

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

VOLUME 18 NO. 50



MARKET REPORT

Sierra Madre
November 2024

INVENTORY

17

MEDIAN
DAYS ON
MARKET

42

MEDIAN
LIST PRICE

\$1.8M



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REMEMBRANCE

Another Sierra Madre Treasure Gone Too Soon

SUZANNE ROSE LEVOE
April 28, 1956 – December 5, 2024



Suzanne, known to many as Sue, passed away peacefully at home in Sierra Madre with her family by her side. She leaves her husband Mark, son Adam, daughter Erika Chiechi (Ryan) and grandchildren Carson and Penny, and also sister Cecilia Rose, brother Bradford Rose, and many nieces and nephews. Sue was predeceased by her brothers Clarkson Rose and Marshall Rose.

Born in Pasadena, California Sue grew up in Hastings Ranch and Arcadia attending St. Rita Elementary and Arcadia High School. She was an ardent tennis player and thoroughly enjoyed her fun high school years; on weekends you could catch her on Balboa Island with her friends. Her first job after graduation was as a private investigator; thereafter she worked for Miner Harkness Insurance in Sierra Madre for many years. For three years she co-owned Buffalo's Back, a women's clothing store in town.

Sue and Mark married in 1981 and settled in Sierra Madre. The Levoe door was always open to all kids and there was always a warm meal on the table and a safe place to talk.

She loved being involved in all people and things in town over the years. She was highly involved in Little League as a T-ball coach, Team Manager, Board Member and President and was a primary motivator to fund and install new field lights at Heasley Field.

Sue was also highly involved in Sierra Madre Elementary PTA. She organized a city-wide effort to create a Sierra Madre school district or become a part of Arcadia district.

A dedicated volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce, including serving as President, she lead many Wistaria Festivals including recruiting volunteers to organize and staff busses and booths: Any questions? Call Sue and she'd race over in her beloved golf cart.

Not one to sit around she was a leader in planning and executing 4th of July activities as well as co-directing the Dickens Village Winter Festivals, and lovingly painting and repainting the Crèche figures appearing in Kersting Court. She was a member of the town's Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the Planning Commission, and also loved being involved in local council races and town issues.

Catalina Island was her summer home growing up and she shared that love and joy with her family and friends by organizing camping trips to Catalina each summer for over 20 years; corralling up to 40 people for primitive island camping was no small task yet she and her co-organizer repeated this crazy labor of love year after year, long after their own children were grown, and many life-long friendships were seeded.

Sue knew who she was and with her infectious laugh and big heart had a way of bringing everyone in to help and enjoy her projects, plans and commitments.

A celebration of her life will be held in a few months.

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COUNCIL REORGANIZES AND PREPARES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Former Mayor Kelly Kriebs Honored - Congratulations Mayor Robert Parkhurst and Mayor Pro Tem Kristine Lowe



Above from left to right - Former Mayors Garcia, Kriebs, Mayor Robert Parkhurst and Mayor Pro Tem Kristine Lowe, and Former Mayor Goss.

Below Assemblyman John Harabedian thanking outgoing Mayor Kriebs for her service to the community.



Tuesday's City Council meeting had a packed agenda including the annual Council reorganization.

City Clerk Laura Aguilar swore in the new leadership including Mayor Robert Parkhurst, Mayor Pro Tem Kristine Lowe and Treasurer Sue Spears.

....And of course, afterwards.....there was cake.

Photos by Dirk Bolle

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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



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

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

Warmly, *Barbara and Sileen*

Barbara Rogers
626.484.8135
CalRE# 01169115

Eileen Benson
626.278.0187
CalRE# 01880650

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BIG BEAR CITY \$425,000
3 Beds, 2 Bath, 1,301 sf Home
Tranquil Big Bear home with central heat, fireplace, balcony, fenced yard, and wraparound deck. Perfect mountain retreat!



DUARTE \$449,000
2 Beds, 2 Bath, 993 sf, TownHouse
Duarte gem on quiet ground floor corner lot with patio, pool, hot tub, modern kitchen, and 2-car garage.

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Santa's Looking For The Best Decorated House in Sierra Madre! 2024



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, 2024.

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. **SUBJECT: BEST**

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE DECEMBER 21st EDITION OF THE PAPER!

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Candlelight

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

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Christmas



PARKING EXEMPTIONS

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



Happy Holidays!

SIERRA MADRE


ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

Weather Wise



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 14, 2025 5:30pm

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

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

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

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

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


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

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

Your event must:

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

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



This week at the Sierra Madre Public Library

December 16 — December 21

Monday

Baby Rhyme Time — Library at 9:00am

Preschool Storytime— Library at 10:00am

Wednesday

Tails & Tales— Library at 3:30pm

Pajama Storytime— Online at 7:00pm. Call to register

Thursday

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

Friday

Gingerbread Jamboree— Memorial Park Pavilion from 12:30pm—2:30pm.

Saturday

Digital Services— Library from 12:00pm—2:00pm

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

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

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

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

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

Winter Village Fest was awesome. The snow slide, all the Sierra Madre stores and artisans out to make Christmas shopping easier, and the tree...the tree is beyond fabulous. Best one ever! Our Rose Float princesses were beautiful, friendly, charming and Santa and Mrs. Claus added the final perfect element. The weather was fabulous and Kersting Court this year is just lovely, with all the lights. It’s the ideal place to spend a few reflective moments. You could put down those packages, sit down and take a few deep breaths. We are all so rushed this time of year, a rest break can’t hurt. You might even consider an ice cream cone from Mother Moo’s. Give yourself a treat. Christmas calories can’t possibly count, can they? That’s pretty much what the serpent told Eve back there in the Garden of Eden.

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

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

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

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

The song up at the beginning goes on to say:

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

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

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
Christmas is just days away and my book:
“Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope”
Would be a really nice gift for everyone you know.
You can find it on Amazon.com...you know, like gift cards!
“Star of Wonder” a delightful Christmas Kindle story is there, too.
If you’d like a little preview, take a look at: <https://youtu.be/Ka1KYrONrd0>

*(That First Noel, Lyrics by Deanne Davis, Music by David Wheatley)





HONORS AWARDS NOMINATIONS

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

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

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

HONORSDINNER@SIERRAMADRECA.GOV

DESCRIPTION OF AWARD

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

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

City of Sierra Madre

ORDINANCE NO. 1474

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 10.04 (DEFINITIONS) AND CHAPTER 10.24 (STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING) OF TITLE 10 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE THE PARKING OF OVERSIZED COMMERCIAL OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND TRAILERS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the presence of unattached trailers and oversized commercial and recreational vehicles reduce roadway space for motorists (especially on narrow streets), occupy multiple parking spaces, limit the line of sight of approaching traffic at intersections and driveways, and cause visual blight;

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1426 on February 25, 2020, to remedy these concerns by regulating the parking of recreational and commercial vehicles in residential districts;

WHEREAS, the City continues to receive code enforcement complaints regarding unattached trailers and commercial and recreational vehicles parked in residential zones;

WHEREAS, the owners of the parked vehicles often cite ambiguities in the Sierra Madre Municipal Code for their failure to abide; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend the Sierra Madre Municipal Code (“SMMC”) to clarify the definition of the applicability of the SMMC Chapter 10.24 to unattached trailers and oversized recreational and commercial vehicles.

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

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

SECTION 2. Addition. Section 10.04.055 (Commercial Vehicle) of Chapter 10.04 (Definitions) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) is added to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to read as follows:

“Commercial vehicle” means a motorized vehicle of a type required to be registered under the California Vehicle Code and used or maintained for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation or profit, or designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property as defined by Vehicle Code Section 260.

SECTION 3. Addition. Section 10.04.110 (Oversized Recreational or Commercial Vehicle) of Chapter 10.04 (Definitions) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) is added to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to read as follows:

“Oversized recreational or commercial vehicle” means a recreational or commercial vehicle that exceeds eight feet in width or twenty-five feet in overall length excluding the trailer tongue, except for any vehicle which exceeds these dimensions solely because of modifications required to accommodate a disability and the vehicle is lawfully displaying a disabled placard or license.

SECTION 4. Amendment. Section 10.04.165 (Recreational Vehicle) of Chapter 10.04 (Definitions) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code is amended to read as follows, with underlined text denoting additions and struck-through text denoting deletions:

“Recreational vehicle” means a motorhome, travel trailer, truck camper, camping trailer, or other vehicle or trailer, with or without motive power, designed or altered for human habitation for recreational, emergency, or other human occupancy. “Recreational vehicle” specifically includes, but is not limited to: a “recreational vehicle” as defined by Health and Safety Code Section 18010; a “truck camper” as defined by Health and Safety Code Section 18013.4; a “camp trailer” as defined in Vehicle Code Section 242; a “camper” as defined in Vehicle Code Section 243; a “fifth-wheel travel trailer” as defined in Vehicle Code Section 324; a “house car” as defined by Vehicle Code Section 362; or a “trailer coach” as defined in Vehicle Code Section 635, including, but not limited to, utility trailers, travel trailers, truck campers, tent trailers, pick-up campers, camping trailers and self-propelled motor home with or without state vehicular registration.

