

The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • December 2020



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Friendly Fiesta.....	1
President's Message	2
Officers	2
Christmas Party	4
Fastest Production Car.....	5
Maybach S580.....	8
Three-Pointed Star	10
Breaking Records	12
January Dinner.....	13
Items of Interest	14
Section Events	15
In Closing.....	16

**CHRISTMAS
 DINNER, DECEMBER 16
 MAIL IN YOUR CHECK
 (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)**



Friendly Fiesta Some Members Like it Hot

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In early November, 15 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America gathered together for the Second Tuesday Dinner at Mi Casa Too Restaurant & Cantina Bar out on 4th Street in Reno. Mi Casa Too has been serving award-winning Mexican food in Reno for over 30 years, and a few club members said they've been dining there for many of those years. It's a friendly, inviting space that accomo-

dated the entire group of club members to enjoy dinner while still maintaining social distancing measures. The group gathered in the lower room in the bar, surrounded by large windows that let the setting sunlight in. It wasn't too long, thanks to the recent time change, that the only light coming in through the windows was from the restaurant's large neon sign by the road.

Mi Casa Too is known far and wide for its large, diverse tequila selection.

(Continued on Page 3)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



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SIERRA NEVADA MBCA FORMER PRESIDENTS

Marc Dodson • 2011
Gary Dyer • 2012 & 2013
Sherry Avilla • 2014
Don Williams • 2015 & 2016
Gary Dyer • 2017
Bill Shepherd • 2018 & 2019

The Silver Star is the official publication of The Sierra Nevada Section of MBCA, however, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Sierra Nevada Section, MBCA, or its officers.

Merry Christmas

Wrapping up the Year & Putting a Bow on 2020

The Sierra Nevadas received its first snowfall of the season, unofficially marking the beginning of the holidays. I missed seeing the mountains blanketed in white, and our new puppy was very excited to frolic in the snow. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, whether it was spent gathered around a large table with friends and family, or by the fire with your pet and a nice glass of wine.

The drop in temperatures has forced our monthly dinners inside, but there has still been a wonderful turnout at our recent events. In early November, Marcus and Christy Dodson hosted a fun fiesta at Mi Casa Too out on 4th Street, where club members enjoyed one of Reno's best Mexican spots.

Please note that the date for the Annual Christmas Party has changed to Wednesday, December 16. If you haven't reserved your spot yet, please be sure to reach out to Ray Rich as soon as possible. We will gather at Napa-

Sonoma South for a festive evening of food, wine, and holiday cheer. I look forward to seeing you all at our final event of 2020.

We have a few events already on the calendar for 2021, including a First Tuesday Dinner on January 5 at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks. Vence and I will host this event, and we hope you can join us at one of our favorite Italian restaurants. We will also host a lively bowling and dinner event on February 2 at the Grand Sierra Resort Bowling Center. If you have an idea for a dinner or a drive, please reach out to one of the board members so that we can help you get started. There are plenty of opportunities in 2021 to host a daytime or nighttime event.

Whether you've been naughty or nice, I hope Santa brings you some wonderful presents. Merry Christmas to all of my friends.

Gail V. Wells

Gail Wells
President





Friendly Fiesta

(Continued from Page 1)

Just about every table had at least one margarita pitcher atop it, and club members delighted in the different flavors available. While some club members hailed the classic as the top choice, a few guests casted their ballots for the guava, raspberry, and banana options. Every once in a while, you'd hear glasses clink, as guests took rounds of

tequila shots and toasted to the joyful evening. The owner of the restaurant made an appearance at each table, and thanked the group for coming in.

As for food, every table snacked on chips and salsa, while a few lucky guests enjoyed guacamole. The stand-out dishes were tamales, enchiladas, carne asada tacos, shrimp fajitas, carni-

tas, and quesadillas. One diner opted for extra-super-spicy hot sauce, and the waiter was more than happy to oblige. Everyone went home happy and eager for the next gathering.

Club members were excited about the upcoming Christmas Party, which will be held at Napa-Sonoma South on Wednesday, December 16. Many guests lamented the fact that their usual holiday plans were canceled or changed, but they were glad the Christmas Party was still on the schedule.

