To all our dear friends who have been earnestly beseeching our Heavenly Father for rain...you can stop now! Flooding and sandbags are an indication that our land has been sufficiently watered for the time being. Thank you, Lord!

Thanksgiving is next Thursday! How did it arrive so quickly?? I've got all the stuff to make Helen's Lime Jell-O Salad and a lovely cook-in-the-bag turkey breast in the freezer waiting for the festive day. We're looking forward to a delightful time together with eggnog and way too much food. Thanksgiving brings us all together to give thanks for God's blessings and for each other. We feel such gratitude as we assemble plates of turkey, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. We're pretty sure everything will be delicious but there have been years when it was...well, a different sort of experience...like this one...

#### The Ghost of Thanksgivings Past

The Festive Bird is in the stove,  
It's time now for a nap.  
I laid me down, closed my eyes,  
And at the window heard a tap.  
It's far too soon for guests to come,  
I need a little peace!  
The stuffing's ready, cranberries chillin',  
Pies overflow with pumpkin fillin'.  
The tap just keeps on at my window,  
But I'm not gonna look!  
There's nothing more for me to do,  
This is one tired and sleepy cook.  
So I snuggled deep down in my afghan,  
Turned my head the other way.  
I don't care who's at that window,  
They can tap all day.  
Off I went to slumberland and dreamed a lovely dream,  
A kitchen, clean and spotless, everything just right.  
But then I dreamt a dreadful dream,  
That made me shriek with fright!  
The tapping at my window,  
More insistent grew.  
And what was out there tapping,  
I'll now describe to you.  
The Ghost of my Thanksgivings Past,  
A turkey that was huge!  
Tapped his enormous beak at my window,  
And gobbled.... "J' accuse!"  
"Fifty Thanksgivings, and more," he said,  
"Since you walked down that wedding aisle.  
So many turkeys you've served up,  
With sweet potatoes and a smile."

"All those turkeys come and gone,  
And still your gravy's awful!  
And the year the turkey hit the floor,  
Should be declared... unlawful!"  
"Most of them were nicely done, I'll give you that," he said.  
"But some were cooked so badly,  
You should have ordered Chinese instead!"  
What an awful dream, I thought, as I cowered in my bed.  
But the Ghostly Turkey wasn't finished,  
With his accusations many.  
And I, stuttering out my pathetic excuses,  
Discovered I hadn't any!

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE The Social Side

by Deanne Davis



But then he smiled and said to me,  
"Your crimes are all forgiven.  
For those who've gathered at your table,  
Have rejoiced and laughed for hours."  
"We turkeys relish meals like these,  
They are sweet as summer flowers!  
Enjoy today, with friends and family,  
gathered 'round your table,  
Give thanks for health and joy and peace...  
Then share this Thanksgiving fable."  
And with a last gobble...gobble, the Ghost of Thanksgivings Past,  
Flew up, up, and away...  
And I heard him exclaim, ere he flew out of sight...  
"Happy Thanksgiving to all...  
And for heaven's sake, learn to make better gravy!"

Hope your Thanksgiving is the best one ever, with delicious food, delightful friends and family and gratitude for all the blessings we enjoy.

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
Christmas is just a few short weeks away and my book:  
"Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"  
Would be a really nice gift for everyone you know. It's on Amazon.com  
"Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story is there, too.



Sierra Madre Public  
**LIBRARY**  
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the  
**Sierra Madre  
Public Library**

November 24— November 30

#### Monday

**Baby Rhyme Time — Library at**  
9:00am

**Preschool Storytime — Library at**  
10:00am

#### Wednesday

**Green Teens— Hart Park House at**  
4:00pm

#### Thursday—Sunday

**Library Closed for Holiday—**  
No Services

Regular hours will resume on  
Monday, December 1, 2025.

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

# Santa Parade

SATURDAY | 13 DECEMBER | 6:15 PM  
SIERRA VISTA PARK

## Meet & Greet Santa

AT SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT | 6:30 PM

NOW ACCEPTING  
DONATIONS FOR

**TOYS FOR TOTS**

THROUGH 12/15.

AT FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CITY HALL





# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Thanksgiving Holiday Closures and Reminders

Pasadena residents and businesses are reminded that City Hall and most City services will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Specific closures, exceptions, and reminders are noted below.

Pasadena residents and businesses with any power emergencies should call the Pasadena Water and Power Department (PWP) at (626) 744-4673. For water-related emergencies, call (626) 744-4138. PWP's Customer Service Call Center will be closed for the holiday, but customers can access their accounts and make payments through the automated phone system at (626) 744-4005 or online at PWPweb.com.

The City Service Center (CSC) will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and Friday. Individuals can contact the CSC via the web or by calling (626) 744-7311.

Regular trash and recycling collection for Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, will occur on Friday, Nov. and Friday's collection will occur on Saturday.

The City's Permit Center will also be closed on Thursday, and Friday. However, many services will be available via Permit Center Online.

Pasadena Transit Route 33 will run a Sunday Schedule on Thursday. All other routes and Dial-A-Ride service will not run on Thanksgiving Day. Regular service will resume on Friday.

All parking meters are free and parking time limits will not be enforced on Thanksgiving Day, but shoppers are advised that all regular meter enforcement will resume Friday. Overnight and all safety and access violations such as red zones and fire hydrants will continue to be enforced.

All Pasadena Public Library sites will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday and will remain closed the following two days. On Saturday, the Hastings, Hill Avenue, La Pintoresca and San Rafael Branch Libraries will be open for regular hours, all other Pasadena Public Libraries will remain closed.

All recreation and community centers operated by the City's Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, but all parks will be open for picnics, fun, and play. No site reservations are accepted for the holiday.

Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to be staffed for all patrol, jail, fire, paramedic, and other emergency services. Always call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies. For non-emergencies, call (626) 744-4241. The police department's records section will be closed Thursday and Friday and will reopen Monday.

The City of Pasadena, in partnership with Visit Pasadena, is launching a citywide campaign that kicks off on Small Business Saturday on Saturday, a nationally recognized day to support small and independently owned businesses and continues throughout December. To celebrate, select independent businesses will host welcome stations offering FREE limited-edition tote bags (while supplies last), featuring this year's special "Shop Small Pasadena" design.

## Mayor set for Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

City officials announced Wednesday that residents can join Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo for this year's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 5, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Pasadena City Hall. This free celebration will feature local singers and dancers, crafts for kids provided by Armory Center for the Arts, light refreshments, and a special appearance by jolly ol' Santa Claus.

Mayor Gordo will light the City's official tree at 6 p.m.

Pasadena firefighters will be collecting donations of new, unwrapped toys, sports equipment and gift cards for the annual Spark of Love Toy Drive.

Live entertainment throughout the night will feature performances by Afterschool Adventures Cheer & Dance, Outspoken Dance Company, Rosebud Academy Choir, W.O.W.! On the Move, and Elements Dance Space! You can also



write a letter to Santa as part of Operation Santa by Pasadena Jaycees.

Be sure to have your camera handy to capture some festive holiday moments at their photo stop courtesy of Oh! Snaptastic! Photo

Booth by Girl Squad Media.

For more information about the event visit: CityOfPasadena.net.

## Pasadena Police K-9 Team Shines at K-9 Trials



Pasadena Chief of Police, Eugene Harris, announced that last week, Pasadena Police Officer John Lewy and his K-9 partner, Barry, proudly represented the Pasadena Police Department at the 28th annual Riverside County Sheriff K-9 Trials – one of the most respected and anticipated events in the K-9 law enforcement community.

Hosted each year by the Riverside County Sheriff's Office the competition and public safety fair bring together top K-9 teams from across the country. The event showcases the extraordinary skill, discipline, and dedication required of working police dogs and their handlers. From detection and agility challenges to tactical obedience drills, the trials highlight the real-world scenarios these teams face every day in service to their communities.

Officer Lewy and K-9 Barry competed in the explosives detection category demonstrating remarkable teamwork and precision throughout a series of highly technical challenges. Their hard work and rigorous training paid off and were awarded 2nd place in vehicle searches, 3rd place in article searches, and 3rd place overall.

Their success not only highlights the strength of the Pasadena Police Department's K-9 program but also underscores the vital role these teams play in enhancing public safety. The City congratulates Officer Lewy and K-9 Barry on their impressive achievements and for proudly representing Pasadena on a national stage.

For more visit: cityofpasadena.net/police.

## Doo Dah Takeover and Doo Dah Queen Tryouts to Replace this Year's Parade



Although this year's Doo Dah Parade will not be gallivanting down the streets of Pasadena the "Occasional Parade" is not going quietly. Instead, on Sunday, what was to be the day of the parade, November 23, is set for The Doo Dah Takeover — a two-part celebration of music, mayhem, and merriment in Old Pasadena.

According to event organizers the day will begin at Dog Haus Biergarten on Green Street with a cabaret of Doo Dah legends and curious newcomers. From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the venue will come alive with interspersed performances of entertainers and potential Doo Dah Queens. Live music from Count Smokula, MA the Band, Señor Groucho, StOnYaTil, The Rock and Roll Preservation Society, Robby Ravenwood and the Funhouse Porcupines, Bone Creek, and 2024 Doo Dah Queen Sparrow Dena will occur between auditions from would-be-royals. Queen Sparrow Dena will be escorted by ushers 2024 Royal Night Romo the Robo and Royal Light Mrs. Roper. This portion of the party will be an all-ages fest, so Doo Dah lovers with munchkins are welcome to bring them along in their Halloween costumes for a final romp before they go back in the attic. The costumes too.

Following these festivities, the party continues just a few blocks away at The Old Towne Pub for the official 21+ After Party,

running from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This event will include the coronation of Doo Dah's 2025 Queen, followed by psychedelic live music with Ashton Slater's Grateful Get-Down.