SECTION 5. Addition. Section 10.04.185 (Trailer) of Chapter 10.04 (Definitions) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) is added to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to read as follows:

“Trailer” means a vehicle designed for carrying persons or property on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon any other vehicle as defined in Vehicle Code 630.

SECTION 6. Amendment. Section 10.24.050 (Use of Streets for Storage of Vehicles Prohibited) of Chapter 10.24 (Stopping, Standing and Parking) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code is amended to read as follows, with underlined text denoting additions and struck-through text denoting deletions:

No person who owns or has possession, custody, or control of any vehicles shall park such vehicle upon any street or alley for more than a consecutive period of seventy-two hours. This section does not apply to an oversized recreational or commercial vehicle which is subject to Section 10.24.310, and may not be parked overnight on any street or alley.

SECTION 7. Amendment. Section 10.24.310 (Parking Commercial and Recreational Vehicles in Residential Districts) of Chapter 10.24 (Stopping, Standing and Parking) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code is amended to read as follows, with underlined text denoting additions and struck-through text denoting deletions:

- A. No person shall park any oversized commercial and/or recreational or commercial vehicle exceeding seven feet in width or seven feet in height in any city street or alley except:
1. While loading property onto or unloading property from the vehicle; as is necessary to complete such work Overnight parking of commercial or recreational vehicles is prohibited except as provided in Section 10.24.230; or
2. When such vehicle is parked in connection with, and in the aid of the performance of a service to or on a property in the block in which such vehicle is parked as necessary to complete such service within 100 feet; or
3. With an overnight parking permit pursuant to Section 10.24.230.
- B. Regardless of whether a person has a valid commercial or recreational vehicle overnight parking permit pursuant to Section 10.24.230, no person shall:
- 1A. Park a commercial or recreational vehicle in any city street location for more than seventy-two contiguous hours and not more than twice in a calendar month.
- 2B. Park a commercial or recreational vehicle within fifteen feet of an intersection, or within ten feet of any curb cut or driveway.
- 3C. Use electrical cords, extension cords, hoses, cables, or other items that cross on the parkway, street, or sidewalk from any property to a commercial or recreational vehicle parked on a city street at any time.
- 4D. Connect a commercial or recreational vehicle to the public sewer system or dump waste onto public or private land or into streets, gutters or storm drains.
- 5E. Use slide outs or pop outs on a commercial or recreational vehicle that encroach on the roadway, parkway and/or sidewalk interfering with the path of safe travel of vehicles and pedestrians.
- 6F. Use a commercial or recreational vehicle for human habitation.
- 7G. Leak or emit any type of grease, oil, fuel or other harmful substance onto public right-of-way.

SECTION 8. Addition. Section 10.24.315 (Parking Trailers in Residential Districts) of Chapter 10.24 (Stopping, Standing and Parking) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) is added to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to read as follows:

No person shall park any unattached trailer in any city street or alley except:

A. While loading property onto or unloading property from the oversized recreational or commercial vehicle.

B. When such vehicle is parked in the aid of the performance of a service to a property within 100 feet; or

C. With an overnight parking permit pursuant to Section 10.24.230.

SECTION 9. Addition. Section 10.24.380 (Other Prohibited Uses) of Chapter 10.24 (Stopping, Standing and Parking) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) is added to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to read as follows:

- No person shall:
- A. Use electrical cords, extension cords, hoses, cables, or other items that cross on the parkway, street, or sidewalk from any property to a commercial or recreational vehicle or a trailer parked on a city street at any time.
- B. Connect a commercial or recreational vehicle or trailer to the public sewer system or dump waste onto public or private land or into streets, gutters or storm drains.
- C. Use slide outs or pop outs on a commercial or recreational vehicle or trailer that encroach on the roadway, parkway and/or sidewalk interfering with the path of safe travel of vehicles and pedestrians.
- D. Use a commercial or recreational vehicle or trailer for human habitation.
- E. Leak or emit any type of grease, oil, fuel or other harmful substance from a commercial or recreational vehicle or trailer onto public right-of-way.

SECTION 10. CEQA. The City Council finds the adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations and is also exempt from review because it does not meet the definition of a project under CEQA Guidelines sections 15061, subdivision (b)(3), and section 15378, subdivision (a) and subdivision (b)(5). The proposed Ordinance has no potential for resulting in physical changes to the environment because commercial and recreational vehicles and trailers represent an insignificant proportion of the City’s total parking load.

SECTION 11. Severability. If any sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any part hereof or exhibit hereto is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof or exhibit thereto. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that anyone or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraph, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 12. Certification. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36932, the City Clerk shall certify the passage, approval, and adoption of this Ordinance by the City Council.

SECTION 13. Publication. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933, the City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published or posted.

SECTION 14. Effective Date. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36937, this Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of December, 2024.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced by first reading on the 12th day of November, 2024, and duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre, California, at a regular meeting held on the 10th day of December, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Kelly Kriebs, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Parkhurst, Council Member Edward Garcia, Council Member Gene Goss, Council Member Kristine Lowe

NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAINED: None.

Laura Aguilar, City Clerk



City of Sierra Madre

ORDINANCE NO. 1475

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 10.28 (PARKING PENALTIES) TO TITLE 10 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Vehicle Code Section 40200 et seq. provides the administrative procedures for processing parking violations;

WHEREAS, Vehicle Code Section 40202 authorizes the City to issue parking violation notices;

WHEREAS, Vehicle Code Section 40203.5(a) states, “The schedule of parking penalties for parking violations and late payment penalties shall be established by the governing body of the jurisdiction where the notice of violation is issued. To the extent possible, issuing agencies within the same county shall standardize parking penalties”;

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adopt this ordinance to clarify the procedures by which the Sierra Madre Police Department issues parking violation notices and collects parking violation penalties.

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

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

SECTION 2. Addition. Chapter 10.28 (Parking Penalties) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

Chapter 10.28 — Parking Penalties

10.28.010 — Persons Authorized to Issue Parking Violation Notices

Peace Officers and persons designated by the Chief of Police to enforce parking laws and regulations are authorized to issue a notice of parking violation pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 40202.

10.28.020 — Parking Violation Penalty Schedule

The penalties for a parking violation shall be established from time to time by resolution of the city council pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 40203.5.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any part hereof is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that anyone or more sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 4. Certification. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36932, the City Clerk shall certify the passage, approval, and adoption of this Ordinance by the City Council.

SECTION 5. Publication. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933, the City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published or posted.

SECTION 6. Records. Pursuant to Government Code Section 40801, proof of certification and publication shall be entered in the book of Ordinances of the City Council.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36937, this Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 10th day of December, 2024.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance 1475 was introduced by first reading on the 12th day of November, 2024, and duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 10th day of December, 2024, by the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre, California, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Kelly Kriebs, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Parkhurst, Council Member Edward Garcia, Council Member Gene Goss, Council Member Kristine Lowe

NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAINED: None.

Laura Aguilar, City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 1476

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 3.08 (PURCHASING PROCEDURES) OF TITLE 3 (REVENUE AND FINANCE) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (“UPCCAA”), authorizes certain cost accounting standards and methods for the bidding of public works projects by public entities, where the entity has, by resolution, elected to become subject to uniform construction cost accounting procedures;

WHEREAS, the City has, by resolution, elected to become subject to uniform construction cost accounting procedures, and has adopted UPCCAA-compliant methods for the bidding of public works projects in Chapter 3.08 (Purchasing Procedures) of Title 3 (Revenue and Finance) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code;

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (“AB”) 2192, enacted on September 29, 2024, amended certain sections of UPCCAA; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adopt this ordinance to update its public works projects bidding processes to conform to current UPCCAA standards.

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

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

SECTION 2. Amendment. Chapter 3.08 (Purchasing Procedures) of Title 3 (Revenue and Finance) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code is amended to read as shown in Exhibit 1 to this Ordinance, with additions denoted by underlined text and deletions denoted by struck-through text.

SECTION 3. CEQA. The City Council finds the adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations and is also exempt from review because it does not meet the definition of a project under CEQA Guidelines sections 15061, subdivision (b)(3), and section 15378, subdivision (a) and subdivision (b)(5).

SECTION 4. Severability. If any sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any part hereof or exhibit hereto is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof or exhibit thereto. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that anyone or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraph, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 5. Certification. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36932, the City Clerk shall certify the passage, approval, and adoption of this Ordinance by the City Council.

SECTION 6. Publication. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933, the City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published or posted.

SECTION 7. Records. Pursuant to Government Code Section 40801, proof of certification and publication shall be entered in the book of Ordinances of the City Council.

SECTION 8. Effective Date. Pursuant to Government Code Section 36937, this Ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 10th day of December 2024.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance 1476 was introduced by first reading on the 12th day of November, 2024, and duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 10th day of December, 2024, by the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre, California, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Kelly Kriebs, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Parkhurst, Council Member Edward Garcia, Council Member Gene Goss, Council Member Kristine Lowe

NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAINED: None.