The next Tuesday Dinner will be at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks, Nevada, hosted by Vence and Gail Wells, on January 5, 2021. To RSVP, please email Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or text (307) 763-1701. First Tuesday Dinners happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for anyone who is interested. For more information and to sign up to host a Tuesday Dinner or an event, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook.



SIERRA NEVADA MBCA

CHRISTMAS

Party



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 6:00 P.M.

NAPA-SONOMA SOUTH
7671 S VIRGINIA STREET, RENO

Entrée Choices

- ☸ Chicken Piccata \$52
- ☸ Grilled Cod \$55
- ☸ Filet Mignon \$62
- ☸ Filet & Shrimp Scampi \$83

entrées are per-person & include salad, a vegetable, & dessert



Mail Checks to Ray Rich, 9826 Ash Meadow Drive, Reno NV 89521
Make Checks Payable to SNMBCA • for info call (775) 560-9592



Fastest Production Car

New Mercedes-AMG GT Black Series Takes the Record at the Nürburgring

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



The Nordschleife, or North Loop, is a 12.9 mile long section of the Nürburgring, a motorsports complex in Nürburg, Germany. For decades, the North Loop of the Nürburgring has been the pinna-

cle of automotive testing for vehicle manufacturers. A supremely fast lap time is a bragging right for car manufacturers, and media outlets love to announce when the record has been beat. It is known as one of the most difficult racetracks in the world, and that is the

reason Mercedes-AMG includes it in the evaluation of every new car development.

In early November 2020, driver Maro Engel took the record for the fastest lap in a 2021 Mercedes®-AMG GT Black Se-

(Continued on Page 6)



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Fastest Production Car

(Continued from Page 5)

ries. The German automaker beat the Lamborghini Aventador SVJ, the previous record holder, by 1.35 seconds for an astonishing 6:43.616 time. Grounded with OEM Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 R MO tires, the Mercedes-AMG GT Black Series dominated the track, making it the fastest lap ever recorded by a mass-produced vehicle available to the public.

The GT Black Series that Engel raced on the famous German track has the most powerful AMG V8 series engine ever, with 730 horsepower, allowing him to reach 186 mph. This model's front splitter was made of visible carbon fiber, ex-



tended to the race position, and the lower and upper wing blades of the rear spoiler were each adjusted in the middle position. The adjustable AMG coilover suspension was lowered slightly at the front and rear to help reduce fluid pressure. Engel also opted for the hardest of the three possible settings for the adjustable anti-roll bars, as well as a standard four-point safety belt. Anyone purchasing the AMG GT Black Series has the ability to take advantage of these same settings and variations.

"That was a really impressive ride," said Engel, after completing his record lap. "To finally drive around the Nordschleife in this amount of time with a production road car in these track conditions is really awesome." 

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THE NEW MAYBACH S580 WITH TWO-TONE PAINT SCHEME.
BELOW: THE INTERIOR OF THE CAR WITH AMBIENT
LIGHTING & A LARGE CONSOLE BETWEEN THE REAR SEATS.

Maybach S580

New 2021 Mercedes-Maybach S-Class

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



Buckle up, because Mercedes-Benz has revealed a new S-Class for its Maybach ultra-luxury division. During a special live-streamed event, Mercedes followed up a teaser image released earlier in the week with a full presentation on the new luxury car. The new Maybach model is fitted with a characteristic two-tone paint job with a dividing line and the classic inverted shield-shaped badge. The Maybach-signature 20" chrome dish wheels will also be included in the standard package, with 19" and 21" options available. The LED headlights are reminiscent of the standard S-Class, as are the flush-mounted electronic door handles.

The wheel base has been stretched a little over 9" longer than a standard S-Class, with the majority of the extra space allocated to the rear passengers. The interior package of every new Mercedes-Maybach S-Class will include executive seats and chauffeur package,

which transforms the rear compartment of the sedan into a cozy, luxurious space that can be used for work or pleasure.

Large wooden trim on the backs of the front seats and between the two rear passenger seats, a Maybach characteristic, will also come standard. Maybach has said that the company developed this new elegant S-Class specifically for customers with a chauffeur.