Individuals of every gender, shape, and persuasion will test their mettle to win the coveted crown. On hand for the wild ride will be queen-hopefuls, former Queens, Everlasting King Clayton, Doo Dah Preservation Society's Magistrate Vince, Czar Tom, Andrew Duke of Doo Dah, Rocket Man the emcee, veteran parade entrants, tryout supporters, and the morbidly curious. The queen role is not exclusive to gender, sexuality, race, class, shape, or even species. Yes, lizards, birds, dogs, and critters of all kinds have tried out for the role of Queen! A would-be queen of the human persuasion must have made 21 trips around the sun. All other species may apply at any age.

"Be prepared to show a panel of judges, Doo Dah glitterati all, why you deserve to wear the crown this year," they said. "Dress to fit the part and be ready to put on a show. Whether it's song, dance, speech, juggling, sword-swallowing, plate-spinning, fire breathing, glass blowing, mind reading, genuine magic, or turning invisible, the judges will be looking for someone who is the life of the party."

For more information visit: pasadenadoodahparade.info.

## One Colorado Holiday Toy Drive for Children in Need

*Visitors Encouraged to Donate New Toys, Books and Wrapping Supplies to Bring Joy and Hope to Local Families This Season*

One Colorado, a shopping and dining destination in the heart of Old Pasadena, invites the community from November 28 through December 15, to spread holiday cheer by participating in a toy drive to support Union Station Homeless Services.

Guests are encouraged to

donate new, unwrapped toys and books for children of all ages – from infants to teens up to 18 years old. To help families add an extra touch of holiday magic, wrapping paper and gift bag donations are also welcome. All items can be dropped off during regular business hours in the collection barrel located near Santa's station in The Courtyard. Every contribution helps bring joy and hope to local families in need this holiday season.

One Colorado is located at 41 Hugus Aly, Pasadena.

To learn more, visit: onecolorado.com.



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# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## \$60 MILLION SECURED FOR ALTADENA COMMUNITY CENTER



Supervisor Kathryn Barger poses in front of rendering of the future Charles White Park Community Center and park plan, alongside Paulina Alvarez and Ian White, son of the park's namesake, Charles White. (Photo credit: Diandra Jay, LA County)

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger announced this week that more than \$60 million has been secured to support the comprehensive restoration and rapid rebuilding of all Altadena parks destroyed or damaged in the Eaton Fire. Supervisor Barger delivered the announcement alongside Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Director Norma E. García-González, community partners, and residents during an event held inside the renovated Loma Alta Park gymnasium. Large renderings illustrating the future of Eaton Canyon Natural Area, Farnsworth Park, and Charles White Park helped set the stage for the County's long-term recovery plans.

Supervisor Barger emphasized that while the County has secured a major funding milestone, the \$60 million raised so far represents only about one-third of the over \$190 million needed to fully restore all impacted park spaces. She called upon philanthropic, nonprofit, and private-sector partners to join the effort to complete this ambitious community restoration.

"Altadena's parks are the heart of this community, so securing strong partnerships is essential for the thousands of displaced Eaton Fire survivors eager to reconnect," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "From little league games at Farnsworth Park to cultural festivals at Charles White Park to hiking in Eaton Canyon, these parks hold cherished memories. We are committed to bringing them back stronger than ever."

Director García-González echoed that sentiment, noting that Supervisor Barger's leadership has been critical in driving the recovery forward. "We commend the leadership and dedication of Supervisor Barger to prioritize rebuilding and restoring these cherished LA County parks for Altadena residents," said García-González. "As we approach Thanksgiving, I am truly moved by the sponsors who make this park renewal possible. And to realize our goal of reopening all our Altadena parks, we welcome new partnerships."

During the event, Supervisor Barger provided a detailed update on Altadena's unprecedented era of park investment. She described the significant progress made across multiple park sites and outlined several major restoration efforts already underway.

Altadena Trails recovery work has secured \$800,000, with completion anticipated in December 2026. The Landscape Recovery Center at Eaton Canyon Natural Area has received \$2.9 million in funding. The Eaton Canyon Nature Center project has secured \$16.2 million, but additional funds are needed to restore this educational treasure.

Barger also highlighted the upcoming renovation of Charles Farnsworth Park, which will occur in two major phases. Phase one will focus on creating a new Reflection Garden, supported by a \$5 million investment and projected to begin construction in late spring 2026. Phase two, which involves broader enhancements across the entire park, will begin around the same time and is supported by \$4.1 million in funding. The Altadena Golf Course is also moving toward recovery, with its first phase of restoration expected to be completed by December 2025. These efforts follow several completed park projects. Loma Alta Park underwent a \$3.4 million renovation earlier this year and reopened in May 2025, while Altadena Triangle Park reopened the following month after its own improvements. Earlier this week, The Walt Disney Company contributed an additional \$5 million toward renovating Charles White Park, bringing the total secured for that site to \$10.5 million, with groundbreaking planned for spring 2026.

Altadena residents expressed heartfelt gratitude for the progress made so far. "We truly appreciated how Loma Alta Park has continued to bring our community together since the fires," said Altadena residents Lawrence and Lorena Dean. "We're looking forward to the return of the golf course and the full restoration of all parks in Altadena, so our neighborhoods can keep thriving and gathering in the spaces that mean so much to us."

While major strides have been made, Director García-González noted that the department sustained over \$250 million in damages from the Eaton Fire, and funding is still required to complete remaining fire recovery projects. The Los Angeles County Parks Foundation is accepting tax-deductible contributions to support a number of key areas, including Altadena Trails, additional restoration efforts within the Eaton Canyon Natural Area, the rebuilding of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center, major improvements needed for the Davies Building and surrounding facilities at Charles Farnsworth Park, and continued recovery of the Altadena Golf Course.

The following funders and donors are supporting Altadena parks' recovery: California Conservation Corps, California State Parks, Fire Aid, Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation, LA Clippers Foundation, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pasadena Rotary Club, State of California, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Theodore Payne Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, and Tree People.

Together with community partners, donors, and local families, Supervisor Barger reaffirmed the County's commitment to restoring every park touched by the Eaton Fire, ensuring that Altadena's beloved outdoor spaces remain safe, vibrant, and resilient for generations to come.



Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Norma E. García-González, Director of LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, pose alongside Rhoi Carpena with The Walt Disney Company and event attendees (Photo credit: Diandra Jay, LA County)

## Altadena Bridge Damaged in Eaton Fire Reopens

ALTADENA (CNS) - The Lincoln Avenue Bridge, which has been closed in Altadena since May due to concerns about damage originally suffered in the Eaton Fire, has reopened with a temporary structure, county Supervisor Kathryn Barger announced Friday.

Lincoln Avenue between Altadena Drive and Palm Street was closed in May when inspectors noted new cracking and other damage on the bridge. The bridge had already been given a 7-ton weight restriction after the Eaton Fire in January, but the new damage necessitated the closure so repairs can be made.

According to Barger, a temporary bridge has now been completed, allowing the reopening of the roadway. "I am pleased to see our community's bridge reopened," Barger said in a statement. "Lincoln Avenue Bridge is a key connector along the Lincoln Avenue corridor. Reopening it means Altadena residents will have easier access to Loma Alta Park and nearby neighborhoods. It's a big deal."

The county Department of Public Works will soon begin working on a permanent bridge replacement. According to Barger, the project planning "will undergo additional community engagement and outreach to ensure the new structure meets local needs."



## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy  
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3463  
Head of School: Joanne Harabedian  
E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org  
Arcadia Christian School  
1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006  
Preschool - TK - 8th Grade  
626-574-8229/626-574-0805  
Email: inquiry@acsions.com  
Principal: Cindy Harmon  
website: www.acslions.com

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

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School  
Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal  
2660 East Orange Grove Blvd.  
Pasadena, Ca 91107  
626-793-2089  
https://school.abvmpasadena.org/

Barnhart School  
240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007  
(626) 446-5588  
Head of School: Tonya Beilstein  
Kindergarten - 8th grade  
website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School  
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527  
Preschool-TK-8th Grade  
Principal: Jonathan Hawes  
website: www.bcsions.org

Clairbourn School  
8400 Huntington Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91775  
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172  
FAX: 626-286-1528  
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy  
822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 301-9809  
Principal: Nancy Lopez  
[www.foothilloaksacademy.org](http://www.foothilloaksacademy.org)  
office@foothilloaksacademy.org

Frostig School  
971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 791-1255  
Head of School: Jenny Janetzke  
Email: jenny@frostig.org

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-2410  
Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner  
website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy  
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Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989  
website: www.highpointacademy.org  
La Salle College Preparatory  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org  
Principal Ernest Siy

Monrovia High School  
325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
(626) 471-2800 Principal: Darvin Jackson  
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Odyssey Charter School  
725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001  
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill  
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba  
website: http://phs.pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School  
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Principal: Jon McMaster (626) 355-6114  
mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org  
Website: www.st-ritaschool.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School  
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-1428  
Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso  
E-mail address: marchesso.jodi@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School  
160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom  
E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us

Walden School  
74 S San Gabriel Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166  
www.waldenschool.net

Weizmann Day School  
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(626) 797-0204  
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School  
300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln  
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District  
351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us

Arcadia Unified School District  
234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007  
(626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net

Monrovia Unified School District  
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(626) 471-2000  
Website: www.monroviashools.net

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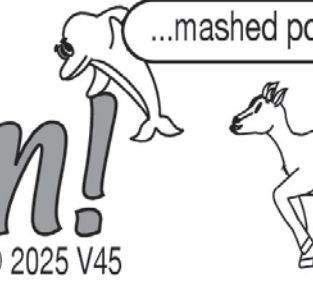
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Kids: color stuff in!

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## Happy Thanksgiving!

It's Thanksgiving! What do **you** know about the people we call the Pilgrims who we think about on this day? The Pilgrims left England in search of a place where they could worship God in their own way. They went to Holland where they found more religious freedom, but life was hard there. Also, they didn't like seeing their children begin to take on Dutch customs, language and ways of life. They decided to cross the Atlantic Ocean to the new land called America, where they could get a fresh start.

The Pilgrims had enough people to fill two ships. One ship was called Speedwell, the other Mayflower. The Speedwell was found to be leaky and unsafe, so it was left behind for repairs. One hundred and two people crowded onto the larger Mayflower to set sail.

