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## WILL THE 2023 HOUSING MARKET FAVOR BUYERS OR SELLERS? LET'S CHAT!

### Single-Family Homes

	2021	2022
Total # Sold:	138	92
Average Sold Price:	\$1,392,451	\$1,702,234
Average Sq. Ft.	2,026	2,254
Avg. Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$726	\$795

### Condo/Townhomes

	2021	2022
Total # Sold:	21	19
Average Sold Price:	\$746,329	\$899,474
Average Sq. Ft.	1,466	1,484
Avg. Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$521	\$613

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source: CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, Bankrate

## SPECIAL ELECTION DATE SET FOR REFERENDUM: NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

On Tuesday, the Sierra Madre City Council set a date for a Special Election on the Referendum to overturn Ordinance 1461 which approved the Meadows at Bailey Canyon Project on N. Sunnyside. After the defeat of Measure HR in November which also attempted to stop the project, signatures were gathered and certified to place a referendum on the Ballot to overturn the Ordinance. The developer has submitted another project that would be larger and protected under SB 330 as an alternative that neither the council nor opponents of the original project want. If a referendum was passed by the voters, it would not stop the larger project from proceeding. (See Mountain Views News: <http://mtnviewsnews.com/v17/htm/n01/index.htm> )

The council tabled the matter on January 10th and City Manager Jose Reynoso began negotiations with a ‘working committee’ of representatives of the proponents of the referendum to see if a compromise could be reached and the referendum withdrawn. At Tuesday’s council meeting Reynoso reported that no agreement had been reached to withdraw the referendum, noting that only 5 of 8 demands requested had been agreed upon by the Developer and the working committee. The ‘committee’ requested more time to ‘vet’ SB330. The Developer, New Urban West who is willing to move forward with the original project that includes benefits for the city that the larger project does not.

The council, after discussing the risks and wisdom of extending more time, unanimously agreed to move forward and set a Special Election for May 9, 2023. It is estimated that the special election will cost the city approximately 325,000 - \$400,000. Reynoso disclosed that the developer is willing to help defray some of that cost.

However, negotiations will continue in the hopes that an agreement can be reached prior to February 10, 2023, the date that the developers will pull the original project and proceed with the larger, less desirable S330 project.

### PUBLIC HEALTH TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Sierra Madre Middle School Science Teacher, Robbie Dev (right) was awarded the Public Health Teacher of the Year Award for his participation in the Citizens Science Program for students by the SG Valley Mosquito Vector Control District. Also pictured above are Mayor Edward Garcia and Carol Ann Higley.

### FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY BEST USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library announce that their February Best Used Book Sale will be held on Friday, February 3, 2023(3:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m.) and Saturday, February 4, 2023 (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.). It will be held behind the Sierra Madre library in the parking lot and the basement. Featured in the Basement will be all our VINTAGE collection. Look for a 2-volume set of Don Quixote (1868), illustrated beautifully by Gustave Dore. The Works of Joseph Addison (3 of the 4 volumes published) are the oldest we’ve ever had (1721). We also have Limited Editions from C.F. Braun of Alhambra, an engineer who commissioned these charming stories from the 19th century to be reprinted in the 1950s. Some have the original illustrations rendered in bright and lovely colors. Also available will be an Elbert Hubbard collection; the designer, writer and artist in the early 1900s began the Roycroft Arts and Crafts movement before losing his life on the Lusitania. And be sure to check out The Olympiad Poster Collection (1896-1996) from Dreamworks.

The Parking Lot will have our popular \$1.00 Bargain Books with many vintage books as well as newer fiction and non-fiction. Children’s and Teen books in the parking lot are priced from \$.50 to \$1.00 each, DVDs and CDs are \$1.00 each and Audio Books will be \$2.00. Don’t forget the \$5.00 BAG SALE on Saturday in the parking lot!!

This sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library. All proceeds will be used to support programs, services and acquisitions for the library.

Come early for the best selection and to talk books with knowledgeable cashiers and other book-lovers! The sale will be behind the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. For more information, please visit us at our web site [www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org)., our Facebook page; our Instagram page or call 626-355-7186.

## SIERRA MADRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANTS

The Sierra Madre Community Foundation recently awarded the following two grants to local organizations:

- The Sierra Madre Public Library received a grant to support its annual bookmark contest, a beloved tradition, and a highly anticipated program for kids in kindergarten through 8th grade. This year’s theme “Wonders of Reading” will focus on the discovery and enjoyment of reading. This community-wide outreach contest, which runs March 6 through April 13, is available to children who go to school in Sierra Madre, live in Sierra Madre, or who have a Sierra Madre Public Library card.

- The City of Sierra Madre’s Mt. Wilson Trail Race received a grant to purchase T-shirts for its May 27 Kids’ Fun Run. The annual race, open to kids ages 3-13 begins immediately following the start of the Trail Race.

“Following a record year of giving by our generous residents, we’re positioned to provide a deeper level of support to local community organizations, events and programs,” said Vicky Ryan, co-chair of the Sierra Madre Community Foundation.

In addition to soliciting donations to support and enhance the community, the Sierra Madre Community Foundation assists other local community groups in the collection and distribution of their funds that enable ongoing program support and continued operations. Learn more at [sierramadrefoundation.org](http://sierramadrefoundation.org).

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## REMEMBRANCES:

### JUDITH GOLD

Sierra Madre resident Judith (Judy) Gold, passed away on Thursday January 19th, 2023 in her home with her immediate family by her side. Judy was born in 1946 to her parents, Dr. Joseph & Cleo Thayer on Thanksgiving Day November 28th, 1946. She grew up in Southern California along with her siblings Joseph, Joel, and Debra Thayer. As a young adult, she had her beloved children, Lisa & Andrew Thayer. A dotting mother, who always made sure her children and grandchildren were well taken care of, she made sure her sense of humor touched them as well.



Judy and Barry Gold

A hospital Administrator, a teacher and principal of an elementary school, she touched the minds of all those she encountered. Her students kept in touch regularly and often told her how their education helped them succeed later in their lives.

At the dawn of AOL, she met the light of her life, Barry Gold. Smitten as kittens, they married on the hottest day in April Spring of 1999. Their love was eternal and omniscient. Their example of love and relationship was reflected by the way they chose to blend their families together.