The 2021 Maybach S580 will launch with one engine, a 4.0-liter twin-turbo V8 with EQ-Boost mild-hybrid technology. The engine will have 496 horsepower and 516 lb.-ft. of torque, with the 48V EQ-Boost starter-generator adding 21 horsepower and 184 lb.-ft. of supplemental muscle. Those hoping for a V12 option are in luck, as one is coming in due time. In the front of the chassis, the Maybach S-Class will have a specific grille with vertical slats instead of the



horizontal ones worn by the standard S-Class. The long hood has a chrome strip running straight down the center, and there's a full-width strip of chrome that caps off the taillights.

While the exterior of the Maybach is what most consumers are interested in, the interior leaves little to desire. The cabin employs a unique leather headliner and open-pore wood with pin-stripes. New Nappa leather colors and some rose gold accents are available for the interior, too. The Maybach logo is imprinted on the metal pedals, and the new S-Class has a special Maybach-scent infused into the air freshener. Small, unobtrusive details pepper the interior, including ambient lighting in-

(Continued on Page 9)



THE S580 SHOWN HERE WITH THE EXECUTIVE SEAT PACKAGE, WHICH INCLUDES INDIVIDUAL BACK SEATS & MATCHING PILLOWS.

Maybach S580

(Continued from Page 8)

tegrated in the seatbacks. The Executive Rear Seat Plus package, which isn't standard, comes with two individual seats with a fixed console between them, as well as plush matching pillows. The standard edition has a three-across bench with a large, fold-down console, similar to the original S-Class. Those who wish to truly ride in elegance can opt for the champagne cooler

with sterling silver champagne flutes.

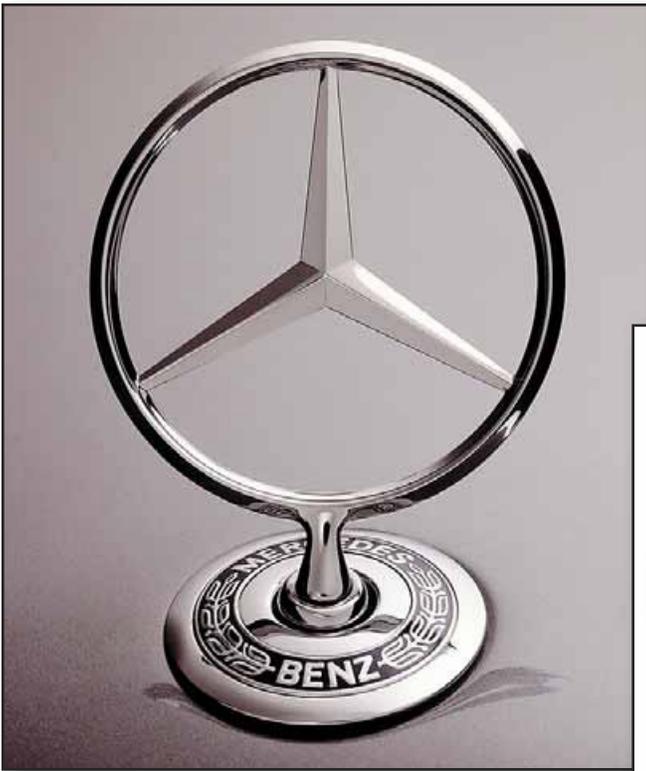
Every Maybach S-Class will have the MBUX rear seat entertainment system, with two screens mounted to the front seats and additional, removable tablet in the center console. Radio and navigation directions will be shown on the 12.8" OLED display in the front of the car. Mercedes recently introduced new technology in its automobiles, includ-

ing the Burmester 4D surround-sound system, the next-generation MBUX interface, the augmented reality head-up display, and the reconfigurable 3D instrument cluster, all of which will be included in the new 2021 Maybach S-Class.

All of the safety features that are expected of Mercedes will also come standard in the new Maybach S-Class, including adaptive cruise control with route-based speed adaptation, active steering assist, lane-change assist, automatic emergency braking, blind-spot monitoring, lane-keeping assist, car communication software, and parking assist. Also included is Mercedes' Pre-Safe Impulse Side technology that automatically moves passengers away from the doors during a collision.