Laura Aguilar, City Clerk

Holiday Fire Prevention Safety Tips

Pasadena Fire Chief Chad Augustin reminds residents to keep fire safety top of mind when decking the halls this holiday season. Festive celebrations, bright lights, and pine-scented greens are staples of the holiday season, but they also present a greater risk for fire. One in every four home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems, and two out of every five decoration fires happen because decor is placed too close to a heat source. Follow these tips to ensure a joyous and fire-safe holiday season:

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Replace string lights that are worn, broke, or have loose bulb connections.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Ensure the tree is placed at least three feet away from any heat source like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights.
- Add water to the tree stand daily.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree and use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Turn off all lights and decor before leaving your home or going to bed.

When the holiday season comes to an end, properly dispose of your Christmas tree to reduce fire risks. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should never be left inside your home, garage, or propped against your house. Christmas Tree and Holiday recycling is available for residents through the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works.

By following these safety tips and being mindful of fire hazards, you can keep your home safe and enjoy a festive, worry-free holiday season. Drop Off Dates & Locations: Residents can drop off their trees for recycling from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 26, 2024, through Jan. 3, 2025, at the following locations: Eaton Blanche Park 3100 E. Del Mar Blvd. Bring your tree to the parking lot on Millicent Way. Robinson Park 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave. Bring your tree to the parking lot on Morton Street. Please REMOVE all stands, ornaments and lights

Curbside Pickup Dates (Your Trash Pickup Day)

From January 6 through January 17, City of Pasadena Refuse customers can set their Christmas trees out on the street next to their containers for pickup on their regularly scheduled collection days. If disposing of your Christmas tree outside of those dates, you must place the tree inside your organics (yard waste) container for collection. Please cut the tree down to fit into the container and ensure that the lid will close. Please REMOVE all stands, ornaments, and lights.

If you are not a City of Pasadena Refuse customer, contact your waste hauler for more information regarding curbside pickup of Christmas trees.

Call the City Service Center at 626-744-7311 if you have any questions or visit: cityofpasadena.net/public-works.

Abolitionist's Gravesite Becomes Landmark



The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted Tuesday to designate renowned abolitionist Owen Brown's gravesite in Altadena as a Los Angeles County Historical Landmark.

A commemorative rustic slab of stone and additional smaller stones placed to mark the presumed outline of Brown's body currently identify his final resting place in Altadena on a hilltop at the northern end of El Prieto Road.

The landmark designation concludes a nearly year-long process that included a public hearing and administrative work by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.

"Honoring Owen Brown's gravesite as a Los Angeles County historical landmark is a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to justice and equality," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "His fight against slavery and unwavering commitment to treating all human beings with dignity and respect reflects his courage and vision. I am proud that we will add his gravesite to our County's registry of

landmarks today. This will help preserve his memory so that future generations can pay homage to his life's work."

In February, Barger introduced a motion to formally nominate the Owen Brown Gravesite as a historic County landmark. The nomination was catalyzed by the grassroots efforts of local organizations including Altadena Heritage and the Altadena Town Council.

Brown was born on November 4, 1824 in Hudson, Ohio. He was one of 20 children from his father's (abolitionist John Brown) first family.

In the early 1880s Brown moved with his brother Jason to Pasadena, a community recently established by Union supporters. They homesteaded the land around the gravesite and entertained a steady stream of visitors. When Brown caught pneumonia and died in January 1889, 2,000 people attended his funeral, many of whom marched from downtown Pasadena to Little Round Top to witness the burial.

At the time of his death, Brown was the last survivor of John Brown's historic



raid on Harpers Ferry. He died in Altadena on January 8, 1889. When his funeral was held two days later, a local newspaper at the time reported, "It was a historic day in Pasadena."

Snuggle a Senior Care Package Program



The City of South Pasadena Senior Center is set to begin accepting donations of new blankets as well as notes or letters to be distributed to residents 55 years and older. The Snuggle a Senior Care Package Program aims to bring warmth and comfort to homebound older adults during the winter months. Join us in spreading joy and love to our older adult community—your generosity can make a world of a difference!

Blankets can be dropped off now through January 3 at the South Pasadena Senior Center, located at 1102 Oxley Street, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Care packages will be distributed during the week of January 13.

For more information, to confirm a blanket drop off, or know a senior in need please call the South Pasadena Senior Center at (626) 403-7360 or email at seniorcenter@southpasadenaca.gov.

Kiesza and Aloe Blacc to be Rose Parade Opening



Aloe Blacc



Kiesza

Excitement is set to takes center stage as Pasadena Tournament of Roses officials announced Wednesday the performers for the 2025 Rose Parade Opening Spectacular presented by Honda. The Opening Spectacular will burst to life with an electrifying co-headlined performance by Kiesza and Aloe Blacc.

The Honda float will dazzle audiences with a synchronized light show featuring vibrant electric tubes, jaw-dropping pyrotechnics, extreme stunts and dynamic choreography that amps up the energy. Their inspirational float – "Electrified Dreams" – highlights the company's commitment to sustainability and its challenging global goal of zero emissions for all mobility products and business operations by 2050.

Kiesza kicks things off, commanding the stage with her signature powerhouse vocals and captivating dance moves. She'll breathe new life into her iconic smash hit, "Hideaway"—the track that dominated global charts

a decade ago. Backed by 20 dancers in shimmering reflective costumes, Kiesza's performance will sizzle with precision and style. But she's not stopping there—fans will get a taste of her recent Billboard #1 hit, "I Go Dance," all while extreme acrobats on jumping stilts defy gravity to her beat!

Then it's Aloe Blacc's turn to ignite the stage. His soulful voice will soar through the air as he belts out the timeless anthem "Wake Me Up"—his global mega-hit with the late Avicii. Enveloped in a stunning visual display of glowing light tubes, Aloe teams up with trampoline wall performers, whose gravity-defying flips and twists will leave the audience breathless.

"Electrified Dreams" also marks the Rose Parade's shift to a more electrified vehicle fleet, led by the new Honda Prologue, the brand's first all-electric SUV, the first all-electric Acura model, the ZDX Type S performance SUV and the Honda Motocompacto, a compact "last mile" e-scooter.

Rollaway Vehicle Hits South Pasadena Home

A vehicle caused minor damage to a home in South Pasadena Tuesday after it rolled backwards down a street and an embankment with the driver inside.

According to police at approximately 12:30 p.m., the South Pasadena Police Department responded to a report of a vehicle crashing into a home in the 200 block of Camino Del Sol. Upon arrival, officers and firefighters assisted the driver, sole passenger of the vehicle, and the occupants of the home. They also assessed the home for structural damage. The vehicle rolled backward down the street, onto the curb, through hedges, down an embankment, and through a tree before coming to rest against the house.

The impact destroyed the landscaping but caused only minor damage to the home's stucco exterior. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, and the occupants of the home were unaware of the incident until contacted by firefighters.

Traffic was temporarily diverted while a local tow truck company recovered the vehicle from the embankment. The roadway was fully reopened by 3:00 p.m.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is urged to call the South Pasadena Police Department at (626) 403-7270. If you would like to provide an anonymous tip, you can call Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS (8477).



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Creative Arts Group will be closed for the holidays from December 23 through January 5. See you for our winter session, which begins on January 6!

Happy Holidays!


CREATIVE ARTS GROUP
108 N. Baldwin, Sierra Madre, CA

SNOW DAY FUN FOR ALL



Snow Day at the City of Duarte this year included Face Painting and Rock Painting hosted by Duarte Kiwanis Club along with the Key Clubs from Duarte High School, CS Arts and Mountain View High School. Duarte Kiwanis President, Mercedes Ruiz and Board Member, Kaye Biggs joined Treasurer Filippo Fanara in coordinating the activities. If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com.

*Merry
Christmas*

Stockings From Santa



Sat. Dec. 21 – Save the day!



WHO: For children (ages 2-10) who believe in Santa

WHAT: A free stuffed stocking for any child that brings in a letter to give to Santa, asking for a gift for someone else.

WHEN: Sat. Dec. 21st at 6:00 pm while supplies last

WHERE: Pasadena Community Job Center
500 N. Lake Ave. Pasadena

WHY: Santa loves everyone! He will be there, ready for you to take pictures with him.

The KID-FIT Preschool Health and Fitness Organization, 1403 Bloomdale St., Duarte • 501c3 ID# 26-3801038

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

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NOVEMBER 30, 2024 - JANUARY 5, 2025

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BETHANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP



Bethany Christian School's Girls Varsity Volleyball team beat Gooden 2-1 to win the Foothill Sports League Championship on December 10, 2024. The schools, both located in Sierra Madre, each won their division semi-final and faced each other in the championship game which was held at LaSalle High School in Pasadena. Gooden won the first set but Bethany then went on to win sets 2 and 3. The game was well attended by fans from both schools, and the level of play was very impressive. Congratulations to Bethany Christian School's Varsity Girls Volleyball team and their coaches, Leia Beck and Laura Miller. For more information about Bethany Christian School, please visit www.bcsliions.org.