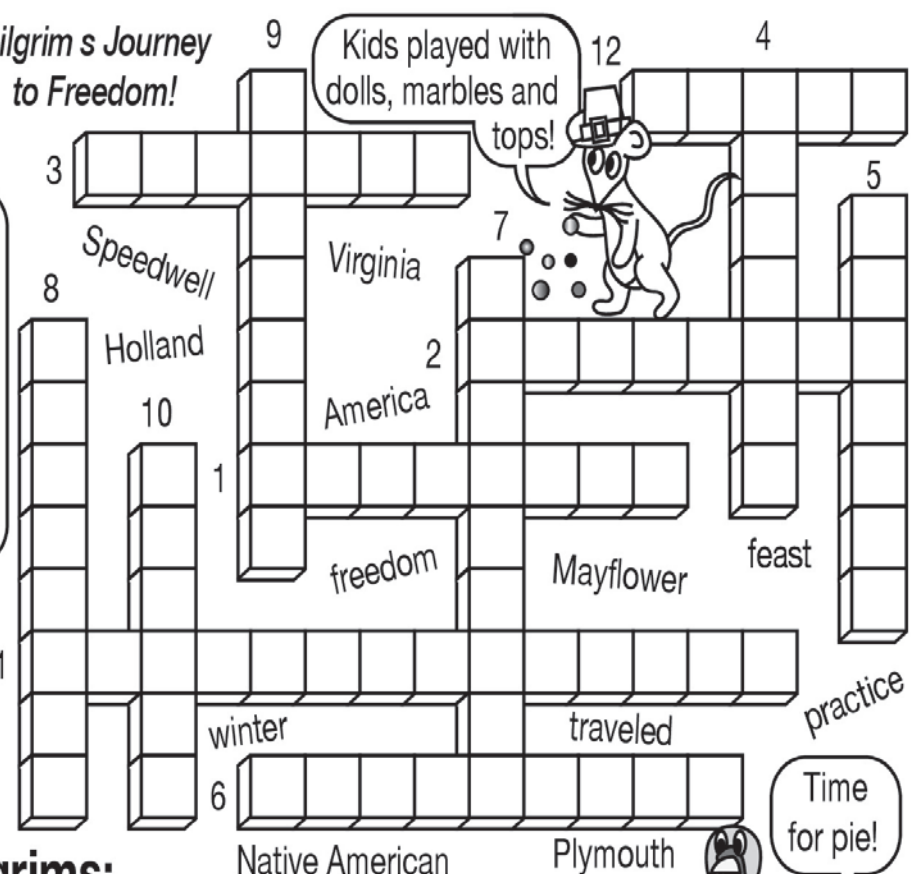
After a rough voyage, the Pilgrims spotted land and went ashore at Cape Cod to explore, do laundry and exercise. They lived on the ship until December 11, 1620, when they pulled into a cove and (it is said) stepped out onto Plymouth Rock. They settled near that cove, building a common house to share. Through the harsh winter many fell sick and died. By spring only 53 people were still alive to start the new colony!

When spring arrived a Native American named Samoset walked into the Pilgrims' colony and welcomed them. By the next fall, the 53 Pilgrims celebrated the harvest with 90 Native Americans, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. They feasted for three days on fish, waterfowl, wild turkey and deer. This First Thanksgiving is what we think about as we celebrate our Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Did you know that Pilgrims wore bright, solid colors? Kids studied at home and worked hard doing chores.

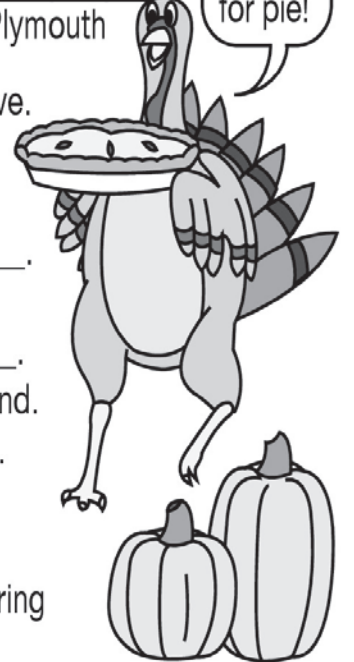


### Pilgrim's Journey to Freedom!



### The Pilgrims:

- were people who \_\_\_\_\_ to find a safe place to live.
- wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ their religion freely.
- left England to go to \_\_\_\_\_.
- were not happy there and decided to sail to \_\_\_\_\_.
- hoped to find \_\_\_\_\_ in America.
- started out with two ships, the Speedwell and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- found the \_\_\_\_\_ leaky and left it behind in England.
- headed for \_\_\_\_\_, but ended up near Cape Cod.
- started a colony near \_\_\_\_\_ Rock.
- lost many people during the first harsh \_\_\_\_\_.
- met the \_\_\_\_\_, Samoset, in the spring when he came to welcome them.
- learned from the Native Americans and shared a harvest \_\_\_\_\_.







Peter A. Dills  
<https://podlink/1116885432>

Dills Wine Picks for Your Thanksgiving Turkey

The rain has finally moved on, the sun is peeking through, and I'm already seeing early Thanksgiving shoppers—smart people. Get it done now and enjoy the holiday instead of battling the crowds.

Thanksgiving is here, and once again it's my sworn duty to recommend a lineup of wines that pair beautifully with turkey—oven baked, smoked, or even duck if you're feeling adventurous. And yes, for my Chardonnay-loving readers, my annual Chardonnay apology is coming.

Pinot Noir: The Thanksgiving MVP

A bright, high-acid Pinot Noir loaded with cherry and cranberry notes is your safest, most delicious bet. This year I'm spotlighting Bezel Pinot Noir, made by the Cakebread family and available at Gelson's and Ralphs. If the Cakebread name is attached, you know you're in good hands.

Bubbles Always Belong at the Table

You know me—I love bubbles. Domaine Carneros Brut, from the house of Taittinger, remains the closest thing to “real champagne” California has produced. Roederer Estate continues to be one of the great sparkling values out there. Both play well with turkey, stuffing, and even those surprise side dishes every family has.

Rosé on Thanksgiving? Absolutely.

My friend Matt Plunkrock, wine steward par excellence, turned me on to AIX Rosé from Provence years ago. It's refreshing, lively, and great with the lighter parts of the Thanksgiving spread.

Cabernet for the Prime Rib Crowd

If your holiday leans toward Prime Rib—like it sometimes does in the Dills household—reach for the Maddalena Cabernet. It's dependable, rich, and perfect for those who want something a little bolder at the table.

My Annual Chardonnay Apology

I say this lovingly: all that gravy, butter, stuffing, and richness will absolutely flatten most Chardonnays. But—if you must get one, my go-to is St. Francis Chardonnay. You might've even seen my billboard over the summer featuring it. Drink what you like—it is the holidays, after all.

Peter's Final Holiday Picks  
Bezel Pinot Noir (Cakebread family)

San Simeon Pinot Noir

Maddalena Cabernet

Domaine Carneros Brut

AIX Rosé

Roederer Estate

If you must: St. Francis Chardonnay

All available at your local Gelson's, Ralphs, and The Bottle Shop—where the twins can steer you exactly in the right direction.

And while you're prepping the feast, check out my podcast—just type in Peter Dills. Gobble gobble!



**INGREDIENTS:**  
2 cups butter  
1/4 cup onion juice  
1/4 cup garlic juice  
1/4 cup Louisiana-style hot sauce  
1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce  
2 tablespoons ground black pepper  
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
7 fluid ounces beer  
3 gallons peanut oil for frying, or as needed  
1 (12 pound) whole turkey, neck and giblets removed

**DIRECTIONS:**  
1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion juice, garlic juice, hot sauce, Worcestershire sauce, black pepper, cayenne pepper and beer. Mix until well blended.  
2. Use a marinade injecting syringe or turkey baster with an injector tip to inject the marinade all over the turkey including the legs, back, wings, thighs and breasts. Place in a large plastic bag and marinate overnight in the refrigerator. Do not use a kitchen trash bag. If your turkey is large, you can use an oven bag.  
3. When it's time to fry, measure the amount of oil needed by lowering the turkey into the fryer and filling with enough oil to cover it. Remove the turkey and set aside.  
4. Heat the oil to 365 degrees F (185 degrees C). When the oil has come to temperature, lower the turkey into the hot oil slowly using the hanging device that comes with turkey deep-fryers. The turkey should be completely submerged in the oil. Cook for 36 minutes, or 3 minutes per pound of turkey. The turkey is done when the temperature in the thickest part of the thigh reaches 180 degrees F (80 degrees C). Turn off the flame and slowly remove from the oil, making sure all of the oil drains out of the cavity. Allow to rest on a serving platter for about 20 minutes before carving.

DEEP FRYING A TURKEY: WHAT DO TO WITH USED OIL + FIRE SAFETY

*Do you deep fry your turkey? Before deep-frying your turkey, read these safety tips from the U.S. Fire Administration:*

Use turkey fryers outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other combustible materials. Never use turkey fryers in a garage or on a wooden deck. Make sure fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping. Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you do not watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire. Never let children or pets near the fryer, even if it is not in use. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use. To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer. Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter. Make sure the turkey is completely thawed, and be careful with marinades. Oil and water do not mix; water causes oil to spill over, causing a fire or even [becoming] an explosion hazard. The National Turkey Federation recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every five pounds in weight. Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. If the fire is manageable, use your all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call the fire department for help. Remember, cooking oil doesn't go down the drain. Recycle your used cooking oil by calling the following disposal companies listed here. You can also call around to local restaurants, who may accept used cooking oil.

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If you're thinking of making a move next year give me a call!



**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *Over the years, we have shared with you favorite recipes submitted by contributors, their families, supporters and well wishers. Some of our friends are no longer with us, but their culinary legacy still stands! We hope you will try at least one recipe. They are all really, really good!*

*Mary Lee’s (Dean Lee’s Mother)*

**Sausage Appetizers**

Also makes great sandwiches the next day !