Both Judy and Barry shared a passion for Sierra Madre and only wanted to make it prosper and bloom. Judy was a member of Preserve Sierra Madre, Sierra Madre Kiwanis, and the Sierra Madre Water Patrol! She became enthralled at the inner workings of this city and quite often sat on her back porch, looked up at the San Gabriel Mountains and thanked her lucky stars that she was able to live in such a beautiful place. She made many friends in this small town and was very proud to call it home.

Judith is preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband Barry (2019) and her brother Joel (2020). She is survived by her children and grandchildren, Kenn Gold (New York), Lisa Thayer (Sierra Madre), Darrin Gold (Azusa), Andrew Thayer (Sierra Madre), Kyle Gold (Las Vegas), Dina Der Vartanian (Oklahoma), and Chelsea Gold (New York). She is also survived her brother Joseph (Elaine) Thayer (Seattle), Sister Debra Thayer (Indio), and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was, Whiskey in a teacup. She will be profoundly missed. A Memorial to honor her memory will be held at a later date.

### ANN GARRISON BIXEL

Ann Garrison Bixel, 82, of Chandler, AZ, passed away on January 18, 2023, after a courageous 28+ year battle with cancer and lung disease. She was surrounded by family and her cherished schnauzer-poo, Molly.



Ann was born on November 26, 1940 to William and Adelyn Garrison, in Detroit, Michigan. After Ann graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1958, she went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts, in Elementary Education (with honors), at Michigan State University in 1962. She then moved to southern California where she completed her master's degree in Education from the University of Southern California and received her bilingual (Spanish/English) teaching certificate.

After graduating, she was selected for an overseas teaching position in Germany, serving children of the military. Upon her return to the U.S., she was awarded an elementary school teaching position with LAUSD. She remained a bilingual teacher at Breed Street Elementary for over 30 years. In 1971, she had her one and only child, Renee, with her first spouse. In 1986, after a long courtship, she married the true love of her life, Paul Lewis Bixel. Ann and Paul enjoyed attending Dixieland Jazz events, cooking together, and spending time in San Diego. Paul preceded her in death in 1988, after a brief battle with cancer.

In 1998, Ann retired from teaching and spent much of her time volunteering with multiple local civic organizations and her church. Her truest passions, however, were in the arts. She was a talented watercolor painter, writer of poetry, musician (Ukulele, piano, and washboard), and enjoyed pottery and attending Broadway shows. Later in life, she enjoyed, and eventually began teaching her own country western line dancing courses in Sierra Madre, CA and Chandler, AZ, before finding another passion in ballroom dance. She was a regular participant in the Granite Reef dance group in Scottsdale, AZ as well as several other local ballroom organizations around the valley. In addition to her hobbies, she enjoyed time with her daughter and 2 grandchildren, cooking or watching them participate in sports.

Ann was predeceased by her parents, William Homer Garrison and Adelyn Burke Garrison, her husband Paul Bixel and her beloved first cousin Charlotte Lockner who passed in 2020. She is survived by her older brother William Burke Garrison, her daughter, Renee Johnson, son in law Tim Johnson, her grandchildren, Matthew and Lindsey Johnson, her cousin Bill Schofield, nephew Jim Garrison and niece Heather Garrison.

A celebration of life ceremony and ballroom dance will be held on February 10, at the Granite Reef senior center in Scottsdale, AZ.

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### SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING “OLDER ‘SIERRA MADRE’ AMERICAN OF THE YEAR” NOMINATIONS

The City of Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is seeking nominations for Older ‘Sierra Madre’ American of the Year. The honor is a long-standing tradition in Sierra Madre and bestowed upon an exceptional Sierra Madrean, age 60 or older, for their outstanding commitment to community service. Recommendations are now being accepted for new honorees. Please send nominations to Sierra Madre City Hall, c/o Older American Nomination, Community Services Department, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024 by Thursday, March 16, 2023. Forms may be picked up and returned to the Hart Park House Senior Center: Hart Park House 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024

The Senior Community Commission will discuss the selection of the Older ‘Sierra Madre’ American of the Year at their regularly scheduled meeting, open to the public, in City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, April 6th at 3:00 p.m. A reception to honor the 2023 Older ‘Sierra Madre’ American of the Year will held on Wednesday, May 10th, 2023. For more information, please contact the Hart Park House Senior Center (626) 355-5278 x704; or the Community Services Department at (626) 355-5278.

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**Flying Free by Cecilia Aragon**

**Sierra Madre Public LIBRARY**

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Events!**

The Sierra Madre Public Library has announced the 2023 selection of One Book One City; Flying Free: my victory over fear to become the first Latina pilot on the US Aerobatic Team by Cecilia Aragon.

One Book One City is a community reading program that invites

everyone in Sierra Madre to read and discuss the same book during February 2023 and participate in exciting programs and events.

This fabulous community program includes an Author Talk with Cecilia Aragon, a tour of the San Gabriel Valley Airport, a kids STEAM Dream Workshop with local teacher Dany Richey, a kids paper airplane competition, a movie night with the documentary Fly Like a Girl through our new streaming service Kanopy, and inspirational presentations on women in flight.

Aragon’s memoir, Flying Free, shares her own journey of breaking past her own fears to become a champion aerobatic pilot. Aragon was a timid child, painfully shy and afraid of everything from heights to people. How did she become a death-defying daredevil and aerobatic pilot? In her memoir, she bares her life even though writing it “scared me more than pointing my single-seat experimental plane at the ground and opening the throttle until I was roaring earthward at 250 mph”.

Connect all month long through engaging themed programs that are free and fun for the whole family. Call the Library at (626) 355-7186 for more information.



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# SIERRA MADRE

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## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

The following represents a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Sierra Madre Police Department during this period. This list is not intended to be considered exclusive or all-inclusive.

Tuesday, January 17th Theft

At approximately 1 PM, officers responded to the 700 block of W Sierra Madre Blvd for reports of a theft. The reporting party stated that unknown suspect(s) stole the rear license plate to their vehicle. The Detectives' Bureau is following up on this incident.