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Alverno Heights Academy 200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-3463 Head of School: Joanne Harabedian E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org	High Point Academy 1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107 Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989 website: www.highpointacademy.org
Arcadia Christian School 1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006 Preschool - TK - 8th Grade 626-574-8229/626-574-0805 Email: inquiry@acsliions.com Principal: Cindy Harmon website: www.acsliions.com	La Salle College Preparatory 3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org Interim Principal Ernest Siy
Arcadia High School 180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007 Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee bforsee@ausd.net	Monrovia High School 325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us
Arroyo Pacific Academy 41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca. (626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org	Odyssey Charter School 725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001 (626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill website: www.odysseycharterschool.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/	Pasadena High School 2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba website: http://phs.pusd.us
Barnhart School 240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007 (626) 446-5588 Head of School: Tonya Beilstein Kindergarten - 8th grade website: www.barnhartschool.org	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
Bethany Christian School 93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-3527 Preschool-TK-8th Grade Principal: Jonathon Hawes website: www.bcsliions.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
Clairbourn School 8400 Huntington Drive San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172 FAX: 626-286-1528 E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org	Sierra Madre Middle School 160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us
Foothill Oaks Academy 822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 (626) 301-9809 Principal: Nancy Lopez www.foothilloaksacademy.org office@foothilloaksacademy.org	Walden School 74 S San Gabriel Blvd Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166 www.waldenschool.net
Frostig School 971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 791-1255 Head of School: Jenny Janetzke Email: jenny@frostig.org	Weizmann Day School 1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 797-0204 Lisa Feldman: Head of School
The Gooden School 192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-2410 Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner website: www.goodenschool.org	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 325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016 (626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviaschools.net
	Duarte Unified School District 1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010 (626)599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us

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Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!

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Kids: color stuff in!

Merry Christmas!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with things you may see in Santa's workshop:

1. soft, white blanket of this, frosting the top of buildings

2. elves making upgrades to this in the garage

3. a huge scroll of paper listing these of every girl and boy

4. station overflowing with ice cream and every topping

5. elves hang up their own on the special night

6. wrapped toys tossed into a magic ____ for delivery

7. elves travel by this and magic

8. elf checking each ____ to make sure its jingle is ready to jangle

9. elves using ____ to make hand-crafted wooden toys

10. haywire ____ - making machine, covering shop with silvery strands

11. dispensers mounted on the walls, complete with marshmallows

12. a massive stone ____, but Santa enters through the front door

13. Mrs. Claus' special kitchen always has a batch of ____ in the oven

14. the ____ is a chilly place, but the workshop is always toasty

15. each room has a working ____ that never runs out of firewood

16. each of the ____ cared for by at least 3 animal-loving elves

17. a special closet just for Santa's ____ - with a tailor elf on hand...just in case

18. ____ eating big meals to have energy to power his nose through that special night

19. giant rolls of ____ paper hanging from walls - every color and design!

20. every refrigerator has at least 2 gallons of ____ - Santa's favorite drink

PUZZLES FOR YOU

AT THE RESTAURANT

- ACROSS
- 1. Bet's predecessor
 - 6. Ogre-like creature
 - 9. Attorney's bargain
 - 13. Old but in
 - 14. *Restaurant waiting area?
 - 15. Located near crannies?
 - 16. List of Catholic saints
 - 17. Down Under runner
 - 18. White heron
 - 19. *_____ meal, or staff meal
 - 21. *Meat and fish, in Italian restaurant
 - 23. Singer/songwriter Yoko
 - 24. *What appetizers do to appetite
 - 25. *Deuce
 - 28. Like a reliable move
 - 30. Not a desktop
 - 35. "My bad!"
 - 37. Painter Chagall
 - 39. Beyond suburban
 - 40. Wisecrack
 - 41. *Nigiri, e.g.
 - 43. *Middle Eastern bread
 - 44. Of an arm bone
 - 46. That time
 - 47. Let it stand, to proofreader
 - 48. Swellings
 - 50. Chancy
 - 52. Between E and NE
 - 53. Stomach reflex
 - 55. *Fish eggs
 - 57. *Second C in CDC
 - 61. *_____ d'hotel
 - 64. Not mainstream, as in art
 - 65. "To His _____ Mistress"
 - 67. Bracelet add-on
 - 69. Covers with gold
 - 70. Stiff grass bristle
 - 71. Irving of Dallas Mavericks
 - 72. Eyelid affliction
 - 73. Fairytale princess test
 - 74. Winter driving hazard

- DOWN
- 1. Curved one
 - 2. Table extender
 - 3. Sicilian erupter
 - 4. Movie trailer, e.g.
 - 5. Perfecting, as in skill
 - 6. Toe the line
 - 7. Popular pickup
 - 8. Puppy love
 - 9. Jumping stick
 - 10. Forsaken
 - 11. Barely got by
 - 12. Spumante-producing town
 - 15. Greek god's libation
 - 20. Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl.
 - 22. *Freshwater staple in sushi restaurant
 - 24. Idolize
 - 25. *Chef's hat
 - 26. Modified "will"
 - 27. Offer two cents
 - 29. Drawn tight
 - 31. Baby porcupines
 - 32. Commonplace
 - 33. Like Cheerios
 - 34. *Blue-_____ special
 - 36. Unsubscriber's focus
 - 38. *_____ de partie, or line cook
 - 42. _____ structure or _____ red
 - 45. Cujo's disease
 - 49. Ray shooter
 - 51. Foxhunter's call to hounds
 - 54. Short version
 - 56. C2H5
 - 57. Marlboros or Camels, slangily
 - 58. Army group
 - 59. Lazily
 - 60. *Complimentary dish
 - 61. Asian starling
 - 62. *Steak choice
 - 63. Great Lake
 - 66. Be in the red
 - 68. Were introduced

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

DEC. 7, 2024 Solutions

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NICK'S ON LAKE STREET: A RETURN TO EXCELLENCE

A few years ago, I had the pleasure of dining and reviewing Nick's on Lake Street in Pasadena, celebrating a friend's birthday with my group of close friends—fondly dubbed the “Glory Days Gang.” Recently, I decided to revisit the restaurant and see if it still held the charm and quality I remembered. Spoiler alert: it did.

I often remind my radio listeners about my rule of thumb: don't order seafood on Sundays or Mondays. Why? Many restaurants get their deliveries on Thursdays, meaning the seafood might not be at its freshest by the end of the weekend. Well, my rule was put to the test when my friends ordered sea bass and halibut, and I couldn't have been more wrong—the seafood was excellent, fresh, and perfectly prepared. Nick's proved that rules are made to be broken.

Brett, one of my dining companions, ordered the Caesar Salad, which was a highlight of the entire meal. The romaine lettuce came as full leaves—a presentation I personally love. While the dressing was on the milder side, it complemented the salad well, making it a solid choice.

For appetizers, the shrimp taquitos were a standout, combining crispy texture with flavorful shrimp that set a great tone for the meal. As for my own entrée, I chose the baby back ribs. Now, I'm typically hesitant to order ribs at a non-BBQ-specific restaurant, but Nick's delivered. The ribs were tender, well-seasoned, and reminded me of the quality you'd find at Houston's—a high compliment in my book. The side salad here is called the Petite Bistro, still scratching my head on what was in it, but it was a solid 9 in my book. My friend seated just next to me raved about the meatloaf, which was hearty and satisfying.

The wine list at Nick's is another highlight. I browsed through it and was impressed by how reasonably priced it was—both by the glass and by the bottle. It's rare to find a balance of quality and affordability, but Nick's manages it seamlessly. With food in the \$20-\$40 range, the overall value is excellent, especially for the level of service and attention to detail.

Speaking of service, Justin, our server, was attentive and professional, adding to the experience. And while the gin martini I ordered was only half-filled (a minor quibble), it was mixed to perfection and left me pleasantly surprised.

Nick's on Lake Street remains a top-tier dining option for those in the Pasadena area. From the excellent food to the stellar service, it's a place that deserves a spot on your dining rotation. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or just enjoying a night out, Nick's delivers quality and consistency in every bite.

Listen to my Foodie Radio Show on KRLA every Saturday at 7 PM. Or my podcast Peter Dills Bon Appetite

THE TASTING ROOM

TAMALES AND WINE!

I'm Gustavo Lira, Tasting Room Manager and Wine Buyer at The Bottle Shop in Sierra Madre with another wine and spirits selection.

It's that time of year again when the smell of tamales steaming fills the air. Usually, I drink coffee with my tamales. However, if you want to have a glass of wine with your tamales, there isn't any reason not to. This Sunday I am hosting a Tamale and Wine Tasting, and these are the three wines that we'll be having with the delicious tamales from some of the top tamale shops in Los Angeles.