The price tag hasn't been unveiled yet, but those wishing to buy one can expect to shell out close to \$200,000. The new Maybach S580 will hit the United States in early 2021, shortly after the 2021 Mercedes S-Class makes its debut. 





Three-Pointed Star

The Evolution of One of the World's Most Iconic Logos

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In 1872, Gottlieb Daimler, the founder of Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft (DMG), sent a postcard to his wife that included a drawing of a three-pointed star. The star, Daimler explained, would one day shine over his hard work. That sentiment would prove itself true, as Daimler's innovations would lead to the formation of one of the most iconic carmakers in history.

Nearly 40 years later, Daimler's own sons were still involved in the company, and were on the hunt for a distinctive logo for their automobiles. Remembering their father's postcard, Paul and Adolf Daimler adopted his three-pointed star for their Mercedes vehicles.

Just to be safe, the sons trademarked not only a three-pointed star, but also a four-pointed star, which would never be used.

The logo has impressive spatial perception, particularly for a 1909 design. The contrasting shading on the surface of the star creates a vivid intersection of light and dark. The 3-D logo, too, was designed to display this dimension. Originally, the three-pointed Mercedes star was not inside the distinctive laurel wreath, as this was a part of the Benz & Cie. logo until the two companies merged. Additionally, sometimes the Mercedes star was accompanied by the automaker's lettering. Early versions of the Mercedes cars, such as those with a V-shaped radiator, employed two three-

THE THREE-POINTED STAR, WITHOUT THE RING AROUND IT, WAS USED ON EARLY MERCEDES VEHICLES.



pointed stars opposite one another on both sides of the radiator. In 1921, a circle was added to the star on the hood ornament, so that it was more visible when cars were traveling at high speeds.

It wasn't until 1925 that the version of the star and laurel wreath signet that is well known today was created. The registration of this new logo in 1925 was a precursor to the formal merger of the two carmakers, DMG and Benz & Cie., in 1926. The star logo was origi-

(Continued on Page 11)

WELCOME NEW SIERRA NEVADA MBCA MEMBERS...
Nancy McGill — Carson City, Nevada
Steven Price — Incline Village, Nevada



LEFT: TWO STARS CAN BE SEEN ON THIS V-SHAPED RADIATOR. BELOW: THE LAUREL WREATH FROM THE BENZ LOGO WAS LATER INCORPORATED IN THE NEW LOGO AFTER THE COMPANIES MERGED.



Three-Pointed Star

(Continued from Page 10)

nally blue, but changed to its modern silver color in 1934 for the inaugural Grand Prix at the Nürburgring. It was at this famous race that the Silver Arrow was born. The day before the race, the Mercedes car was disqualified for exceeding the 1,650 lb. weight maximum. Rather than forfeit their spot,

the team spent the long hours of the night scraping off the racecar's white paint in an attempt to shed some weight. The laborious task was worth it, because the Silver Arrow took home the championship that year.

The three-pointed star is meant to symbolize the dominance of Daimler's

engines on land, at sea, and in the air. It can be hard to imagine the Mercedes logo as anything but a three-pointed star inside a laurel wreath, but as is the case with most iconic imagery, it underwent a few seasons of change before settling into its final form. 



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**MERCEDES-AMG F1 W11
DRIVEN BY LEWIS HAMILTON.**

Breaking Records

Mercedes Wins the 2020 Formula One Drivers' & Constructors' Championships

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



Mercedes®-AMG F1® and Lewis Hamilton, the 35-year-old British racecar driver, recently sprinted their way to their seventh Constructors' and Drivers' Championships, after impressive wins at the 2020 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix and Turkish Grand Prix in November. Each year, the top ten drivers and teams at the end of each Grand Prix receive points based on the positions they finished. These points contribute towards determining both the World Drivers' Championship and World Constructors' Championship at the end of the season.