Wednesday, January 17th Vandalism

At approximately 2 PM, officers responded to the 200 block of N Hermosa Ave for reports of a vandalism. The reporting party stated that unknown suspect(s) shattered the rear window of their vehicle. The Detectives' Bureau is following up on this incident.

Wednesday, January 18th Commercial Burglary

At approximately 1 AM, officers responded to 58 West Sierra Madre Blvd (The Bottle Shop) for reports of a possible burglary that had occurred. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the front glass door of the business had been broken with a brick. Surveillance footage showed a suspect taking approximately \$700 worth of property. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Sierra Madre Police Department Detective Bureau at 626-355-1414. If you wish to remain anonymous, please visit [lacrimestoppers.org](http://lacrimestoppers.org) and submit a tip.

Wednesday, January 18th Traffic Collision

At approximately 10AM, officers responded to the area of Sierra Madre Blvd, just east of Baldwin Ave. for reports of a traffic collision. Upon arrival, officers discovered a traffic collision involving 3 vehicles. One of the involved parties complained of non-life threatening injuries and they were transported to a local hospital by Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedics.

Thursday, January 19th Theft

At approximately 12 PM, officers responded to the 00 block of E Montecito Ave. for reports of a theft. The reporting party stated that unknown suspect(s) stole a desktop computer from their unlocked vehicle. The Detectives' Bureau is following up on this incident.

Saturday, January 21st Residential Burglary

At approximately 9 PM, officers responded to the 400 block of West Orange Grove Ave for reports of a burglary alarm. Officers conducted a check of the residence, and discovered that a rear door had signs of forced entry. Upon further investigation, surveillance footage showed 2 masked individuals enter the property, and exit from the interior of the home shortly after. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Sierra Madre Police Department Detective Bureau at 626-355-1414. If you wish to remain anonymous, please visit [lacrimestoppers.org](http://lacrimestoppers.org) and submit a tip.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Here is what we learned at the January 24th City Council Meeting. The City of Sierra Madre and developer, New Urban West, are being held hostage and extorted by a group of about 20 members of the Stop Development Project committee who are on an ideological mission to delay the Passionists' Meadows project at any cost.

In Tuesday's discussion of the referendum to overturn the city's approval of Ordinance 1461, City Manager Jose Reynoso said the negotiations with Barbara Vellturo's STOP group have resulted in concessions by the City and New Urban West in negotiations to withdraw their Initiative, however, this has resulted with more demands and a deadline that would put a special election date in June if these concessions are not met. Upon questioning by the Council, Manager Reynoso said in the past two weeks he has spent approximately 70% of his work time and some weekend hours negotiating with STOP and the developer. The City Attorney has also been involved in discussions with the STOP group attorney.

A bit of background: The STOP group fostered an Initiative, Measure HR, to kill the Meadows project by rezoning the Mater Dolorosa property from Institutional to Hillside Residential, which would have allowed 6500 sq. ft. mansions. The Initiative was soundly defeated in the November 8th election. By then, Mrs. Vellturo was already moving forward with Plan B, showing that they never intended to accept the will of the voters. They circulated a petition for a referendum to overturn Ordinance 1461, which approved the zoning map amendment, the developer's Specific Plan, and the Development Agreement of the Meadows project. After certification of the signatures on the referendum petition, the City was left with two choices: either withdraw their approval of the Meadows project or put it to a city-wide vote.

A special election in April would cost us about \$325,000 from the city's reserves. After much deliberation at a subsequent special meeting, the Council agreed to allow more time for City Manager Reynoso to negotiate in good faith with the Stop group for a possible withdrawal of the referendum. More time would miss the deadline for an April election.

At the January 24th meeting, the Council learned that negotiations had failed to resolve three of the original eight demands, and more demands were to be met. The Council, having delayed long enough, voted to schedule a special election on May 9th, now costing closer to \$400,000. That gives Mrs. Vellturo almost two weeks to withdraw the referendum, avoiding this huge drain on the city's reserves.

What happens if the referendum should overturn Ordinance 1461 or if there is a further delay? The developer will go ahead with an already submitted SB 330 project to replace the proposed park in the original Meadows plan with eight additional homes, including three very low-income units, costing the city \$7 million in lost concessions. The city cannot stop this SB 330 project which is allowed under state law.

Can a small group of people hold the City and a developer hostage to delay a project? Apparently so, and at a cost of more than \$400,000 to us and, who knows how much to New Urban West.

All of this for what? To lose \$7 million in concessions and build even more houses? This group seems to have a personal agenda rather than a concern with the overall benefits and cost to the city. -De and Pat Alcorn

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"If winter comes, can spring  
be far behind?"  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, 'Ode to  
the West Wind.'

"The color of springtime is in  
the flowers; the color of winter  
is in the imagination."  
Terri Guillemets

"If we had no winter, the  
spring would not be so pleasant."  
Anne Bradstreet  
"What good is the warmth of  
summer, without the cold of  
winter to give it sweetness."  
John Steinbeck

"Winter is on my head, but  
eternal spring is in my heart."  
Victor Hugo

What all these spring and summer quotes mean, dear friends and neighbors, is I am tired of being cold. I made lemon muffins this morning. My lemon tree is loaded with gorgeous lemons and we are enjoying them thoroughly. A lemon muffin with coffee takes the chill off the morning. It's been what seems like freezing weather forever and I am so ready for spring. Not including the muffin recipe today but here is something even better to ward off this ever-lasting cold. Clam Chowder! Just saying Clam Chowder makes me feel less frozen. It starts off with bacon and as all the chefs on the Food Network are fond of saying, "Everything is better with bacon!"

### Best Clam Chowder Ever

8 slices bacon, chopped  
½ cup diced celery (the heart part with the leaves still on the stalk – more flavor)  
1 cup thinly sliced green onions  
1 cup regular strength chicken broth  
\*30 oz, more or less, chopped clams  
3 medium-sized red potatoes (about a pound) peeled and diced  
2 cups half and half  
Pepper  
Chopped parsley

\*I buy Bumble Bee fancy whole baby clams, which show a net weight of 10 oz. and a drained weight of 5 oz. When I first started making this clam chowder they were \$2-something per can. Such is no longer the case, sad to say, but it's so good, it's worth it. 4 or 5 cans will give you plenty of clams.