Espuma de Piedra Blanc De Blancs Sparkling Wine, Valle de Guadalupe NV – This is 50% Chardonnay and 50% Sauvignon Blanc from the Valle de Guadalupe in Baja California, Mexico. It's clean, crisp, and refreshing. Notes of citrus and green apple are followed by a lifting, zesty finish. This sparkling wine pairs very well with tamales as it will cut through the richness of the pork and masa. This wine was crafted by Hugo D' Acosta known as “The Pioneer of Mexican winemaking.” \$33.99 MVN \$32.99

Clos Benoit “La Fleur” Grenache Rosé, Valle de Guadalupe 2023 - this is a vibrant Rosé of 100% Grenache. It's produced by Clos Benoit, one of the top wineries in Valle de Guadalupe. Gorgeous aroma with floral and spice notes. This isn't a big wine that's high in alcohol, but rather it is a wine of finesse with an undertow of body and structure. On the palate, you get notes of strawberry and lemon. The finish is delightful with bright acidity. Another great match for tamales! \$37.99 MVN \$35.99

Clos Benoit Red Wine, Valle de Guadalupe 2019 – Another magical wine from Clos Benoit. The 2019 vintage is a blend of 78% Grenache, 14% Syrah, 5% Counoise, and 3% Mourvèdre. On the nose, notes of red berries, plum, and spice. On the palate, notes of pepper, spice, red fruit, and citrus peel. It's so elegant and refined. This is an amazing wine that upends the notion that wines from Valle de Guadalupe aren't that good. This one is excellent and worth every penny! \$35.99 MVN \$33.99

All three wines are available at The Bottle Shop. Say you saw it in the Mountain Views News and get the special MVN price.

Until next time – Salud!

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WINE TASTING - Wednesday-Friday 5pm to 10pm

RT ROGERS BREWERY - SIERRA MADRE

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

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

Mr. Miller will be on the drums.

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

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

RT ROGERS IS AT 38 E. MONTECITO ST. SIERRA MADRE

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Dec. 18th & 21st
Jim Wright/ Jim Miller
Xmas Jazz
All shows 6:30 - 9PM
No Cover

ALL THINGS

By Jeff Brown

LOSING

by William Falk Editor-at-large The Week”

You feel your political tribe is losing, don't you? Nearly all Americans share that perception, regardless of whether they identify as Republicans, Democrats, or independents — or even if they don't much follow politics at all. This “bi-partisan pessimism” has a substantial basis in reality, says David Lauter in the Los Angeles Times. Conservatives are, in fact, losing the culture war, as American society becomes increasingly secular and multicultural, church attendance dwindles, acceptance of gay and lesbian rights grows, and working women choose smaller families or no children at all. Progressives quite accurately feel powerless to stop conservative Supreme Court justices from rolling back reproductive freedoms, making deadly weapons even easier to get, weakening environmental and business regulations, and authorizing Republican state legislatures to use extreme gerrymandering to maintain power. As Election Day looms, both presidential candidates are warning that their defeat would trigger an existential crisis for America.

But let's zoom out a bit. Democrats often felt dejected and shut out of power during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush. Republicans wondered if they'd win another national election when Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama dominated Washington. American politics has always been a swinging pendulum, an arc of action and reaction. That's why Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito was wrong when he was recently taped saying of the culture war, “One side or the other is going to win.” In a democracy, one side wins temporarily — until the next election, or until death reshapes the Supreme Court. Roe seemed like a final liberal victory until it was reversed 50 years later, but the fulfillment of that conservative dream has cost Republicans dearly at the polls — and the overall number of abortions has gone up. On Nov. 6, roughly 45 percent of Americans will feel crushed, frightened, and angry. But defeat will contain the seeds of future victory — albeit a temporary one.



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CHRISTOPHER Nyerges

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

WHO IS SANTA CLAUS?

On a recent talk show, a woman complained that Santa Claus has gained a more prominent role during the Christmas season than the Jesus child. She argued that this was a sign that “we” have allowed secularism – and maybe even paganism – to creep into the Christmas tradition. What? I thought. Is she joking? She obviously didn’t know that there really was an actual historical figure upon which the modern “Santa Claus” is based, and he wasn’t a so-called “pagan.”

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

Nikolas was said to be religious from an early age, and he always fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays. Because of his outspoken beliefs, he was persecuted by the Romans and was imprisoned during the persecution of Diocletian.

In case you never heard of the “persecution of Diocletian” (I hadn’t), it was the most severe of the Roman Empire’s persecutions against Christians, simply because they were Christians. It was also known as the “Great Persecution.” In 303, four emperors issued a series of dictatorial laws which essentially did away with any legal rights of Christians. The edicts demanded that the Christians comply with tradi-tional Roman “religious” practices, meaning, giving sacrifices to the various Roman gods. This persecu-tion was severe, but weakest in the British colonies where the Empire had the least sway. It was the most severe in the Eastern provinces, where Nikolas lived.

Nikolas refused to worship the Roman gods, so he was tossed into a prison, where he was said to be hungry and cold for about 5 years. With the rise of Constantine, the persecutions came to an end in 313. Constantine is known for “Christianizing” the Roman Empire, and re-naming all the Mythraic and so-called “pagan” holidays so they could all now be regarded as Christian holidays. With Constan-tine in power, Nikolas was released.

Shortly after his return to his homeland in 317 A.D., Nikolas became the Bishop of Myra.

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

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

In one story, he apparently snuck into the home of a family where the three daughters of a poor man were about to get married. Nikolas put some gold into the stockings which the girls left by the fire to dry. This, apparently, is the origin of hanging up stockings on Christmas eve. He was also well known for the gifts that he gave to newly married couples during the already-estab-lished Christmas season.

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

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

By the year 450, churches in Greece and Asia Minor were being named in honor of Nikolas. He was officially honored as a saint by the Eastern Catholic Church in 800. December 6 began to be celebrated as Bishop Nicholas Day in France by the 1200s. As time went on, when ever someone received a mysterious gift, it would be attributed to Saint Nicholas!

The Dutch called Saint Nicholas “Sinterklass,” which is the most likely manner in which the name Saint Nicholas gradually evolved into “Santa Claus.” Along the way, Saint Nicholas was given some of the attributes of Odin, the Norse God, who could travel through the sky and who had a secret home some-where around the north pole. Come to think of it, even the Superman story borrowed from Odin.

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

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

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Katnip News!



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If you are looking for a nice sweet kitty, and want to give him the opportunity at real love, safety in a real home, please fill out the application at <https://www.lifelineforpets.org/kimba.html>.

Pet of the Week



This gentle 4-year-old husky is a sweet soul with a shy side, but with a little patience, his warm personality shines through. Casper may be a bit nervous at first in new environments and meeting new people, but he eventually begins to settle and even enjoys a cozy nap.

On a leash, Casper is a dream—he’s easy to handle, doesn’t pull, and is easily redirected from distractions like squirrels or other dogs. During a walk in the park, another off-leash husky ran up to him, and Casper handled it like a pro. His body was relaxed, tail wagging, and he was friendly. They even shared a polite sniff before moving along calmly.Casper loves gentle attention and will come up for pets and affection once he’s comfortable. He’s curious yet cautious around new people, sometimes taking a step back before warming up. Once he’s familiar, though, he’s affectionate, friendly, and even easy to manage.Casper will thrive in a calm, understanding home that gives him the space and time to open up at his own pace. With his gentle nature and love for quiet companionship, he’ll make a loyal, loving friend.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 2:00 – 5:00. For those who prefer, adoption appointments are available daily from 10:30 – 1:30 and can be scheduled online. View photos of adoptable pets at pasadenahumane.org.

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

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From The Desk of Steve Sciurba, Safe Path For Senior

CHECKING ON AN AGING LOVED ONE: SIGNS THEY MAY NEED ASSISTED LIVING

As loved ones age, their independence is important, but it can pose challenges to their safety and well-being. Regular check-ins help ensure they're thriving and identify when additional support, like assisted living, may be needed. Here are key steps and signs to watch for.

Start with a Conversation
Approach the topic sensitively with open-ended questions like:

- "How have you been feeling?"
- "Is anything harder to manage around the house?"

These questions can encourage honest responses.
Observe Their Living Environment
Look for signs daily tasks are overwhelming:

- Cleanliness: Is the home unusually cluttered?
- Maintenance: Are repairs neglected?
- Safety Hazards: Check for tripping risks, like loose rugs or poor lighting.

Assess Physical Health
Notice signs of declining health:

- Weight Changes: Sudden loss or gain may indicate eating issues.
- Mobility: Are they struggling with stairs or walking?
- Medications: Are prescriptions organized and taken properly?

Evaluate Emotional and Mental Well-being
Look for mood changes, isolation, or memory issues. Have they stopped socializing or forgotten important tasks?
Monitor Daily Task Management
Check their ability to prepare meals, handle hygiene, and manage bills. Difficulty in these areas may signal the need for help.
Recognize When Assisted Living Is Needed
Assisted living might be necessary if your loved one:

- Forgets medications frequently.
- Experiences frequent falls.
- Struggles with personal care.
- Shows signs of depression or cognitive decline.

Present Assisted Living as a Positive Step
Highlight benefits like round-the-clock care, social engagement, and relief from household responsibilities. Visit communities together to explore options.

By staying proactive and supportive, you can help ensure your loved one remains safe and healthy, whether living independently or transitioning to assisted living.