**Ingredients**  
Refrigerated dinner rolls (10 in a tube)  
Farmer John sausage links (cut in half or thirds)  
butter on top

**Directions:**  
Take rolls and flatten separately with hand or rolling pin  
Put link in half of flat dinner roll  
(if using thirds spread sausage to cover roll)  
Fold over and seal edges by pinching  
Put 10 in ungreased cake pan  
Bake 350 degrees/20 minutes until top is golden brown

Enjoy

**Richard Garcia’s**  
**Cranberry-Pomegranate Sauce**

1 1/2 pounds fresh or frozen cranberries (6 cups)  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup pomegranate juice  
2 cups fresh pomegranate seeds

**Directions**  
In a medium saucepan, combine the cranberries with the sugar and pomegranate juice. Bring to a simmer and cook over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until most of the cranberries have burst, about 10 minutes. Scrape the cranberry sauce into a medium bowl and let stand until cool, about 2 hours. Fold in the pomegranate seeds and serve the sauce chilled or at room temperature.

**Pat Ostrye’s Non-Recipe Turkey(The Best)**

My recipe would be that my husband always fixed the turkey. I really don't know how it began but, even when we had turkey a lot through the years, he always fixed it. So when he died 21 years ago, the men in the family thought I didn't know how to do it, which was fine with me. So, for this Thanksgiving, the family is going to Martin's in Arcadia. He is the youngest who was 27 when his dad died in October of '88. A few days before Thanksgiving that year he called to say he had the turkey but where should he fix it since he had a small apt in Arcadia at that time. Two of his sisters helped him do it and they brought it all to my sister-in-law's because I was living in Escondido yet, moving back to the area the first of that year. That Christmas, the oldest son took care of it, buying and fixing 2 turkeys. As long as the family doesn't run out of men, we have it made.

**Dixie Countant’s Easy Anti-marshmallow Yams**  
For those of us who don't like marshmallow on our yams, here's the family recipe for Candied Yams.

**Ingredients:**  
Yams or sweet potatoes Butter Light Brown Sugar

Buy as many yams as you need depending on how many people are coming to dinner. I plan two medallions per person if I'm doing a full-blown dinner with all the trimmings.

Wash and slice yams (or sweet potatoes) into one-inch medallions. Steam medallions until barely done. (Not too soft) Skin the medallions by gently cutting the skin and lifting - it will almost fall off.

Arrange medallions in baking dish. (They can touch, but don't stack them) Put a small pat (aprox 1/4 tsp of butter on top of each medallion. Sprinkle light brown sugar over medallions. Cover and bake in 350 oven for 1/2 to 1 hour.

## Mary Carney’s Confetti Stuffed Mushrooms

### Thanksgiving Potluck Vegan-style Mushrooms

1-1/2	#	Mushrooms, Brown or Cremini: Separate into caps & stems.
1/3	cup	Celery, 1/8” dice
1/3	cup	Carrots, 1/8” dice
1/3	cup	Baby Bell Peppers - Yellow, Orange, Red - 1/8”
1-1/2	Tbsp	Extra Virgin Olive Oil
3/4	cup	Vegetable Broth, divided
1/4	cup	Apricot, Peach, Orange or Blackberry Brandy
3/4	tsp	Lindberg Porterhouse & Roast Seasoning (from Taylor’s)
1	cup	Parsley, Finely Chopped
2	Tbsp	Lemon juice (fresh)
1	cup	Bread Crumbs - slightly dry
1/4	cup	Pecorino-Romano Crumbled Cheese

Clean Mushrooms. Remove Stems, set caps in lightly greased baking pan with holes up.

Dice mushroom stems into 1/8” bits.. You should have 2 cups diced mushroom stems. If not enough, add more mushrooms (if you have them) to make 2 cups.

Put olive oil & ½ cup broth in sauté pan, turn heat to medium. Add Seasoning. Add celery and carrots. Layer with diced mushrooms, then diced peppers. Cover and cook slowly about 5 minutes, stirring once to ensure mushrooms and peppers get mixed with broth.

Add Parsley. Simmer another 5 minutes. Taste and add more seasoning if needed. Remember - adding breadcrumbs will soften flavor intensity.

Drain broth from sauté pan into cup.

Add remaining broth with brandy and lemon juice to mushrooms, and return to heat until broth boils. Drain this liquid also into the cup. Reserve.

Add breadcrumbs and grated cheese to drained mushrooms. Mix well. If very dry, add 1 - 2 tablespoons of reserved broth.

Stuff mushroom caps. Place neatly in greased table-ready stove top / baking dish. Carefully spoon some of the reserved broth into the dish;

Simmer gently for 5 minutes ... Add more mushrooms as the others shrink. Simmer another 5 minutes & repeat. When adding the last mushrooms, drizzle any remaining broth lightly over all the mushrooms’ stuffing for the final cooking.

Remove from heat and let cool. Serve room temperature. Or chill, and reheat just before serving. More fun to stuff the mushrooms with someone else - for sociability - after all, thanksgiving and social are what it’s all about.

## Paul Neiby’s\* CORN BREAD DRESSING

**Ingredients:**  
2 - 6 oz. bags Mrs. Cubbison’s Seasoned Cornbread Stuffing Mix  
1 cup chopped, raw white onions  
1 cup chopped raw celery  
10 dried apricots cut into pieces  
4 oz. Walnuts (they can be bought in a bag of about that size  
6-8 oz. Sausage, sauteed brown, defatted & crumbled. (Jimmy Dean brand sage flavored is good  
2 cups heated Chicken Broth  
4 tbsp. butter melted in with 1 cup of the chicken broth

**Directions:**  
Toss the vegetables and stuffing mix in a bowl. Add 1 cup of the heated broth with the melted butter and toss again. Load lightly in a greased covered casserole and bake for 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Half way through, pour the additional cup of chicken broth over the dressing.

This recipe is modified from the one that appears on the Cubbison pack by the addition of the sausage, apricot, and walnuts. The additional broth added half-way through the baking, makes the dressing moist enough but still light and discreet.

## Also from Paul Neiby:

### CREAMED PEARL ONIONS

**Ingredients:**  
Onions, small pearl as needed  
Milk, butter,flour, Worchestshire Sauce, Cayenne , Salt & Pepper

**Directions:**  
Trim the bottoms of the onions but otherwise leave them unpeeled. Drop into boiling water for 3-5 minutes. Drain and peel when cool. Reserve the onion water.

Make a medium white sauce (2/2/1) using half milkd and half onion water. You may make a Mornay Sauce by adding shredded cheddar if desired. Flavor with Worchestshire, Cayenne and salt and pepper. The sauce should be fairly thick as the cooking onions will add liquor.

Pour the sauce over the onions in a casserole and bake covered in a medium oven for 30-40 minutes.

\*The Mountain Views News exists in part because of the support of Paul and Louise Neiby. Paul is no longer with us and I miss him greatly, especially this time of year when we would argue about whether he was the better cook. These were two of his favorite Thanksgiving recipes.

## From the Pen & Kitchen of Deanne Davis:

### Thanksgiving Day Breakfast

The festive bird is stuffed and in the stove, the potatoes are boiling for mashed potatoes, you’ve said the gravy prayer (please, Gravy Deity, let it be smooth this year). And people are saying, “we’re hungry!”

This is not a problem, put down that ladle and in just minutes, you can hand everybody an Egnog-Brandy Muffin!

If you’re truly feeling like Wonder Woman, whack up some bacon and an onion into small chunks, sauté them together, throw in some eggs, scramble it altogether, and serve the Thanksgiving breakfast they’ll remember with delight all year long.

### EGGNOG-BRANDY MUFFINS

2 cups flour  
2/3 cup granulated sugar  
1 TB. Baking powder  
½ tsp. Salt  
3/4 cup prepared eggnog  
½ cup brandy  
5 TB butter, (unsalted if you’ve got it... use a little less salt if you don’t) melted  
1 egg, beaten  
½ tsp. Grated nutmeg plus a little more for sprinkling on top

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease 12 muffin pan.


In a large bowl mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add eggnog, brandy, butter, beaten egg and ½ tsp nutmeg. Stir only till mixed.

DO NOT *OVERBEAT* or muffins will be rubbery and tough.

Spoon batter into greased muffin cups and sprinkle tops of muffins with nutmeg. Bake about 20 minutes or until tester inserted into center of muffin comes out clean. Remove from tin, butter and enjoy.

They freeze nicely and are probably about 200 calories per muffin.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
May your turkey be tender, succulent and juicy, and may somebody who really knows how.. offer to carve it.



## GOOD EATS ROAST TURKEY

*Recipe courtesy Alton Brown*

Prep Time: 15 min  
Inactive Prep Time: 7 hr 0 min  
Cook Time: 2 hr 30 min  
Level: Easy  
Serves: 10 to 12 servings

**INGREDIENTS**  
1 (14 to 16 pound) frozen young turkey

For the brine:  
1 cup kosher salt  
1/2 cup light brown sugar  
1 gallon vegetable stock  
1 tablespoon black peppercorns  
1 1/2 teaspoons allspice berries  
1 1/2 teaspoons chopped candied ginger  
1 gallon heavily iced water

For the aromatics:  
1 red apple, sliced  
1/2 onion, sliced  
1 cinnamon stick  
1 cup water  
4 sprigs rosemary  
6 leaves sage  
Canola oil

**DIRECTIONS**  
*2 to 3 days before roasting:*  
Begin thawing the turkey in the refrigerator or in a cooler kept at 38 degrees F.

Combine the vegetable stock, salt, brown sugar, peppercorns, allspice berries, and candied ginger in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Stir occasionally to dissolve solids and bring to a boil. Then remove the brine from the heat, cool to room temperature, and refrigerate.

*Early on the day or the night before you'd like to eat:*  
Combine the brine, water and ice in the 5-gallon bucket. Place the thawed turkey (with innards removed) breast side down in brine. If necessary, weigh down the bird to ensure it is fully immersed, cover, and refrigerate or set in cool area for 8 to 16 hours, turning the bird once half way through brining. Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Remove the bird from brine and rinse inside and out with cold water. Discard the brine.

Place the bird on roasting rack inside a half sheet pan and pat dry with paper towels.