Fry the bacon in a 5 to 6 quart pan until crisp. Bacon is so lean anymore you probably won't need to discard a lot of the drippings but leave about 3 Tb. in the pan. Add the celery and green onions. Cook, stirring often, till the onions are limp. Stir in the clams and their liquid, the chicken broth and potatoes. Bring to a boil over high heat, cover, reduce heat and simmer till potatoes are tender to bite. About 10 minutes. Stir in the half & half and season to taste with pepper. As bacon is salty, you might not need more salt. Heat till steaming but not boiling. This smells incredible, by the way. Garnish with parsley and serve with garlic bread. Notice, no flour was involved so your clam chowder will not resemble wallpaper paste as many clam chowders have a tendency to do. If you can restrain yourself, leave it overnight and eat it the next day as it will taste even better. You'll be nice and warm after a bowl or two of this.

The damage to our beloved Mt. Wilson and Bailey Canyon Trails is just heartbreaking to see. The picture today, taken by our daughter, Leah, is of my dear John out on the Trail. He is now doing his hiking in heaven. He loved to hike the Mt. Wilson Trail and made his way up to First Water at least once a week. He had dozens of friends he met on the Trail and, as many of them brought their dogs along, he knew all of them by name and wore a fanny pack loaded with small Milk Bones. Needless to say, all the dogs were delighted to see John on the Trail. He knew all the guys who worked on the Trail and came back every time with a great story about who or what he saw. We have been out to see the Trail Race every year and, in fact, Leah, the picture taker, has run the race a time or two.

Not to blow my own horn, but I have made a contribution to help repair the trails. The annual Trail Race is May 27th and, hopefully, the volunteers who give of their time and energy will be able to get the Trail back in shape before then. If you'd like to help out, here's how:

You can send a tax-deductible donation to Sierra Madre Community Foundation and put Fletcher Trail Maintenance Fund on the memo line. Mail it to: P O Box 716, Sierra Madre CA 91025. Or you can go to the Sierra Madre Community Foundation website: [www.sierramadrefoundation.com](http://www.sierramadrefoundation.com) and make your contribution through PayPal.

John loved hiking the Trail and, hopefully, it will be back in shape and open to all the Trail enthusiasts very soon.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; Only love can do that."

I'm ending this week with the Martin Luther King quote I put in last week's Walking Sierra Madre. Like all of you, I couldn't believe the horrendous events in Monterey Park last week and the other terrible shootings that have taken place. The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35: "Jesus wept." This has to do with the death of his friend, Lazarus, and the grieving of Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha. When I heard of these tragic deaths this verse came to mind and all I can think is...God wept.

In a world where you can be anything you want to be...Be KIND!

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
There are adventures galore available there:  
True tales of early California, a story about a well-traveled violin,  
Emma Gainsworth and her horrific encounters with pumpkins,  
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<https://sierramadrekiwanis.com/>



Mountain View News Saturday, January 28, 2023

## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Sun:</b>	Rain	Hi	50s	Lows 40s
<b>Mon:</b>	Rain	Hi	50s	Lows 40s
<b>Tues:</b>	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 40s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

### SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2023 5:30pm

#### THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

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

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

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

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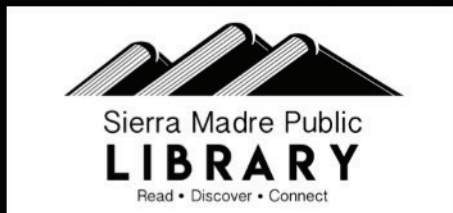
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January 30—February 4

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**Pixelated Art—In-person at 3:30pm**

#### Wednesday

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#### Thursday

**Baby Rhyme Time at Memorial Park—**  
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#### Saturday

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Planning Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Community Services Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Library Board of Trustees has two (2) anticipated vacancies.

Natural Resources Commission has one current vacancy and one anticipated vacancy for a total of two (2) vacancies.

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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Local Man Charged with Possessing Machine Gun

A Pasadena man who allegedly sympathizes with the anti-government extremist “Boogaloo” movement was charged Thursday in a federal criminal complaint alleging he brandished a loaded “ghost gun” near a South Los Angeles high school late last year, the Justice Department announced.

According to investigators Isaac Aaron Morgan Loftus, 26, was charged with one count of possession of a machine gun, a felony offense that carries a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison.

Loftus has been in state custody since his arrest in late November.

According to an affidavit filed on January 23 with the complaint, around lunchtime on November 22, 2022, law enforcement received a call about an armed individual in the vicinity of Thomas Jefferson High School in South Los Angeles who was wearing a tactical vest and cargo pants. A witness told law enforcement that the individual – later identified as Loftus – had pointed a firearm at two passing motorists.

Loftus, who at first refused to obey multiple commands to stop and attempted to walk away from officers, eventually complied with officers’ requests, was detained and handcuffed and later arrested, the affidavit states.

Law enforcement allegedly removed a 9mm handgun with no serial number – commonly known as a “ghost gun” – one which contained one round in the chamber and six rounds in the magazine, from a holster on Loftus’s front right hip area. The holster was decorated with symbols commonly associated with the Boogaloo movement, according to the affidavit.

The “Boogaloo” are a loosely organized anti-government extremist movement.

On Loftus’s person, officers allegedly also recovered two heavy duty zip ties, a tactical plate carrier, a pocketknife with a three-inch blade, a black knife with a four-inch fixed blade, and two key fobs for a Honda Clarity that had been reported stolen from a car dealership earlier in the day. The Honda also had been involved in a hit-and-run accident that same day, located approximately five blocks from where Loftus was arrested.

Law enforcement searched the Honda and found a loaded 9mm “ghost gun” in the glove compartment and a toolbox containing the upper and lower receiver of a nearly 12-inch AR-style rifle, a drop-in auto sear – designed for converting a semiautomatic firearm into a fully automatic machine gun – dozens of rounds of various calibers of ammunition, approximately 23 magazines, and a silencer, according to the affidavit.

During a search of Loftus’s residence, law enforcement allegedly found firearms and firearms cases, dozens of additional auto sears, and a large U.S. flag with symbols consistent with the Boogaloo ideology.