BE WARY OF WINTER HEART ATTACKS

Dear Savvy Senior:

I've heard that people with heart problems need to be extra careful during the winter months because heart attacks are much more common. What can you tell me about this?

AFib Alan

Dear Alan:

Everyone knows winter is cold and flu season, but many don't know that it's also the prime season for heart attacks too, especially if you already have a heart condition or have suffered a previous heart attack. Here's what you should know, along with some tips to help you protect yourself.

In the U.S., the risk of having a heart attack during the winter months is twice as high as it is during the summertime. Why? There are a number of factors, and they're not all linked to cold weather. Even people who live in warm climates have an increased risk. Here are the areas you need to pay extra attention to this winter.

Cold temperatures: When a person gets cold, the body responds by constricting the blood vessels to help the body maintain heat. This causes blood pressure to go up and makes the heart work harder. Cold temperatures can also increase levels of certain proteins that can thicken the blood and increase the risk for blood clots. So, stay warm this winter and when you do have to go outside, make sure you bundle up in layers with gloves and a hat, and place a scarf over your mouth and nose to warm up the air before you breathe it in.

Snow shoveling: Studies have shown that heart attack rates jump dramatically in the first few days after a major snowstorm, usually a result of snow shoveling. Shoveling snow is a very strenuous activity that raises blood pressure and stresses the heart. Combine those factors with cold temperatures and the risks for heart attack surges. If your sidewalk or driveway needs shoveling this winter, hire a kid from the neighborhood to do it for you, or use a snow blower. Or, if you must shovel, push rather than lift the snow as much as possible, stay warm, and take frequent breaks.

New Year's resolutions: Every Jan. 1, millions of people join gyms or start exercise programs as part of their New Year's resolution to get in shape, and many overexert themselves too soon. If you're starting a new exercise program this winter, take the time to talk to your doctor about what types and how much exercise may be appropriate for you.

Winter weight gain: People tend to eat and drink more and gain more weight during the holiday season and winter months, all of which are hard on the heart and risky for someone with heart disease. So, keep a watchful eye on your diet this winter and avoid binging on fatty foods and alcohol.

Shorter days: Less daylight in the winter months can cause many people to develop "seasonal affective disorder" or SAD, a wintertime depression that can stress the heart. Studies have also looked at heart attack patients and found they usually have lower levels of vitamin D (which comes from sunlight) than people with healthy hearts. To boost your vitamin D this winter, consider taking a supplement that contains between 1,000 and 2,000 international units (IU) per day.

Flu season: Studies show that people who get flu shots have a lower heart attack risk. It's known that the inflammatory reaction set off by a flu infection can increase blood clotting which can lead to heart attacks in vulnerable people. So, if you haven't already done so this year, get a flu shot and Covid-19 booster for protection. And, if you've never been vaccinated for RSV or pneumococcal pneumonia, you should consider getting these vaccines too.

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

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OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

A SURPRISED PRE-CHRISTMAS GIFT SPECIAL

I enjoy everything about Christmas except that I'm not so fond of Christmas shopping. That is not something I enjoy. Compared to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, who is the Queen of cash registers, I am not qualified to do shopping.

Mostly, I don't know how to get a present for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage because she has everything she needs. And for me to find out one thing that she needs for Christmas would be a miracle in and of itself.

Something happened this week that encouraged me in this line. I got a pre-Christmas gift that I was not expecting.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was using a paper cutter for her Christmas card work in my office. All of a sudden, I heard her groan in agony. She walked out carrying a paper cutting board, and told me it broke while cutting some paper.

"I'm just going to throw it away and use another board."

"Wait a minute," I said, "maybe I can fix it for you?"

It took her a while to calm down from hilariously laughing at me. Then she said, "What, you fix something?" and continued laughing.

One of the levers popped out of its socket, and it was almost impossible to put it back in.

She handed it to me, walked away snickering, and I began looking at the little board, trying to figure out what I could do.

I thought about this for a while, thinking it would be an excellent opportunity to challenge that image of me. What would happen if I could fix this little cutting board and hand it back to her?

Looking at that cutting board, I didn't know where to start. You have to know where to start in order to fix something, and I needed to figure how to begin this project.

After fiddling with it for several minutes, I suddenly saw how it could be fixed. I was surprised at myself. But with a little twisting and turning, I could pop that lever back in where it belonged. When I did that, the board was back to normal. I'm not sure I was.

I was so happy I didn't know what to do, and I certainly didn't want to sing. But I called The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "Oh, my dear. Would you please come in here for a moment?"

She showed up very quickly, and I handed the cutting board back to her and said, "I fixed it for you so now you can continue using it."

She looked at me, then at the board I had just handed her, and in a low tone, she said, "How in the world did you fix that?"

Getting an early Christmas present is a very wonderful thing. I could not have gotten a better one than this.

As I was musing over this great gift, I couldn't help but think of the greatest gift in the world.

The verse that came to mind was John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Christmas is the celebration of God's greatest gift coming into the world. During this illustrious celebration, I do not want to forget what God's gift has done for me. The gift from God is "everlasting life" that comes to those who believe in Him.

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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



Does that term sound familiar? I, and probably many of you, are worried about the immediate future after the January 20,2025 inauguration of the new president-elect? You should notice that I refrain whenever possible to mention his name. This refusal is typical of someone like me who has developed TDS (Trump detachment syndrome) a self-protective behavior that involves blacking out the news and not watching or reading about you-know-who. Being a news-junkie, I tried to satisfy my need for information by reading about the problems of some of the European Countries.

I learned that France has entered a political crisis after the French legislative election organized by French President Emmanuel Macron in June 2024 determined to bring about a centrist coalition. This did not happen; but instead, there has been a collapse of the French government without the formation of any new coalition. All this French turmoil reminded me of another period of French History known as the “Reign of Terror.”

I learned a little about this period when I took some forgotten class in college but today all I remember is the guillotine cutting off the heads of the feuding French leaders. This all happened after the French politicians had agreed to behead the King and Queen but what I recall most is the statement attributed to Queen Marie Antoinette that I quote above. As the story goes, “Let them eat cake” was the queen’s response during the French Revolution upon being told that her starving peasant subjects had no bread. The anecdote has been cited as an example of Marie-Antoinette’s obliviousness to the conditions and daily lives of ordinary people.

That being so out of touch with the present reality and the coming future eventually cost the King and Queen their lives. The feuding politicians who voted to arrest and kill them were soon sent to the guillotine themselves. Could such events happen here in twenty-first century America? I know that seems unthinkable, but have you been brave enough to listen to the threats made by the President-elect and the individuals he plans to appoint to his cabinet?

PUT THE LIGHTS ON
LET THEM EAT CAKE

How do we prepare ourselves? I thought I might get a glimpse of the future by reading about the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror and its aftermath. It turns out that after killing many of the partisan leaders, there was in fact a period historians call the “Thermidorian reaction.” I do not believe this period was even mentioned in my history class but perhaps I wasn’t listening or hadn’t bought the book. After the period of political violence at the end of the Reign of Terror France had become weary of the mounting executions and the reaction was to abandon radical political change in favor of a stable constitutional government of a conservative nature.

Nevertheless, during the period of the Thermidorian reaction there continued to be great discontent among the population. Various uprisings occurred and the military leader Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power and eventually ruled as an Autocratic Emperor of the French from 1804-1814. Napoleon was a uniquely talented autocrat and during his rule there was an abolishment of many laws and policies such as privileges based on birth, and social inequality. But despite Napoleon’s early successes in restoring order to France after he became emperor, he attempted to conquer the rest of Europe and in 1812 embarked on an invasion which was, however, a total disaster. Subsequently, his forces invaded Belgium which ignited the Battle of Waterloo and the final defeat of his reign. (Somewhere along the line I learned about this although it might have been through a song recorded by ABBA.)

Life continued and that is my point. If we haven’t paid attention before, it is time to pay attention now. Today there is some sort of consensus that the election was lost by the Democrats because people stopped paying attention and failed to vote as a reaction to a kind of information overload.

Well, as some complete unknown sang when I was young, the times they are a Changin, and you better get in the front seat and be ready to lend a hand; otherwise, you might lose your head. You never know what comes next, but something always does.

Anyway, who can afford dessert these days? Poor Marie!

RICH JOHNSON



NOW THAT’S RICH

A DAY IN MY LIFE AND SONG TITLE CHANGES

February 9, 1964 was a life changing day for your intrepid columnist. If you don’t remember, or weren’t even around, on February 9th something life changing happened in my life.

That evening CBS Television broadcast a live show from a 728-seat capacity theater in New York City. CBS had to turn away 49,972 requests for seats for that particular broadcast. Maybe it was because it was the night Ed Sullivan introduced America to the Beatles. Yours truly and 72,999,999 other viewers were watching. And at 8:12pm the Beatles took the stage instantly kidnapping the great majority of America’s youth...including me. The days following the broadcast are still a blur, but I do remember browbeating my mom until she bought me a guitar. And 60 years later, a guitar is still never far from me....even in my office. So, music has played a significant part in my life.