Italy hosted round 13 of the 2020 F1 season in early November. The Emilia Romagna Grand Prix took place in Imola at the Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari. It was the first time the track hosted a competition since 2006, and it is one of the few major international circuits to run in a counter-clockwise direction. The Imola

track is known as one of the most dangerous in F1 history, thanks to its flat-out Tamburello corner, where Ayrton Senna crashed and was killed in 1994. Changes to the course, particularly the Tamburello, have made it safer for drivers without compromising the challenging layout of the track.

Ten teams, or constructors, entered two drivers each into the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix. With Hamilton's win, Mercedes broke the record for the most consecutive World Constructors' Championships. This breaks Ferrari's record of six straight titles, which Mercedes matched in 2019. Behind Hamilton at the 2020 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix was his teammate, Valtteri Bottas, who secured even more points for the Mercedes team with his second place standing. "What an incredible achievement for all of you," said Hamilton over the team radio after crossing the finish line. "I'm so proud of everybody."

"This is something to be proud of," said Toto Wolff, Team Principal and

CEO of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team. "We have a group that is just amazing together, and we have stayed together and pushed the benchmark to new levels."

Two weeks later at round 14, the Turkish Grand Prix, Hamilton ignited the drama and emotion once again by finishing the day in first place after a thrilling race. Mercedes F1 fans rejoiced when Hamilton clinched his seventh championship title, tying retired German racecar driver Michael Schumacher. This is Hamilton's 14th season as an F1 driver, and his acceleration into the history books as one of the sport's greatest champions shows no indication of slowing down. "Dream the impossible," Hamilton expressed. "You have got to chase it and never give up."

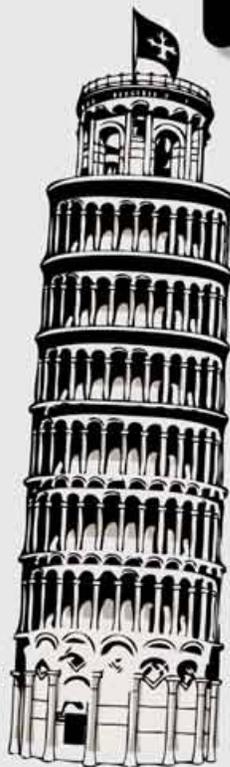
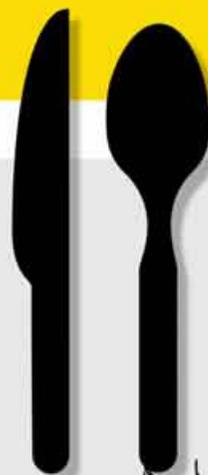
Mercedes has dominated the F1 scene in recent years, and lets hope that 2021 is no different. With the likes of Ferrari, McLaren, and Aston Martin vying for the top position, next year should be quite exciting. 

Rome



ITALIAN DINNER

Presented by the Sierra Nevada Mercedes-Benz Club



**First Tuesday Dinner
January 5 at 5:30
Pietro's Famiglia
Restaurant**

834 Victorian Ave.
Suite 200
in Downtown Sparks
order off the menu
separate checks



Hosted by Gail & Vence Wells • head-count needed for restaurant

RSVP to Gail TEXT CALL 307.763.1701 or blackswan342@gmail.com

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The National Automobile Museum

Sierra Nevada MBCA is a Proud Sponsor of This Great Museum Here in Reno

Here in Reno, we're lucky to be home to one of the top-rated auto museums in the world, The National Automobile Museum. Your Sierra Nevada MBCA Section is a proud sponsor!

What does that mean to you? Well, since your club is the sponsor of a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing on prominent display at the museum, all of our members get special benefits:

- Members get free admission into the facility, plus a 50% discount for any guests, during normal business hours.



- Members can request free guided tours of the museum, subject to the availability of the tour guides.

- Members receive a 10% discount at the National Auto Museum gift shop.

The museum has our member list on file, so just tell the cashier your name and that you're a member of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

The National Automobile Museum is located at 10 South Lake Street in Reno, (775) 333-9300.

Sierra Nevada MBCA Name Badges

We encourage all members to wear their MBCA name badges to all Sierra Nevada section meetings and events. WHAT???