Loftus is prohibited under California law from possessing firearms.

The FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Los Angeles Police Department investigated this matter.



## City to Commemorate Jackie Robinson

Pasadena is set to celebrate the city’s most iconic sports figures as the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department invites the public to celebrate the 104th birthday of famed baseball player and civil rights activist Jackie Robinson.

The event will take place Tuesday from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Jackie Robinson Community Center (JRCC), 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.

The birthday celebration will include self-guided tours of Jackie Robinson memorabilia at JRCC. This exhibit is on loan from Pasadena’s Baseball Reliquary and features a Grays jersey, Negro League baseball items, historical photos, and a model of

Ebbets Field. The event will also include a free showing of the movie “42” and a biographical documentary on Jackie Robinson. Birthday cake will be served beginning at 1 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to join City employees in wearing a Jackie Robinson baseball jersey or shirt, or simply the number 42, Robinson’s jersey number.

According to city officials, Jackie Robinson lived in Pasadena from 1922-47, where he learned to play sports. While living in Pasadena, he attended John Muir High School, where he excelled in baseball, football, track and basketball. Robinson went on to attend

UCLA before joining the Dodgers in 1947. Throughout his life, Robinson contributed to the civil rights movement and was the first African American to play Major League Baseball and become vice president of a major American corporation.

Jackie Robinson Community Center was named after this trailblazer and is located in the neighborhood where Robinson grew up. It was dedicated in his name on June 2, 1974.

For more information about this event, call Jackie Robinson Community Center at (626) 744-7300.

## Tournament Foundation Now Accepting Grant Applications

*Applications will be accepted from now through February 23.*

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2023 grant program. Since its inception in 1983, the Foundation has invested over \$4 million in more than 700 Pasadena-area organizations. The grant awards in 2022 totaled nearly \$200,000, which funded 19 organizations in the San Gabriel Valley.

The grants supported new and ongoing programs benefiting children, teens, adults and seniors. From nonprofits offering animal therapy to special needs children, to organizations providing technical skills to underserved students and dance therapy for seniors diagnosed with Parkinson’s and multiple sclerosis.

The 2023 grant cycle will be structured as follows – Tier 1: a one-year grant for \$35,000, Tier 2: a one-year grant for \$15,000 and Tier 3: several one-year grants for up to \$10,000. The Foundation will also require applicants to include information on how their program will be delivered.

Eligible applicants are organizations with 501(c)(3) status, as of the submission deadline, February 23, 2023, that serves one or more of the following communities: Alhambra, Altadena, Arcadia, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and Temple City. As in previous years, grants will be given in the categories of Performing and Visual Arts, Sports and Recreation, and Education (Early Childhood Education, Literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering and



Math) programs.

The Tournament of Roses Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit public benefit corporation established to receive and manage contributions from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, its supporters and the public. The 17-member board of directors is comprised of community leaders and Tournament Members, appointed by the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association. Organizations or individuals interested in contributing or inquiring about the grants process should contact the Foundation by calling (626) 449-4100 or visiting the Tournament of Roses website at: [tournamentofroses.com/foundation](http://tournamentofroses.com/foundation).

To apply for the 2023 grant cycle, eligible organizations should visit the Tournament of Roses Foundation page: [tournamentofroses.com/foundation/](http://tournamentofroses.com/foundation/). The website will direct users to a welcome page with instructions on how to begin the application process.

Applications will be accepted through February 23, at 5 p.m. The Foundation’s Board of Directors will make the final grant selections at its annual spring meeting, and applicants will be notified of their funding status via email in April 2023.

## Senior Center Valentine’s Day Concert

Having a sweetheart is not a requirement to get into the swing of an early Valentine’s Day concert and dance Saturday, Feb. 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.

Friendship and romance will fill the Scott Pavilion where the Great American Swing Band will perform music from the Big Band era and other periods that is sure to bring back memories and compel some participants to kick up their heels on the dance floor.

The cost is only \$7 for members of the Pasadena Senior Center and \$10 for nonmembers of all ages. To register or for more information, visit:

[pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorcenter.org) and click on Events & Activities, then Special Events or call 626-795-4331.

In addition to online classes, onsite events and other activities, members and nonmembers of the Pasadena Senior Center are encouraged to visit the website regularly for a quarterly online magazine, free food delivery for older adults in need, COVID updates specifically for older adults and more.

In accordance with Pasadena Public Health Department guidelines, proof of COVID vaccination is required for everyone who uses the fitness center or attends onsite activities indoors. Masks are optional.

## Pasadena Chorale set to Present Pange Lingua Mass of Josquin Desprez



Calling fans of Renaissance music. The Pasadena Chorale will present the Pange Lingua Mass of Josquin Desprez for two performances only: Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 5 at 2:30 p.m. The concerts will be at the Altadena Community Church. The program will also include a setting of the Pange Lingua hymn by Los Angeles composer Paul Gibson, Josquin’s beloved Ave Maria, and selections sung by the Student Singers of the Pasadena Chorale, a treble choir of dedicated and talented middle schoolers from Blair Middle School, Octavia Butler Middle School, and the Pasadena Waldorf School.

“Josquin’s Pange Lingua Mass is a gorgeous and astonishing piece, a tapestry woven with human voices and no instruments,” said Chorale founding artistic director Jeffrey Bernstein. “At the Altadena Church our audience will feel almost as if they’re inside the music.”

“Bernstein continued, “As a choral musician I’ve always been drawn to Renaissance music. The music sounds unfamiliar to modern ears, and yet there’s something compelling and deeply human about it. A mass setting by Josquin is like a symphony by Beethoven or a film score by Hans Zimmer: a

great emotional journey crafted by a composer at the height of his powers. It’s a feast for the ears and the soul.”

Tickets for the performance on Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. are available on a “Listen First, Then Give” basis. The performance on Sunday, March 5 at 2:30 p.m. is a benefit concert for the Chorale, and tickets for that concert are \$25. Seating is limited for both performances.

For the safety of all in attendance, the Pasadena Chorale strongly encourages masking and full vaccination against COVID-19.