Combine the apple, onion, cinnamon stick, and 1 cup of water in a microwave safe dish and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Add steeped aromatics to the turkey's cavity along with the rosemary and sage. Tuck the wings underneath the bird and coat the skin liberally with canola oil. Roast the turkey on lowest level of the oven at 500 degrees F for 30 minutes. Insert a probe thermometer into thickest part of the breast and reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Set the thermometer alarm (if available) to 161 degrees F. A 14 to 16 pound bird should require a total of 2 to 2 1/2 hours of roasting. Let the turkey rest, loosely covered with foil or a large mixing bowl for 15 minutes before carving.

## Tips For Preparing a Thanksgiving Turkey

For home cooks, preparing a Thanksgiving turkey is a rite of passage. Not only do snafu opportunities abound, but there is added pressure on the holiday to prepare and serve a perfect meal for family and guests.

Whether you're a seasoned Thanksgiving chef, or a newbie in the kitchen, these tips can help eliminate the stress associated with prepping your meal's centerpiece:

*Prepare Ahead*  
It's hard to perfect a turkey when you've got endless side dishes to worry over simultaneously, so accept guests' offers to bring some favorites. Assemble accompaniments to your meal in advance, especially sauces and dips, which actually improve in flavor over time.

Remember, you only have so much space in an oven, so schedule cooking accordingly to ensure everything is ready at mealtime.

*Talk Turkey*  
You may not have aced home economics when you were in school, but the folks at the Turkey Talk hotline are experts in the field. You can get most turkey conundrums solved by giving them a call at 1-800-BUTTERBALL, or by emailing them at [talkline@butterball.com](mailto:talkline@butterball.com).

*Work Smart*  
Maintaining your knives streamlines kitchen operations, especially the formidable task of carving your Thanksgiving turkey.

But knife sharpening doesn't need to be daunting. In fact, every home cook should get comfortable doing this regularly. With the right tools, your knives will last longer, and be safer and more efficient.

Generally, you should hone or polish knife edges after each use and sharpen knives regularly with a high-quality sharpener. Look for a sharpener that offers diversity. For example, Edgeware's adjustable knife sharpeners include coarse and fine sharpening slots for dull and damaged knives and regular maintenance respectively, and are ideal for sharpening a variety of knives from straight edge blades to serrated. For how-to videos and other tips on restoring your knives to their original factory angle, visit [www.edgewareproducts.com](http://www.edgewareproducts.com).

When preparing the Thanksgiving meal, make sure your knives are sharp in the kitchen and to sharpen any knives that will be used to carve your bird at the table. Do this before setting the table so you won't forget.

*Getting it Right*  
The general wisdom is to allot 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of turkey per person. Just be sure your turkey is big enough to provide you with leftovers! There's nothing more satisfying than a turkey sandwich for lunch the day after Thanksgiving.

Ready your bird for the oven by following the National Turkey Federation guideline on thawing: for every 4 1/2 pounds of frozen turkey, thaw for 24-hours in the refrigerator.

You don't need to be Julia Child to master the art of turkeys. By maintaining your kitchen

## AUNT CATHERINE'S CORN PUDDING

*I almost listed this as My recipe, but then I remembered that I actually got this recipe from my dad's sister and my favorite Aunt Catherine. For whatever reason, we only had this on Thanksgiving and you had to be quick if you wanted a serving. One pass around the table and that was it. (The same can be said for my household today. Susan Henderson)*

## INGREDIENTS

12 to 13 ears fresh corn, husks removed  
1/4 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
Pepper to taste. (You can spice it up with a little Cayenne pepper instead).  
6 large eggs  
2 cups evaporated milk (I use Half and Half instead but either is good)  
1/2 cup butter, melted

## DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°. Get a 13 x 9 baking dish and grease the sides with butter or butter flavored *cooking spray* - my Aunt did not tell me that!

Cut corn off the cobs into a large bowl (about 6 cups). You can substitute frozen corn if you like but canned corn really is only to be used if there is a blizzard and you cannot get to the grocery store. In a separate bowl or measuring cup , mix sugar, flour and baking powder together.

Next, whisk eggs until smooth then gradually add milk or half and half and butter in a large bowl. Pour the sugar mixture into the bowl with the eggs and continue whisking. Make certain the mixture is smooth and then stir in the corn. Abandon the whisk, use a wooden spoon and stir the mixture so that the corn is distributed evenly. Pour mixture into prepared baking dish and bake at 350° or until you can stick a cake tester in it and it comes out clean. Let it stand at least 5 minutes before serving.



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Discover the perfect assisted living community with Safe Path for Seniors. Our compassionate advisors specialize in assisting individuals with unique needs. Benefit from our extensive network and affordable options. Plus, we offer personalized tours to help you explore each community firsthand. Call (626) 999-6913 or visit [www.safepathforseniors.com](http://www.safepathforseniors.com) for free assistance.



## SENIORS AND THE HEART OF THANKSGIVING: A Time to Celebrate Connection

As Thanksgiving approaches, families across the country prepare to gather around tables filled with tradition, gratitude, and good food. But for many seniors, the holiday holds a deeper significance—one rooted not only in celebration, but in connection, reflection, and the comfort of familiar rituals.

Thanksgiving can be a powerful reminder of the importance of belonging. For older adults, especially those who may live alone or in senior communities, the holiday offers a chance to feel included and valued. A simple invitation, a shared meal, or even a phone call can make an enormous difference. Experts agree that social engagement helps combat feelings of isolation and boosts overall well-being, making Thanksgiving an opportunity to strengthen these important bonds.

Many seniors take pride in passing down family traditions. Recipes, stories, and memories shared over a holiday meal help bridge generations and keep family history alive. Grandparents often become the storytellers of Thanksgiving, reminding younger family members of where they came from and how the holiday has evolved over time.

Communities also play a vital role. Senior centers, churches, and local organizations frequently host Thanksgiving luncheons and activities, ensuring that those without family nearby still enjoy a sense of celebration. These gatherings create warm, welcoming spaces where seniors can socialize, laugh, and reconnect.

Health considerations remain important, too. For seniors managing dietary needs or mobility challenges, planning ahead can ensure the holiday is enjoyable and safe. Families are encouraged to create comfortable seating, offer heart-healthy meal options, and schedule celebrations earlier in the day.

Ultimately, Thanksgiving is about gratitude—and seniors embody the spirit of the holiday through their resilience, wisdom, and life experience. This year, taking the time to include, honor, and celebrate the older adults in our lives can make the holiday richer for everyone at the table.

## HOW TO LOCATE AN AGE FRIENDLY DOCTOR

*Dear Savvy Senior,  
My husband and I are relocating to a nearby state to be closer to our daughter and will need to find a new primary care physician when we arrive. We are both in our late 70s and are interested in getting a geriatrician to oversee our health care going forward. Any suggestions for finding someone?  
Searching for Care*



Dear Searching,  
Choosing a geriatrician as your primary care doctor in your 70s is a good idea, especially if you're dealing with various age-related health problems. But if you're in relatively good health you may not need a geriatrician. A good primary care doctor with an age-friendly philosophy may be all you need. Here's what you should know.

### Who Needs a Geriatrician?

Geriatricians are primary care doctors that have additional specialized training in treating older patients. Those who can benefit the most from seeing a geriatrician are seniors age 75 and older with multiple health and age-related problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, incontinence, osteoporosis, cognitive decline, frailty, depression, or trouble with balance and falls.

Geriatricians are also particularly adept at tackling medication problems. Because many seniors take multiple medications at the same time for various health conditions, and because aging bodies often absorb and metabolize drugs differently than younger adults, unique side effects and drug interactions are not uncommon. A geriatrician will evaluate and monitor your medications to be sure they are not affecting you in a harmful way.

Geriatricians can also help their patients and families determine their long-term care needs, like how long they can remain in their own homes safely without assistance, and what type of services may be necessary when they do need some extra help.

Unfortunately, there's a shortage of geriatricians in the U.S., so depending on where you are moving, finding one may be difficult.

To help you locate one in your new area, use Medicare's online find and compare search tool. Just go to [Medicare.gov/care-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare) and click on "Doctors & Clinicians" and type in your location, then type in "geriatric medicine" in the Name & Keyword box. You can also get this information by calling Medicare at 800-633-4227. The American Geriatrics Society also has a geriatrician-finder tool on their website at [HealthinAging.org](http://HealthinAging.org).

If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, contact your plan for a list of network geriatricians in your new area.

Keep in mind, though, that locating a geriatrician doesn't guarantee you will be accepted as a patient. Many doctors already have a full patient roster and don't accept any new patients. You'll need to call the individual doctor's office to find out.

### Age-Friendly PCPs

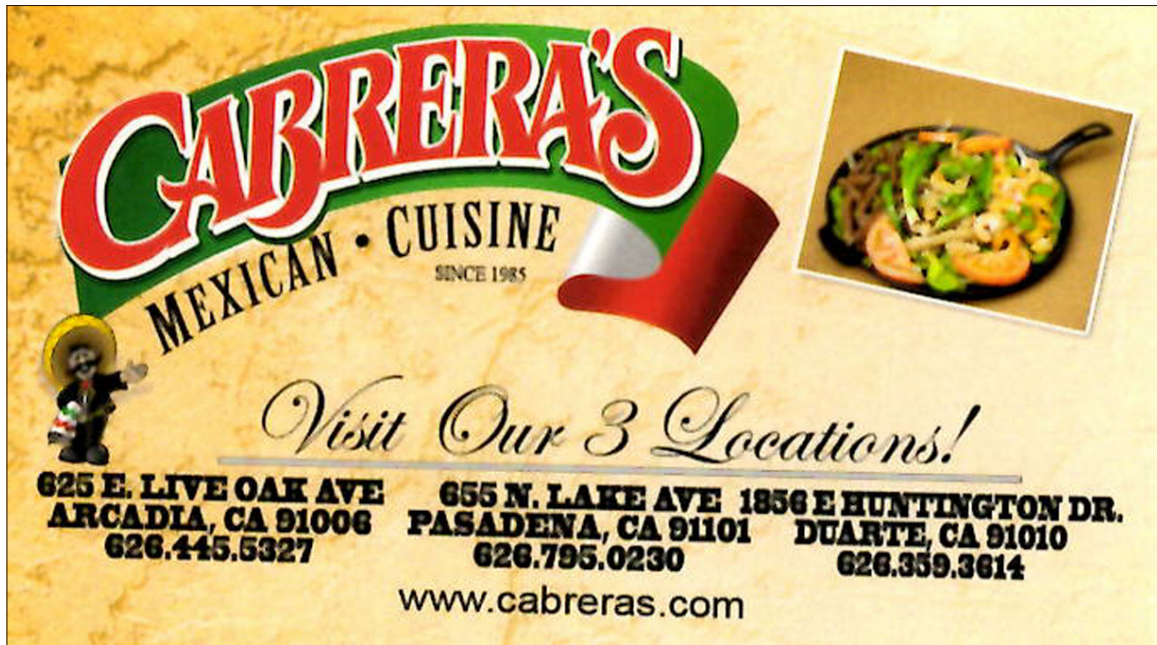
If you and your husband are in relatively good health or if you can't find a geriatrician in your new area, a good primary care physician (PCP) that practices age-friendly care would also be a viable choice.