Now onto song title changes. In addition to weekly attempts to write humorously, I also write songs. Commonplace, in the middle of writing a song you use whatever words and syllables match the melody. It’s not unusual the first words sung in the lyrics become the song’s title. Not in the case of the Beatle classic “Yesterday”. That song was originally called “Scrambled Eggs” because McCartney had the melody before he had the word. He knew it wouldn’t be about his breakfast but the syllables worked. Thought sometimes original song titles come from the strangest of circumstances.

Take another Beatle classic for example: “With a Little Help From My Friends”. Its original title was “Badfinger Boogie”. That title was motivated by a hurt finger John had while recording the song. Later the term “Badfinger” became the name for a band who were previously known as “The Iveys”. Also, can you guess what famous Beatle song was originally titled “17”? I bet if you think about it you would come up with the answer: “I Saw Her Standing There”.

Speaking of Paul McCartney, he said there was no such person as “Eleanor Rigby”. Methinks Paul had a minor crush on actress Eleanor Bron who appeared in the Beatle movie “Help”. In the song there is a reference to “Father McKenzie”. A fictitious name to be sure, but when Paul was writing the song he sang “Father McCartney”.

Willie Nelson was a disc jockey and struggling songwriter before he ever strapped on a guitar, stood and sang in front of people. One of his original songs he titled “Stupid”. You might know it better as a Patsy Cline’s hit “Crazy”. Patsy liked the song, but not the title. So, to get Ms. Cline to record it, Willie had to change the song to “Crazy”. Essential the same message...just a different word.

Simon and Garfunkel’s classic song “Mrs. Robinson” was changed so it could be used in the 1968 comedy movie “The Graduate”. The song we know as “Mrs. Robinson” was originally “Mrs. Roosevelt”, a song Paul Simon was writing to honor former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Early rock and roll classic “At the Hop” by Danny & the Juniors was originally titled “Do the Bop”.

Even Christmas carols had some name changes. “Away in a Manger” was originally known as “Luther’s Cradle Song”. Perfect except Luther didn’t write it lol.

As the holiday season keeps coming, try to do as much shopping, entertaining and other excuses to spend money close to home. Whether it be Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Arcadia, Duarte, supporting the small retailers helps keep a community vibrant and alive. Take a quick walk through Arnold’s Hardware Store, for example, and odds are you will find something you need and never think of while you are out and about. And the perfect Christmas hammer for grandma.

One of the benefits of supporting local restaurants is many in our communities do not have 24/7 transportation and are forced to walk to retailers. Buy local. Need a quick under \$20 gift. Go into the new bookstore in Sierra Madre. It’s on the Blvd, south side. Fables and Fancies. Consider the need for a quick, inexpensive birthday present and having the convenience of a bookstore down the street where you can find gems from \$5.00. Of course, they also stock those beautiful gift books.

“Friendships are one of the best measures of your worth.” Chuck Darwin
Enjoy your weekend.

HOWARD Hays As I See It



Mike Wallace: “Why are you doing this? You have enough money.”
Jack Benny: “Yes – But I don’t have it all.”
- bit from “The Jack Benny Program”

Big stories: President Biden pardons his son Hunter, the collapse of the Assad regime in Syria, murder of a health insurance CEO, and a billionaire pays \$6.2 million to eat a banana that’d been duct-taped to a wall. Guess which one I’m writing about.

The banana-buyer, Justin Sun, is a 34-year-old Chinese cryptocurrency entrepreneur with a net worth of \$1.34 billion, currently under SEC investigation for securities fraud.

He’s also become a business partner of Donald Trump. Sun paid \$30 million for (untradeable) tokens from World Liberty Financial, the Trump family’s cryptocurrency outfit set up just months before the election, bringing an \$18 million payout to Trump. With the crypto industry’s successful \$180 million investment in getting Trump elected, Justin Sun figures he can now in-dulge in that banana.

Trump is surrounding himself with billionaires. Topping the list is Elon Musk – net worth hitting \$400 billion. He’s also now America’s biggest political donor – investing \$274 million this last round.

Eleven billionaires are slated for Cabinet and key administration posts. According to Axios, Trump’s cabinet hopefuls have a combined worth of \$10 billion – compared to Biden’s cabinet at \$118 billion when he took office.

It’s a relatively small pool of billionaires Trump has to draw from; fewer than 800 in the country, or about .0002% of the population. But those 800 hold some 3.8% of the nation’s wealth – more than the entire bottom half of the population (2.5%).

Their actions are geared not towards service to country but rather how to further increase that share of wealth. And since they see it as a zero-sum game, the more they win means the more everyone else must lose.

An early sign is this new Department of Government Efficiency, headed by Elon Musk and Vi-vek Ramaswamy (net worth \$1.1 billion). The goal, they say, is to cut wasteful spending by some \$2 trillion (more than the budgets of the Pentagon and Departments of Education and Homeland Security – combined).

The target is “excess regulations”. As noted by Lisa Gilbert, Co-President of Public Citizen, “The purpose of government regulations is to protect the American people. We all depend on these regulations to protect our air, water, workers, children’s safety, and so much more. ‘Cutting red tape’ is shorthand for getting rid of the safeguards that protect us”. For Musk and Ramaswamy, those regulations are impediments to concentrating yet more of our nation’s wealth into the hands of that top .0002%.

Another priority is extending the tax cuts from Trump’s first term, due to expire next year. 80% of the benefits of these cuts went to the top 1% (according to Forbes, those with a minimum net worth of \$11 million). The cost to our treasury is \$1.9 trillion over ten years, with an additional \$400 billion a year starting in 2027 should they be extended.

There’s always talk about how to “pay for” all this incurred national debt. Right off the bat, it’s cutting Medicaid and SNAP (food stamp) benefits - billionaires starting off by hitting those struggling for food and healthcare.

Social Security and Medicare are on the block, too. There’s a push for privatizing Medicare, while Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) calls Social Security a “scam” – that people should be able to simply “invest” their money, instead.



These programs are drawing attention not over concerns whether they work, but because there’s a lot of money on the table - \$1.4 trillion for Social Security, \$900 billion for Medicare – and the billionaires are determined to get a piece of it.

Some 20% of what’s spent on private healthcare goes to “administrative costs”. For Medicare, it’s 2%. Under the privatization model, their envious being able to take a good chunk of that \$900 billion for corporate profit. To make up the difference in money needed for actual healthcare, that’s where benefit cuts come in.

For Social Security, twenty years ago President Bush had his own proposal for privatizing Social Security - which died once the details came out. It wasn’t about beneficiaries “investing”, but Wall Street siphoning off fees and percentage cuts for gambling with our retirements. When the market crashed a few years later, people realized what would’ve happened to their retirement had this proposal passed.

If ever there’s concern over Social Security’s solvency, it’s simply a matter of raising the cap on income subject to the Social Security tax (\$176K next year). But this would mean the billionaires might have to pay what the rest of us do on an additional tiny fraction of their income.

As shown a few weeks ago, Trump and his band of billionaires have more than ample resources to determine the outcome of elections – especially now with increasing control over the media people rely on for information. And they’re confident members of the majority party in Congress are aware of this, too – lest any have thoughts about putting the interests of their country over those of Trump.

One could ask the billionaires why they’re doing this, pointing out they have unimaginable wealth and power already.

They’d no doubt respond, “Yes – But we don’t have it all”.



HOLIDAY MOVES



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.

When there are lots of kids (or adults) around during the holiday season, keeping them entertained can be a challenge. Why not add some fun fitness activities to your celebrations? These activities can keep everyone's brains engaged and bodies moving while creating lasting memories.

Physical activity during the holidays isn't a modern idea—it's been part of traditions for centuries! For example, in medieval times, wassailing was a popular way to stay active. Groups would walk from house to house, singing carols and spreading goodwill in exchange for food or small gifts. Some carried heavy wassail bowls filled with spiced cider, making the activity as much about strength as cheer.

In the past, people also played creative and challenging games. One traditional Christmas game involved bending backward to pick up a stick with your teeth. Known as "shoeing the wild mare," it required incredible flexibility, balance, and core strength—even the fittest found it tough.

Scandinavian Yule celebrations focused on strength and endurance. During pre-Christian winter solstice festivities, Norse traditions included competitions like stone lifting, sled pulling, and wrestling to foster community bonds and celebrate resilience during the dark months.

By Victorian times, sledding and ice skating had become beloved holiday pastimes in Europe and North America. These activities combined festive fun with physical exertion, adding a layer of excitement to holiday gatherings.

These historical traditions show how physical activity has always been woven into holiday celebrations. While some of these pastimes might be difficult to replicate, the idea of combining movement with fun and togetherness is timeless.