Ticket reservations and donations for Pange Lingua Mass of Josquin Desprez can be made at [PasadenaChorale.org](http://PasadenaChorale.org).

During its dozen years of service to the community, the Chorale has presented over one hundred performances and enjoyed collaborations with the Pasadena Playhouse, MUSE/IQUE, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and the Gamble House. In 2017 the Pasadena Chorale was awarded second place in the American Prize in Choral Performance.

The Chorale also offers a robust education program at no cost to participating students.

For more information about the program visit: [PasadenaChorale.org](http://PasadenaChorale.org).

## Fentanyl Crisis Information at the Pasadena Public Library

Fentanyl’s devastating effect is heard almost daily throughout our country and in our local community. Overdoses from synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl) and methamphetamine are increasing, as are the numbers and rates of deaths from overdoses related to these opioids.

In response to community concerns, Tim McDonald, Acting Director of Libraries and Information Services, and the department will host a series of presentations by Huntington Health emergency physician Edwin Peck, M.D., and pharmacist Evan Adintori who will share their experiences with the current fentanyl overdose crisis. Each hour-long information session will be followed by a question-and-answer opportunity. Presented in partnership with Huntington Health, an Affiliate of Cedars Sinai.

Information sessions will be presented at three library locations throughout the city:

- Saturday, January 28, 11 :00 a.m., Lamanda Park Branch Library, 140 S. Altadena Dr.
- Saturday, February 11, 11 :00 a.m., Linda Vista Branch Library, 1281 Bryant St.
- Saturday, February 25, 11 :00 a.m., Santa Catalina Branch Library, 999 E. Washington Blvd.

For more information on upcoming programs and services, visit: [cityofpasadena.net/library](http://cityofpasadena.net/library).

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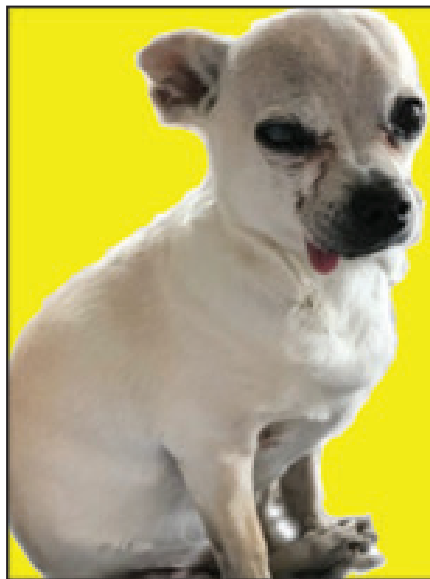
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## San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

### LA Opera Talks: Marriage of Figaro

Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM, Barth Community Room

Community educators present fascinating facts and musical excerpts from the operas that are playing downtown at the Music Center. This Opera Talk focuses on the Marriage of Figaro. Count Almaviva's wandering eye lands on his wife's maid, Susanna, who is about to marry his own Manservant, Figaro. Registration is not required.

### Indoor Winter Game Day

Thursday, February 2 at 3:30 PM, Barth Community Room

Children and their families are invited to join us for a variety of indoor winter-inspired games and activities – no snow required! Have a snowball fight, or cozy up with a board game! Registration is not required.

### Color Me Calm

Thursday, February 2 from 6 – 7 PM, Barth Community Room

Does life have you stressed? Unwind at the Library! Coloring helps relax the mind and is a great stress reducer. Join us for an evening of coloring and creativity in a peaceful atmosphere. Coloring pages and supplies will be provided. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is not required.

### Roses commonly bloom from March through August in Southern California!

Join our NEW Rose Pruning Workshop on February 3 at 9 AM at Lacy Park led by the City's Urban Forester, Lora Hall. She will teach attendees how to prune and care for roses in the winter months in hopes of an extended bloom season. Bring your own gloves and hand pruners. Space is limited and registration is required.

### Recent Happenings

This week, Parks and Public Works maintenance staff worked on the following tasks: removing fallen tree branches, palm fronds, and other debris from the public right-of-way; replacing streetlight bulbs and signs; repairing pavement; and completing minor building repairs at City facilities. Public Works standby staff also responded after hours to clean up fallen debris resulting from the recent windstorm. Residents who wish to report non-emergency issues in the public right-of-way or City streets may do so via the San Marino Service Request Center: [www.cityofsanmarino.org/report](http://www.cityofsanmarino.org/report).

### Annual Street Rehabilitation Project Update

All American Asphalt, the City's contractor for the Annual Street Rehabilitation Project, continued work performing localized repairs on various streets in preparation for resurfacing those streets. The current project will resurface 31 streets throughout the City, in accordance with the City Council-adopted Pavement Management Plan. Resurfacing is anticipated to begin on February 6 – February 21, weather permitting. Residents on impacted streets will receive notices from the City's contractor, All American Asphalt, with additional details about the project timeline, what residents can expect during the project, and what the project's impact to the neighborhood.

### Finance Receives "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award"

The City's Finance Department received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" from the Government Finance Officers Association for their work on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget. This award is the highest award in governmental budgeting, and is presented to those government units whose budgets are judged to adhere to program standards. Great job to the Finance Department on this achievement!

### Take the LACDA Community Survey

The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) is asking for participation in their Community Survey, to help the County determine how best to allocate resources through their Annual Action Plan. The Board of Supervisors will receive your input, combined with market data, to help determine which activities will be funded to improve your neighborhoods. The survey takes no more than 10 minutes and can be found at: [yourvoicecounts.lacda.org/survey.html](http://yourvoicecounts.lacda.org/survey.html).

### Meetings

#### Design Review Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00 PM; Teleconference and Barth Room

## Actor Sam Jaeger set to Emcee Five Acres Gala

Altadena-based children's foster care agency Five Acres, announced that actor Sam Jaeger (pictured) will serve as the emcee of this year's annual gala, "The House of Five Acres," inspired by the year the agency was founded in 1888 during the Victorian era on Saturday, May 20.

Jaeger, who played Joel Graham on NBC's television series "Parenthood," showed support for Five Acres in 2013 during the show's fifth season premiere party. He is a former special friend to a foster child who was living at Five Acres and has continued his involvement with the charity for 10 years. He can be seen playing Peter on Netflix's "Devil in Ohio," and Mark Tuello in Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," to name a few of his shows.