To search for new PCPs, use the previously listed Medicare tools. Once you locate a few, call their office and ask if they're accepting new patients and if they practice the 4Ms of age friendly care, which include: What Matters (your goals and priorities); Medication safety and appropriateness; Mentation (cognition and mood); and Mobility (ways to keep you moving).

You can also research new doctors at sites like [Healthgrades.com](http://Healthgrades.com) and [Vitals.com](http://Vitals.com).

If you're finding it hard to get into a new practice, you might even consider looking for a geriatric nurse practitioner or advanced practice registered nurse to serve as your PCP.

Send your questions or comments to [questions@savvysenior.org](mailto:questions@savvysenior.org), or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.



# SENIOR HAPPENINGS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! NOVEMBER Birthdays\*



Flo Mankin, Alberta Curran, Carmela Frontino, Kathy Wood, Lena Zate, Joe Pergola, Janice Kacer, Valerie Howard, Lois Stueck, Jean Wood, Shirley Yergeau, Pat Krok, Irene Nakagawa, Anna Ross, Mary Steinberg, Mary Bowser, Susan Clifton, Mary Higgins, Kim Buchanan, Leigh Thach, Sue Quinn, Jill Girod, Jeanne Martin.\*

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



## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

### FALL FELL WAY TOO SOON THIS YEAR!

This summer was the best I have had in a long time. I enjoy summer because the weather is always warm, sometimes even hot. I was so focused on enjoying my summer that I did not realize Fall had arrived. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office the other day and said, "Do you know what day it is today?" Looking at her with a smug smile, I said, "Yes, my dear, I do know what day it is. It's today." She chuckled and said to me, "Oh, you don't know what today is. It's Fall. Don't you keep up with anything?" Looking at her with a bit of hesitation, I said, "What do you mean it's Fall?"

It was then that I began to understand what she was saying. The leaves were turning from their vibrant green to a dull brown, the air was getting crisper and the days were getting shorter. Summer is over, and now it is Fall. For me, Fall fell way too soon. I need a little more summer time before I am ready to graduate to Fall.

During the summer, I get many things done in the "catch-up" category. I was not quite all caught up when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage announced that it was officially Fall.

The critical thing about summertime is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage stocking up on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's activities. She packs the refrigerator and freezer to their maximum. By the time summer is over, she is already prepared for the upcoming holidays.

It takes her a few weeks to find the right turkey for the holiday season. She is an expert in finding the right turkeys; after all, she found me.

What I like about the summer season is the variety of activities available. I do not have to make an excuse to go and do something. I'll say, "It's summer and I'm going to enjoy this season."

Now that I'm a little older, I have to scale back my physical activities. Years ago, I used to go bowling with some friends. Now, it takes me a while to gather the energy to go and watch a bowling game.

I can take a couple of days off and say to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "After all, it is summertime." I try to take advantage of this as often as possible. It is almost impossible to trick The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She knows what I'm doing before I tell her what I'm going to do. However, I still try.

Now that summer is over, I have graduated into the Fall season. There are some advantages to this time of the year, and I am still learning what some of them are.

One advantage I use as much as possible is the weather. In the Fall, it is colder than in summertime. Of course, with me, when the temperature drops below my age, I am freezing.

So, there is an advantage to this because if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wants me to go outside, I renege and say, "Oh, boy, I really would love to, but it is so cold I really can't handle it."

Looking at me, she will smile and say, "If you think it is cold, why don't you put on a sweater and then go outside?"

She has me at that. I try as much as possible, and occasionally it works; that is all that is important.

The other aspect of the Fall season is the many holidays celebrated during this time. They go from Halloween to Easter. Once it starts, it is tough for me to keep up with these holidays.

I am not a holiday person, except for the food, which I like. However, these holidays come so fast; I do not know which one I am celebrating at any given time. As long as there's food on the table, I will celebrate whatever holiday it is.

Of course, the great benefit of all these holidays is that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage organizes our family get-together. It is during the summer that she stocks up on all the food for these get-togethers. Then, when that holiday comes, I really do not care what holiday it is; I am going to celebrate the food she puts on the table.

I do not think anybody makes a better pumpkin pie than The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Actually, it does not matter which pie she is making; they are all marvelous as well as delicious. My favorite pie is the one I'm eating at the time. I would make up a holiday if it meant I could have one of her pies.

If it weren't for all these holidays, I wouldn't have gotten to see some of my family. Therefore, the great thing about graduating to the Fall season is about families. Nothing is greater than gathering around the dinner table with your family and eating the delicious food that is there for us.

As I considered gathering as a family to celebrate, I thought of a verse in the Bible.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men" (Psalm 107:8).

Gathering together is a great time to celebrate all that God has blessed us with during the year. And He has blessed us wonderfully.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnsnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnsnyderministries.com)





CHRISTOPHER Nyerges

[Nyerges is an educator and author. His many books can be seen at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com).]

THANKSGIVING DAY: Exploring It's Roots

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday of the year. Even moreso than Christmas, which seems to drive so many to rushing around almost mindlessly. But Thanksgiving is our uniquely American holiday where we try to remember our roots, we share a meal, we meet with family, and we hopefully “give thanks.” At least that’s the idea.

Unfortunately today, we hardly know what “giving thanks” even means, and so the act of giving thanks is lost on most of us. Newscasters talk about “turkey day,” as if all there was to the day was eating turkey. Interestingly, most folks would not know whether or not they were eating turkey, or eating crow. Then, when we have barely taken the time to consider the notion of “giving thanks,” we get up early on the following “black Friday” to rush around with the mobs “looking for a good deal” to help us celebrate the consumer-driven commercial craze into which we’ve morphed “Christmas.”

Let’s pause and take a moment to look at the roots of Thanksgiving.

In the history of the European colonies developing on the East Coast, finally becoming the United States, we tell ourselves that our first historic Thanksgiving Day was in October of 1621. After a successful harvest that year at the Plymouth colony, there was about a week or so of celebrations. The local Indians and the colonists joined together, with the Indians generally showing the colonists how to hunt for the meal which consisted of fowl, deer, duck, goose, and fish. Corn bread, wild greens, plums, leeks, and many other vegetables (wild and domestic) were shared in this celebration. Interestingly, there is no recorded evidence that wild turkey or wild cranberries were part of the menu. And we tell and re-tell this particular American story as if it is all about food!

In fact, some (but not all) historians question whether or not there were any religious overtones at all on this “first Thanksgiving,” citing such evidence as the archery and firearms games, and the running and jumping competitions, which they say would never be done at religious ceremonies by the Puritans. The “competition” was more likely the men on each side doing their shows of bravado with weapons and physical feats before sitting down to eat.

What then is it, if anything, that sets the American (and the Canadian) Thanksgiving celebration apart from any of the other myriad of Harvest Festivals?

Not widely known is that this “first thanksgiving” feast had mostly political overtones, which seem to have largely backfired. Tisquantum (“Squanto”) was the interpreter for Massasoit, who was the political-military leader of the local Wampanoag tribe. Massasoit was worried that his weakened tribe would be taken-advantage of by the stronger Narragansett, because his own group had been so reduced from disease. Massasoit would permit the European newcomers to stay as long as they liked, as long as they aligned with Massasoit against the Narraganset. (Read all about it in your history books). Tisquantum spoke English because he’d been to England and back, and had his own plan to re-establish his home-town village near what became the Plimouth colony.

Though Tisquantum successfully helped Massasoit broker a pact with the newcomers from across the ocean, Tisquantum died about a year later. The truce that Massasoit hoped to cement lasted perhaps another 50 years until the flood of Europeans flowing into Massachusetts and all of what was to become the eastern United States was too great to stop.

Despite the varied history of this day, Americans have chosen to see this as day set aside so that we do not lose sight of our spiritual blessings. We should not confuse “giving thanks” with “eating a lot of really good food.” “Giving Thanks” is an enlightened attitude which accompanies specific actions. Perhaps sharing our bounty with the needy would be a better Thanksgiving activity. More to the point, perhaps we should use Thanksgiving to give thanks where it is due -- to the indigenous peoples who have become the “forgotten minorities,” and who are the very ones who helped the ill-prepared Europeans to survive. Rather than “eat a lot,” perhaps we could send blankets, food, or money to any of the American Indian families or nations who today live in Third World conditions.

But we really should not forget our national roots. Don’t just give lip-service thanks to the Native Americans whose land was taken. Rather, find those organizations that are actually providing real assistance to Native Americans in poverty. Of course, we all know friends, family members, and even strangers in our midst who have great need. This Thanksgiving, give thanks for your plenty by sharing with those in your midst who have so little.