You don't have a Sierra Nevada name badge? Right now you're probably thinking, "How can I, a mere mortal, achieve the level of prestige and acclaim of those that proudly display their Sierra Nevada MBCA name badges for all to see?"

This one item will not only identify you as an official Sierra Nevada MBCA member, it will:

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Well, now you can order your Sierra Nevada MBCA name badge for a mere \$12!

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If you order in the next ten minutes you can get TWO name badges for the incredibly low price of only \$24!

With this name badge you can hold your head up high! You will become the envy of the neighborhood, the first on your block, and the proud owner of a Sierra Nevada MBCA name badge identifying you as part of an elite group that has \$12 to spend.

Operators are standing by! Scan the QR code, order online by going to: www.mbc.org/name-badge, or you can call the MBCA office at (800) 637-2360.

Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.



Video of the Month

Officials Urge Motorists Not to Let Moose Lick Their Cars!



Moose that are addicted to licking road salt off of cars? It sounds silly, like a winter-themed urban legend or some strange outgrowth of an overactive imagination, but it's a real problem that some drivers deal with on a

shockingly regular basis. Canadian officials have put up signs to remind motorists that road salt is not a normal part of a well-balanced moose diet. "I hate to say it, but this road salt is kind of like crack to moose..."

To watch the video and find out what happens, scan the QR code with your smart phone or [click here](#) to go to the video in your browser on your computer.



EVENTS

December 16, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Christmas Party, hosted by Ray Rich, Napa-Sonoma South, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Ray Rich at rayrich@sbcglobal.net or (775) 560-9592

January 5, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Vence & Gail Wells, Pietro's Famiglia, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

January 21-22, 2021: The 2021 collector car auction season kicks off as RM Sotheby's hosts its 22nd annual Arizona sale on 22 January. On offer will be motor cars spanning the spectrum of the market including Pebble Beach and Amelia Island eligible show cars, as well as sports and GT cars such as Ferrari, Porsche, and Aston Martin

January 26-31, 2021: Mecum Las Vegas Motorcycles 2021. All Buyers, Sellers and Spectators are welcome to attend the Mecum Las Vegas Motorcycle Auction. For more information call (262) 275-5050

February 2, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Bowling, hosted by Vence & Gail Wells, Grand Sierra Resort Bowling Center, Reno, Nevada. Dinner location is to be determined. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

March 28, 2021: Injured Police Officers Fund Classic Car and Emergency Vehicle Show. For more information go to www.ipof.vegas or call (702)-400-3749

June 20, 2021: 2021 Dream Builders Car Show. Join us on Fathers Day, Sunday June 20th as we pick up where we left off and attempt to raise \$100,000 in one year for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County. www.dreambuilder-scarshow.com

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IN CLOSING

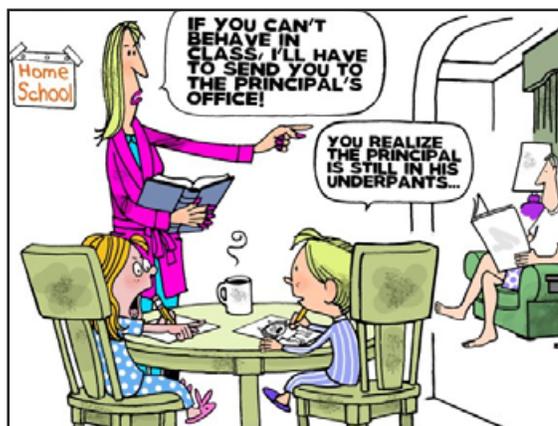
Making Light of the Pandemic

Having Humor in These Trying Times is a Good Thing

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

(Editor's Note: The following story may have absolutely nothing to do with Mercedes or automobiles, but we feel it's interesting nonetheless. If you have a humorous or interesting story you would like to submit for this column, call us at (775) 997-9901.)

The Coronavirus is still spreading, and many of us are stuck at home with nothing to do. In these trying times, it's good to have some humor. If you can't laugh at yourself, well...



Home schooling science lesson went really well this week.



Next week - marketing and distribution.