The annual gala will be held at the historic estate of Connie Holguin in Pasadena, which was built in 1897 and designed by Frederick Roehrig, American architect of landmark building Hotel Green, once the home of the Tournament of Roses and the Valley Hunt Club. Castle Green, which was built as an annex to Hotel Green, and the Andrew McNally House in Altadena were also designed by Roehrig.

The Victorian era, which was marked by great change in the world due to new inventions, scientific discoveries, and social change, giving birth to notable movements. At the time, orphanages were being founded to ensure children were kept safe when they had no home, were abandoned, or had a parent who died. Five Acres opened its doors as one of those orphanages that offered safety to the most vulnerable children.



"Over the course of its 135 years, we expanded to focus on well-being and mental health while also ensuring that every child has their own loving and permanent family," said Jennifer Berger, Five Acres' Chief Advancement Officer. "More than 100,000 children and families have been served throughout our numerous programs and services, leaving a legacy we are proud of."

Long-time supporters Nicole Rasic and Trish Gonzales will once again co-chair Five Acres annual gala. Rasic and Gonzales met years ago through a mutual friend. Rasic invited Gonzales to be her guest at Five Acres' gala and the rest is history.

Sponsor or underwriter opportunities for this birthday bash are available. The agency encourages individuals, companies, and organizations to sign up early to secure their place at the party of the year.

For more event information and updates, visit: [5acres.org/](http://5acres.org/). For sponsorship opportunities, call Brandon Ito, associate director of development, at 626-390-8453 or email [brito@5acres.org](mailto:brito@5acres.org). Individual tickets will become available in March.

## Library Announces Bookmark Contest for Children and Teens

South Pasadena children and teens are encouraged to use their imagination and create a one-of-a-kind bookmark with the upcoming 2023 Summer Reading Program theme "Find Your Voice" or to promote books, reading and/or the South Pasadena Public Library. Contest forms are available on the website at [www.southpasadenaca.gov/children](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/children) or from the Children's Room. By Wednesday, March 1, Bookmark Contest entries must be delivered to the Children's Services desk at the South Pasadena Public Library, located at 1100 Oxley Street in South Pasadena. Entries will be judged according to four age categories. Winners will be announced in late April in honor of National Library Week. Winning entries will be reproduced as bookmarks by the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library and will be distributed during the summer of 2023. All

entries must have a parent or guardian signature as approval for the bookmark artwork to be submitted into the Bookmark Contest.

The South Pasadena Public Library is located at 1100 Oxley Street in South Pasadena. Visit the Library website at: [southpasadenaca.gov/library](http://southpasadenaca.gov/library) for information about services and programs. The Library is open Monday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## South Pas Arts Crawl at the Library

Community members are invited to start the South Pasadena Winter Arts Crawl at the South Pasadena Public Library at 1100 Oxley Street to join a free Community Art Swap on Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Participants of all ages are encouraged to create mixed media arts and crafts and swap it with another creator's work. Makers will be encouraged to use their imagination to re-use and repurpose a variety of recyclables and other materials and transform them into works of art. Their art will be added to the gallery of artworks on display for other participants to enjoy and swap. Join the fun and make something, take someone else's work and share the joy of creating.

The South Pasadena Public Library is located at 1100 Oxley Street in South Pasadena. Visit the Library website at [www.southpasadenaca.gov/library](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/library) for information about services and programs. The Library is open Monday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 AM–6:00 PM, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 AM–8:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM–5:00 PM.

Upon request made no later than four (4) business days before the event, the City will provide a reasonable accommodation for a qualified person with a disability to have equal access to the event. Please call (626) 403-7312 or fill out the City's request form available at [www.southpasadenaca.gov](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov) and email the form to Human Resources at [HR@southpasadenaca.gov](mailto:HR@southpasadenaca.gov).

## Holden Introduces AB 299: Hazing Accountability Bill

A former San Diego State basketball player and Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced Thursday, AB 299, Hazing Accountability Bill, which will allow for civil action to be brought against an educational institution for an instance of hazing in which one or more students were involved if that educational institution knew or should have known of the dangerous hazing practices of an affiliated organization.

Extracurricular activities among students of educational institutions are a quintessential part of the American school experience, especially at a collegiate level. However, there has been an influx of dangerous hazing practices within these organizations, and a lackluster effort on the part of many institutions to address it in a preventative and proactive manner. According to Indiana University Press, there has been at least one hazing-related death a year between 1961 and 2017.

"Parents send their children to school in hopes of achieving a career and future better than their own," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "However, it is every parent's nightmare when serious and even fatal injuries could have been wholly protected by the education institution and their child



has suffered the trauma as a result."

Hazing is a clearly detrimental practice that California has characteristically taken seriously through legislation. This piece of legislation keeps us on that path by holding the educational institutions who promote participation in and benefit from these organizations responsible for the consequences that they may bring to students. This responsibility will hopefully incentivize institutions to bolster their oversight and preventative measures as they pertain to hazing in an effort to save students' lives.

"I stand in solidarity with victims of hazing, though many are not as fortunate to be able to tell their stories, I am here, prepared and actively listening to how your educational experience can be memorable and safe," said Holden.

## South Pasadena Public Library set to Host Silent Film Screening

### Paul Powell's Pollyanna (1920) with Live Piano Accompaniment

South Pasadena has served as a filming location for many famous features. From Victor Fleming's Gone with the Wind (1939) to John Carpenter's Halloween (1978), South Pasadena is entrenched in Hollywood history. In celebration of our cinematic city, the South Pasadena Public Library is hosting a special screening of Paul Powell's 1920 silent film Pollyanna on Saturday, February 25 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room, located at 1115 El Centro Street, South Pasadena. Pollyanna stars silent screen legend Mary Pickford in the titular role of Pollyanna Whittier, an orphan determined to see the positive in any bad situation. Dean Ghaffari will introduce the film and Michael D. Mortilla will provide the live piano accompaniment.