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM HOLIDAY HAZARDS

You can bet that during the holiday season your pet is bound to sniff out leftovers, dig into the presents and have fun with all of your decorations. And while these holiday effects can spread cheer and joy amongst your human family members, they can be a real hazard to pets. This season, keep your holiday celebration safe, happy and healthy for pets by taking these key measures:



**Decorate Wisely**  
Avoid poisonous holiday plants like poinsettias and holly. There are plenty of toxic-free alternatives as evocative of the season as these traditional holiday favorites. If you must deck the halls with such plants, place them in an out of the way spot your pets can’t reach and keep your pets away from those areas of your home.

Tinsel and gift ribbons are tempting for pets that like to play with shiny things, but when swallowed, such items can cause intestinal obstructions. Clean up after opening presents and vacuum around the tree to pick up any gift debris, as well as fallen pine needles which pose a similar hazard.

**Avoid the Problem**  
When it comes to the holidays, there’s no need to be a Grinch in order to keep your celebration safe for pets. New technologies are making it easier to teach pets to stay away from certain areas of your home, both indoors and outside. For example, Invisible Fence Brand Micro Shields Avoidance Solutions are small mobile wireless units to train pets to avoid areas of the home or yard where they might get in trouble. And if you have multiple pets, you can set different rules for different pets.

So don’t forgo that lovely holiday candle display just because you have a pet in your life. More information can be found at [www.invisiblefence.com](http://www.invisiblefence.com).

**Watch Your Plate**  
As most great pet owners know, not all human foods are safe or healthy for pets. Pets can choke on bones in meat or fish dishes. And such foods as onions, macadamia nuts and chocolate -- which are commonly found in holiday cooking and baking -- are unsafe for dogs.

Avoid having your well-meaning guests sending Spot to the vet by laying ground rules about sharing food.

Also, one man’s trash is a pet’s treasure, so be sure to keep the lid on the garbage secure. By taking proper precautions, you can keep the holidays festive this year for both you and your pets. (Statepoint)

Katnip News!



Meet Miss Rory!

What a cutie! And what a beauty she will be when she's all grown up! This adorable little adventurer, age 2 mos., is full



of energy, curiosity, and love! Rory is very playful, inquisitive, and fearless! — every corner, toy, and kitty tail is an opportunity for discovery. Her nickname, “Dora the Explorer,” couldn’t be more fitting!

Rory gets along wonderfully with all the house kitties, and is just as sweet with people, happy to curl up for snuggles after playtime. Rescued from the wheel of a friend’s SUV by a kind AAA technician when she was only about 6 weeks old, Rory is now vetted, thriving, and ready for her forever home, which we hope to find by the holidays!



If you’re looking for a playful, loving companion who will bring endless joy and laughs, Rory is your girl! See more pictures and cute videos of her, and apply at <https://www.lifelineforpets.org/rory.html>, or use the qr code.

Pet of the Week



Meet Max, a four-year-old certified good boy at Pasadena Humane. Max is a gentle, affection Akita who loves nothing more than pets. He’ll even give you a soft nudge to remind you of that! After coming into the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him, he’s shown us just how calm and friendly he can be. Max is great on a leash, takes treats very softly, is housetrained, and has done well around other dogs out on several adoption events. He is consistently loved

by staff and volunteers alike, and has been described as easygoing, easy to handle, and all-around wonderful company.

If you’re looking for a loving guy who’s ready to steal your heart in no time, look no further. Max is available for a 10-day adoption trial today! The adoption fee for dogs is \$150. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

Walk-in adoptions are available every day from 10:00 – 5:00. View photos of adoptable pets at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org).

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

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

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Michele Silence, M.A. is a 37-year certified fitness professional who offers semi-private/virtual fitness classes. Contact Michele at michele@kid-fit.com. Visit her Facebook page at: michelesfitness Visit her Facebook page at: michelesfitness.

PLANT BASED THANKSGIVING

This year, instead of talking about going vegan or giving up the turkey, what about trying a Plant-Boosted Thanksgiving? It's a simple idea: keep the traditions you love, but add a few plant-based dishes that taste great, save money, and give everyone a healthier holiday meal.

This approach works for families who are curious about eating less meat, people who want to save a little cash at the grocery store, or anyone who wants to leave the table feeling satisfied instead of stuffed and sleepy. And best of all, adding plant-based foods does not mean your table suddenly becomes "vegan only." You're not replacing the turkey (although they have great substitutes for that now) you're just boosting the meal with foods that bring more color, flavor, and nutrition.

Interestingly, the vegan dishes are often the ones people reach for first. Even picky relatives. These dishes stand out because they're fresh, bright, and full of flavor. Most guests don't notice they're plant-based at all. They just know they're delicious.

ALL THINGS by Jeff Brown

TONY PARSONS QUOTES



- On the Illusion of Self:
1. "There is no separate individual. There is only oneness appearing as a separate individual."

2. "Liberation is the realization that there is no one to be liberated." Highlighting the paradox that enlightenment involves the disappearance of the seeker.

3. "All there is, is this. And this is everything."
- On the Nature of Reality:
4. "There is no path to what already is. The search itself is the veil."

• Underscoring the futility of searching for enlightenment, as it is already present.

5. "Everything that seems to happen is simply what is happening – without meaning or purpose, but full of wonder."

• Describing the spontaneous and impersonal nature of life.

6. "What we long for is what already is. It's not hidden; it's simply not seen."

• An invitation to recognize the ever-present reality of oneness.
7. "The apparent need to control and understand dissolves into the simplicity of being."

• Pointing to the freedom that comes with the end of control.

8. "The end of seeking is the end of the seeker. What remains is boundless energy appearing as everything."

• Everything happens like the weather, spontaneous with no one doing it.
- On Liberation:
9. "Liberation is not something that happens; it is the absence of something that never was."

• Emphasizing the illusory nature of separation and the realization of oneness.

10. "Nothing needs to be done because nothing is out of place. There is only wholeness appearing as everything."

• Reflecting the completeness and perfection of all that is.

The self that feels like our ordinary daytime "me", is a fictitious, subconscious mental product being injected into our cognitive and perceptual experiences, feeling fully apart and separate from everyone and everything else "known".

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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

#### IS THIS THE END OF AN ERA OR THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ONE?



On Monday, November 17th I bravely viewed Democracy Now on PBS. Generally, the news depresses me but at the beginning of this week I felt courageous. What I saw was coverage of the 2025 COP30 United Nations Climate Change Conference being held in Brazil. This is the 30th annual meeting of the conference but, of course, I was completely unfamiliar with it. The conference is taking place in Belem, a city at the gateway to the Amazon rainforest, marking the first time the UN Climate Summit has been held in the Amazon region. I've learned that the focus of the conference is to focus on global warming associated with the climate crisis, Indigenous life is a central and prominent concern of the conference. What I saw was articulate people with their faces painted and adorned with feathers speaking about how their entire way of living was being threatened by the climate crisis. I immediately thought of a question which was reportedly posed to Mahatma Ghandi by a journalist. The question was "What do you think of Western Civilization?" he is widely reported to have replied "I think it would be a good idea."

Going once more to my iPhone I learn that Ghandi's criticisms of Western Civilization are detailed in his 1909 Book and centered on the following points. I will now list them for you and wonder if you have the same reaction that I had.

1. Materialism over morality including physical comfort at the expense of Moral and spiritual development.
2. Violence and Exploitation. He saw the colonialism, racism, and militarism of Western nations as evidence of a civilization built on "brute force" rather than ethical conduct.
3. Industrialism and Dehumanization, which he believed led to the exploitation of workers in contrast to his vision of self-sufficient village-based societies.
4. Lack of a clear goal suggesting that Western civilization was characterized by endless activity without a higher moral purpose.

Frightening, isn't it? I thought of contrasting Ghandi's criticisms with a description of indigenous life. Once more I consulted my iPhone and read about the Western View of the relationship to nature "Humans are separate from and often dominant over nature which is viewed as resource for human benefit and extraction."

Now contrast that with what is described as the indigenous Worldview. "Humans are an interconnected part of nature with a responsibility to maintain harmony and balance within the natural world."

In terms of social structure, the iPhone informed me that the Western World places "emphasis on individualism and personal achievement and self-expression" contrasting that with the Indigenous "Emphasis on collectivism, community well-being, relationships and the survival of the group."

That's enough quoting. Originally, I had planned to contrast the differences myself but upon consulting the iPhone I realized that the description presented was more succinct and probably more accurate than anything I could produce myself. This is also frightening. With AI available to all of us, why take the trouble to think about anything when it is so easy to just look it up? I happen to think that thinking about things is of extreme importance.

Returning to the Belem Conference, the Trump administration didn't send a delegation to the COP30 Crisis Conference consistent with the Presidential position that the climate crisis is "essentially a hoax". The climate crisis is --- real and threatens everything --you and I, the entire human species, the natural environment and everything else. How did America put a person in power who is so clearly out of touch with any reality beyond his own needs? The most frightening thing about this is that our political system is paralyzed, I guess, because of the need for personal advancement and comfort.

We have all adjusted, perhaps unwillingly, to the inevitability of our own death. Actually, I believe that Trump and Putin and other autocrats plan on living forever. They think that they are that powerful. They aren't, but their utterly unrealistic and perhaps demented idea threatens all of us. I do not wish to adjust to the imminent destruction of our entire culture and species. I believe that unless a radical rejection of the destructive Western values described over 100 years ago by Mahatma Ghandi to be exchanged with the need to maintain the collective values inherent to the still functioning indigenous cultures.

Time will tell!



## HOWARD Hays As I See It

*QUIET! QUIET, PIGGY" - President Trump to Reporter Catherine Lucey of Bloomberg, aboard Air Force One enroute to Mar-a-Lago when asked about the Epstein Files.*

Someone commented on the above quote: "Why isn't this bigger news?" We wouldn't abide a toddler calling someone "piggy" - let alone an adult - let alone the President of the United States. There could be two reasons: One is that it's been made clear to reporters who might otherwise object that they cover the president at his pleasure - and they can't risk losing access.

The other reason is that oafish behavior from our president is not "news". He's called Rosie O'Donnell a "pig". He referred to Stormy Daniels as "horse-face". When Trump owned the Miss Universe pageant, he used the name "piggy" against the 1996 winner, Miss Venezuela.