Here are some modern activities to keep everyone active and entertained:

- 1. Reindeer Races:** Create a relay course with obstacles like cones, chairs, or hoops. Divide into teams and have each participant wear "antlers" (craft or headbands) while pretending to pull Santa's sleigh.
- 2. Virtual Santa Dash:** Encourage participants to wear Santa hats and complete a distance of their choice by walking, running, or cycling. Use a fitness tracker or app to monitor progress. You can even organize a virtual leaderboard to add a competitive edge.
- 3. HIIT Holiday Countdown:** Adapt high-intensity interval training (HIIT) to a festive theme. Perform descending exercises like "12 squats, 11 lunges, 10 push-ups," and so on, down to "1-minute plank." Add moves like "Reindeer Jumps" or "Santa Sack Swings" to tie in the holiday spirit. Perfect for imitating a more structured workout while still having fun.
- 4. Christmas Tree Pose Contest:** Have participants balance in a yoga tree pose for as long as they can. For a festive twist, provide small decorations to hold while balancing. Encourage mindfulness and stability, a good choice for quieter moments during your celebration.
- 5. Candy Cane Hunt:** Hide candy canes around the house or yard. Each time someone finds one, they must do an exercise like a squat or a push-up before claiming their prize.
- 6. Snowball Toss:** Use soft white balls or rolled-up socks as "snowballs." Players take turns throwing them at targets, such as buckets or hoops, to score points. You can add a timer for fast-paced rounds or make it a team competition to keep the energy high.
- 7. Gift Box Workout:** Wrap empty boxes in holiday paper and write exercises on the bottom of each one. Participants choose a "gift" and perform the exercise listed, such as jumping jacks or push-ups. Adjust the difficulty based on your group's fitness levels.
- 8. Christmas Escape Room Fitness:** Set up an escape room with holiday-themed clues and physical challenges. For example, do 20 burpees to "find" Santa's hat or hold a plank to reveal a secret code. This is a great way to mix mental and physical engagement.

Looking back, some of the most boring moments as a child were holiday visits when adults laughed and talked while kids sat around with nothing to do. Let's make sure today's kids don't have the same experience. By incorporating these engaging, active games, you'll ensure they're moving, thinking, and having fun. At the same time, adults can join in or enjoy watching the excitement. These activities are not just a way to pass the time and laugh—they're opportunities to create moments that everyone will remember.

Years from now, kids might reminisce about how much they loved coming to your house for the holidays because of all the creative activities you organized. What better gift could there be than creating a tradition of laughter, movement, and connection that stands the test of time?

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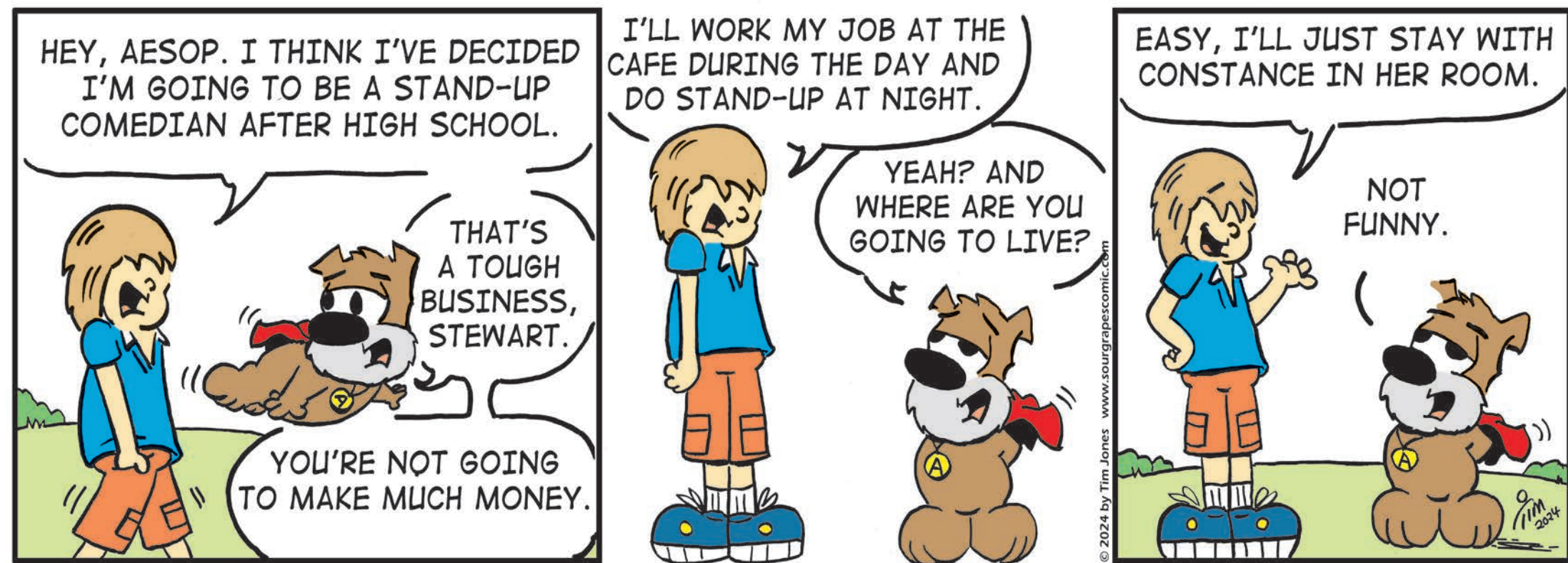
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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



HEY, AESOP. I THINK I'VE DECIDED I'M GOING TO BE A STAND-UP COMEDIAN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

THAT'S A TOUGH BUSINESS, STEWART.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE MUCH MONEY.

I'LL WORK MY JOB AT THE CAFE DURING THE DAY AND DO STAND-UP AT NIGHT.

YEAH? AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE?

EASY, I'LL JUST STAY WITH CONSTANCE IN HER ROOM.

NOT FUNNY.

© 2024 by Tim Jones www.sourgrapescomic.com



December Events Around Town!

One Time Events

December 7
Prospect Park Walking Tour - Tour Pasadena's historically and architecturally significant neighborhoods. 9:30 – 12:00 pm

December 7
Arcadia Snow Festival at The Arcadia Community Center – Kids can enjoy snow sledding, holiday crafts, face painting, games and more. 9:00 – 2:00 pm

December 8
Happy Holidays: A Musical Concert to Benefit the Arboretum Library - Enjoy classic holiday songs in Ayres Hall at 2:00 pm

December 8
Castle Green Holiday Tour - Fun self-guided tour of the historic Castle Green. with live music, snacks and more. 11:00 - 3:00 pm

December 13
NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet - With jaw-dropping acrobatics, stunning sets and costumes. Pasadena Civic Auditorium. 4 & 8 pm

December 14
Flower Arranging: Holiday Door Swag at The Huntington - Join Flower Duet in this hands-on workshop and create a décor piece with evergreens, flowers, and more. Adults only. 10 – 12 pm & 1 pm – 3 pm

December 15
Messiah Sing-Along at Lake Avenue Church - Pasadena's favorite Sing-Along Messiah returns! This sing-along is led by a 100-voice choir and orchestra. 4- 5:30 pm

December 21
Flower Arranging: Winter Centerpieces at The Huntington - Learn to make a festive centerpiece with evergreens, flowers, magnolia leaves and pinecones. Adults only. 10 – 12 pm & 1 pm – 3 pm

December 28
Architectural Legacy Tours - Two of Pasadena Heritage's popular tours, the Churches of Pasadena & the Hillcrest Neighborhood 10 & 1 pm

December 29
Equestfest at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center – Watch the Rose Parade's beautiful horses and talented riders perform. 12 – 2 pm

Ongoing Events

November 30 – December 24
A Christmas Carol at A Noise Within - This timeless story of Ebenezer Scrooge is filled with music and merriment.

Now – January 5
Enchanted Forest of Light at Descanso Gardens - Enjoy a one-mile walk through a shimmering wonderland featuring fresh delights.

Now – December 31
Winter Frolic at Kidspace Museum - Kids activities include sock skating, dressing a snowman, building an ice fort, and more.

December 6 – 8
Los Angeles Ballet Presents The Nutcracker at Pasadena Civic Auditorium - Set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score, this production stays true to the traditional tale set in 1912 LA.

December 7, 8
57th Annual Holiday Look In Home Tour - Tour four beautiful homes and gardens with live holiday music and a boutique. 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

December 7, 8, 14, 15
Old Fashioned Holiday: A Victorian Celebration at the Queen Anne Cottage - Victorian-era style holiday with carolers, dancers, holiday market and a visit from Santa Claus. Food trucks, a bar, and the Peacock Café. 10 – 3 pm

December 13, 14
Pasadena Symphony and Pops Holiday Candlelight Concert - Savor holiday choruses in Pasadena's exquisite All Saints Church.

December 13, 14, 15, 21, 22
Holly Dolly Christmas - Musical tribute to Dolly Parton's life and career including beloved songs and holiday favorites.

December 26, 27, 28, January 2
Rose Bowl Stadium Holiday Tours - Walk in the footsteps of legends and go behind the scenes of "America's Stadium". 10 am & 12:30 pm

December 28 – 31
Float Viewing - Experience the magic of creating the Rose Parade floats before Parade Day

December 29, 30
Bandfest at PCC's Robinson Stadium Watch Rose Parade bands perform their stunning award-winning field shows.



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