Hillary Clinton referred to that incident during her 2016 debate with Trump, "This is a man who has called women pigs, slob and dogs . . . and he called this woman 'Miss Piggy'. Then he called her 'Miss Housekeeping', because she was Latina." Alicia Machado, Miss Venezuela, was nineteen. Contestants from Miss Teen USA recalled Trump coming into their dressing rooms as they were changing. They were fifteen and sixteen years old.

Donald Trump is our only president to have been found liable for sexual assault. He's the only one convicted on felonies related to hush money for a porn star. He's the only one implicated beyond mere association with Jeffrey Epstein. A beauty pageant promoter told of how Trump asked him to bring contestants down to Mar-a-Lago - where the only other attendee was Trump's neighbor from up the street, Jefferey Epstein.

Model Stacey Williams, dating Epstein, told of how he took her to Trump Tower, then handed her off to be groped by Trump. She recalled "this horrible pit in my stomach that it was somehow orchestrated". Trump is our only president to have referred to a child rapist and sex trafficker as "a terrific guy" and "a lot of fun to be with".

Last July, the Justice Department reported its Epstein investigation concluded with nothing more to see, no need to see anything more. But Congress could now vote to have records released, including the "client list" Attorney General Pam Bondi said last February was "sitting on my desk".

A bill to release the records was prepared, along with a discharge petition to have that bill voted on. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) then sent colleagues home early for their August recess, which stretched into two months. This also gave Johnson an excuse to delay the swearing-in of newly-elected Rep. Adelita Grijalva (D-AZ), who would provide the final signature needed for that discharge petition to bring the matter to a vote.

At her swearing in, Rep. Grijalva addressed the chamber: "What is most concerning is not what this administration has done, but what the majority in this body has failed to do - hold Trump accountable as (the) co-equal branch of government that we are." She introduced two of Epstein's victims in the House Gallery to an ovation.

Despite opposition from Speaker Johnson and Trump, Republican support was growing for releasing the files. Trump then changed his position, coming out in favor of their release. He had to - so he could claim Republicans were simply obeying his direction, after all. Had he really wanted to have the records released, of course, he could've simply ordered the Justice Department to release them months ago.

When AG Bondi was asked why, after having assured for months that all investigations had been completed with nothing more to see, there was now a new prosecutor assigned to pursue new investigations, she explained it was because of "new information, additional information". What she meant was that she'd been told by the president to launch criminal investigations tying Epstein to Bill Clinton, former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and whatever other Democrats they could find.

They had to get their excuse ready for when it actually came time to deliver the records as Congress demanded: Bondi would explain that as much as she

## RICH JOHNSON

### RISKS, REGRETS, RESULTS ( A REPRINT)



Who is considered the greatest player in the history of the National Basketball Association (NBA)? Easy! Michael Jordan.

So, what did Mr. Jordan do at the peak of his career? February 7, 1994? I'll get to that in a minute. Tough competition! In June of 1991 Michael helped his team, the Chicago Bulls, win their first (of six) NBA titles.

Okay...back to February 7, 1994. Michael Jordan, the most popular athlete on the planet and the best player in the NBA, left basketball and signed a contract to play baseball (that's right, I said BASEBALL) for the Chicago White Sox.

The White Sox assigned him to play for their double-A team, the Birmingham Barons. Jordan played in 127 games. His batting average for the '94 season? .202. Not good. He did lead his team in...strikeouts lol! Not good either. He was a failure at baseball.

A year and a month later, on March 18, 1995 Michael Jordan rejoined the NBA's Chicago Bulls. 10 days later he scored 55 points, the record for the most points scored by an opponent at the Madison Square Garden. He played fifteen seasons in the NBA, winning six NBA Championships with the Chicago Bulls, six NBA MVP awards, 10 NBA scoring titles. In 1988, Jordan became the first NBA player to win both the NBA Defensive Player of the Year and the Most Valuable Player award in the same year. And as of 2023, Forbes Magazine estimates Michael Jordan's net worth at \$3 billion dollars.

Risking failure is a critical element in achieving success. Here's another example:

In 1968, Spencer Silver, a research chemist for 3M (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing) was attempting to create a new super-strong super glue. But Spencer couldn't make the glue work right. The objects he glued could easily be peeled off leaving no residue or damage. The project was shelved. A failure.

3M, a smart company, has a policy for publishing failures as well as successes in research. They made Chemist Silver publish his failure...the glue that wouldn't stick very good. I mean, what good is glue that doesn't stick?

9 years later, in 1977, someone in another division of 3M came up with an idea called "Press and Peel Pads". The problem these inventors faced was the glue used in the pads stuck too good. Test marketing was an unmitigated failure. About to shelve the project, someone came across Spencer Silver's published account of his glue failure.

And by 1980 "Post-It Notes" were generating \$1 billion a year, hailed as one of 3M's greatest products. As of 2023, more than 50 billion Post-It Notes are produced by 3M every year!

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." Thomas Alva Edison

"Failure is success in progress." Albert Einstein

So, dream, risk, take a chance. Just remember this important sequence distinction: "Ready, aim, fire", not "Ready, fire, aim". "Capeesh?" "Capiche?"

P.S. "Capeesh" is a correct spelling variation.



and the president were dying to hand over those files, because of an ongoing investigation they simply couldn't.

Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA) pointed out how that argument could bring an unintended response: Since the investigation involved Clinton and other Democrats, documents where they're mentioned might be justifiably withheld. But since they've insisted Trump is already in the clear, there's no reason why any docs in which he's named shouldn't be out there for the world to see.

Law Professor Joyce Vance wrote of Trump's "Quiet, Piggy!" comment that "It tells you all you need to know about this president's attitude towards women." She suggests it might finally bring a "Have you no sense of decency?" moment like that which came to Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-WI).

"Have you no sense of decency?" was asked of Sen. McCarthy when he dominated his party and the national discourse. But when lawyer Joseph Welch asked McCarthy that question at a Senate hearing, the foundation began to crumble. It wasn't in response to McCarthy having said or done anything particularly out of character. It was rather an expression of exasperation felt by a country that had had enough. In six months, McCarthy had been censured by the Senate and consigned to irrelevance. We'll see where we're at six months from now.









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# December Events Around Town!

Brought to you by Sue Cook

ONE TIME EVENTS:

- December 5**  
**Charity Dance Show at the Arcadia Performing Arts Center** - Arcadia High School Dance presents exhilarating performances 7pm

**December 6**  
**Breakfast with Santa at Arcadia Community Center** - Photos with Santa, breakfast, crafts, and games 8:30am & 10:30am

**December 6**  
**Snow Festival at Arcadia Community Center** - Enjoy snow sledding, crafts, & games 9am – 2pm

**December 6**  
**Family Workshop: Handmade Greeting Cards at The Huntington** - Create handmade holiday cards using collage & other styles 10am – 1pm

**December 6**  
**Children's Holiday Wreath Making at the Arboretum** - Children build enchanting holiday wreaths using materials from the Arboretum & the LA Flower Mart 2pm – 3:30pm

**December 7**  
**Vroman's Bookstore: Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Party** - Decorate a house you can take home! 12pm – 5pm

**December 7**  
**Gloria: Christmas Sounds of Worship & Praise** - Celebrate the sounds of Christmas with the Lake Avenue Choir, Orchestra, Handbells, and guest soloist Jamal Sarikoki 4pm – 5:30pm

**December 13**  
**Holiday Fair in Downtown Arcadia** – A fun day of entertainment, kid's activities, visits with Santa, Mrs. Claus's story time, & food 11am – 4pm

**December 14**  
**Castle Green Holiday Open House** - Explore the Castle's turn-of-the-century charm. Entertainment, refreshments, games 11am – 3pm
- December 14**  
**The Lettermen at the Arcadia Performing Arts Center** - Christmas concert celebrating the season & smooth three-part harmony 2pm – 4pm

**December 20**  
**Flower Arranging: Holiday Centerpieces at The Huntington** - Create a winter holiday centerpiece 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm

ONGOING EVENTS:

- November 7 – January 11**  
**Winter Frolic at Kidspace Museum** – Sock skating, dress-a-snowman, build ice forts & more

**November 16 – January 4**  
**Enchanted Forest of Light at Descanso Gardens** - Light, color & music transform the garden into whimsical botanical artscapes

**November 21 – December 28**  
**Enchant Christmas LA at Santa Anita Park** - This holiday events offers a light-maze, ice-skating trail, artisan markets, food and drink

**November 29 – December 25**  
**A Christmas Carol at A Noise Within** - This timeless Dicken's story is filled with music, merriment, and good cheer

**December 6, 7, 13, 14**  
**A Victorian Holiday at the Queen Anne Cottage** - Tours of the Queen Anne Cottage with a holiday marketplace, carolers, dancers, kids' crafts, and visits with Santa

**December 12, 13**  
**Pasadena Symphony and Pops Holiday Candlelight Concert** - Savor an array of holiday choruses in Pasadena's All Saints Church

**December 20 – 21**  
**A Jet Set Christmas at Sierra Madre Playhouse** - Matt Johnson and the New Jet Set perform a foot-tapping show of festive music in swing, bebop, and big band arrangements 8pm



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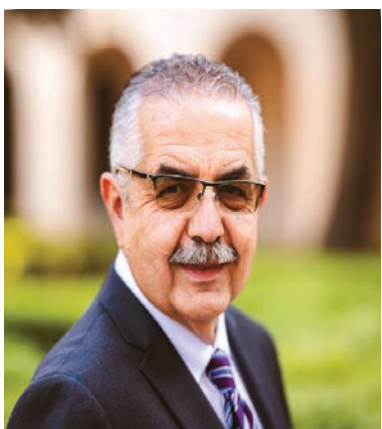
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# Grateful Hearts, Happy Homes

This Thanksgiving, join us in taking a moment to appreciate the little things that enrich our lives - whether it's for family, friends, or the moments that bring us joy. Together, we can cultivate a culture of gratitude that lasts beyond the holiday season.

Wishing you & yours a  
*Happy  
Thanksgiving*  
*Luther & Georgina*



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