Dean Ghaffari is an actor, writer, instructor, and film historian. Mr. Ghaffari is very proud of his work in his community, from conducting lectures on film history to moderating several events at the South Pasadena Public Library. He previously taught Theatre Arts at the Pasadena Senior Center and is currently an instructor at the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory. He has appeared in commercials, feature films, and has acted in dozens of plays. Most notably, he wrote and performed the stage play Rebel With a Cause - The Sal Mineo Story at the Fremont Centre Theatre, which subsequently made its way off-Broadway.

Michael D. Mortilla is well known in the silent film world as a composer and accompanist. Michael has composed silent film scores

for the Chicago Symphony, the Academy of Motion Pictures, the Library of Congress, the Olympics, National Film Preservation Foundation, and many others. He was the last composer to collaborate on a produced work with legendary choreographer Martha Graham. Mr. Mortilla was a faculty member at UC Santa Barbara for fourteen years, serving as resident composer and sound designer in theater and dance. Since 2000 he has resided in Burbank, working as a free-lance journeyman composer and sound designer in theater, film, silent film, animation, dance, and various other productions.

The screening will present a digital, unrestored version of the film. This film is presented as originally created. It may contain negative depictions and/or mistreatment of people or cultures.

This program is made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library. The Library is located at 1100 Oxley Street in South Pasadena. For information about services and programs, visit the website at [www.southpasadenaca.gov/library](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/library). The Library is open Monday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Upon request made no later than four (4) business days before the event, the City will provide a reasonable accommodation for a qualified person with a disability to have equal access to the event. Please call (626) 403-7312 or fill out the City's request form available at: [southpasadenaca.gov](http://southpasadenaca.gov) and email the form to Human Resources at [HR@southpasadenaca.gov](mailto:HR@southpasadenaca.gov).

## A Call for Artist Submissions


Altadena Library District is seeking artist submissions. The selected design will be used as a showpiece for the Summer Reading 2023 program and printed on a run of 20-inch by 30-inch posters.

Submission deadline is February 28. Only digital submissions accepted.

Before submitting any artwork, please read the full guidelines at: [altadenalibrary.org](http://altadenalibrary.org).

For more information call (626) 798-0833.

Catch breaking news at:  
[mtnviewsnews.com](http://mtnviewsnews.com)



**PASADENA**  
PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY


Invites current Preschool - 12th grade educators, including librarians and administrators, who teach or live in Pasadena to

## Educator Night


Join us for dinner, receive an overview of our free educator resources, chat with our library staff and take home a tote bag and book to share with your class.


You'll also get an opportunity to be among the first to explore the new Jefferson Branch Library.


**Thursday, February 2, 2023**  
**5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Jefferson Branch Library**  
**1500 E. Villa St.**  
**Pasadena, CA**



Register at: (QR Code link)  
<https://pasadena.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=7053>


**PASADENA**  
PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
pasadenapubliclibrary.net



For accessibility information and requests, contact Jefferson Branch Library at (626) 744-3046 or (626) 818-4765. Providing at least 72 hours advance notice will help ensure availability.



ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, January 15th through Saturday, January 21st, the Police Department responded to 948 calls for service, of which 108 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of some of the incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, January 15:

- 1. At 4:39 a.m., an officer responded to Mitty Pharmacy, located at 145 East Duarte Road, regarding an alarm activation. Surveillance footage captured three suspects as they pried open the front door and ransacked the location. They fled with prescription medications in a black sedan.
- 2. At 12:31 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 100 block of West Pamela Road regarding a residential burglary report. An investigation revealed that unidentified suspect(s) entered the home by prying open the pedestrian garage door and once inside, they stole the victim's refrigerator and fled. The crime happened sometime between 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 14th and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 15th.

Monday, January 16:

- 3. At 1:00 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 1100 block of West Duarte Road regarding a vandalism report. Surveillance footage captured the suspect, a 24-year-old male from Altadena, slashed the victim's tires on three separate occasions. The investigation is ongoing.
- 4. At 5:43 a.m., an officer responded to Blaze Pizza, located at 815 West Naomi Avenue, regarding a commercial burglary report. Surveillance footage captured three male suspects pried open the front door and attempted to break into the safe. They were unsuccessful and fled empty-handed.

Tuesday, January 17:

- 5. At 8:23 a.m., an officer met with the victim of a robbery that had occurred in the 1100 block of Arcadia Avenue. An investigation revealed the suspect approached the victim, who was waiting for her Uber in front of her residence. The suspect threatened the victim with a handgun and demanded the victim's cell phone and lunch box. The victim complied and the suspect fled in a tan colored SUV. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male.
- 6. At 6:26 p.m., an officer responded to The Shops at Santa Anita, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a robbery. An investigation revealed two suspects approached the victim while he was exiting the mall and demanded his wallet. One of the suspects displayed a knife and the victim complied. The suspects are described as two Hispanic males, both approximately 5'10" tall and both wearing hooded sweatshirts and bandana face coverings. They fled on foot.
- 7. At 8:20 p.m., an officer responded to Macy's, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a theft and battery incident. An investigation revealed the suspect stole \$1,800.00 worth of merchandise before fleeing. The suspect tried to bite and spit at a loss prevention employee attempting

to stop the him. The suspect, a 48-year-old male from Altadena, was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Wednesday, January 18:

- 8. At 1:23 a.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of East Live Oak Avenue, regarding a burglary report. Surveillance footage captured a suspect entering the victim's secured kiosk and fleeing with unknown property.
- 9. At 6:39 a.m., an officer responded to Starbucks, located at 300 East Huntington Drive, regarding a suspicious circumstances incident. An investigation revealed the business received a returned package intended to be delivered to an address in Pennsylvania. When an employee opened the package, nine pounds of marijuana was found inside.

Thursday, January 19:

- 10. At 9:51 a.m., an officer responded to Draperies.com, located at 5460 Peck Road, regarding a vehicle burglary report. Surveillance footage captured a lone suspect cut a padlock that secured the cargo compartment of a delivery truck and fled empty-handed.
- 11. At 10:37 a.m., an officer responded to the 200 block of South Santa Anita Avenue regarding a stolen vehicle report. An investigation revealed, someone stole the victim's Hyundai Sonata during the previous night.

Friday, January 20:

- 12. At 3:31 p.m., an officer responded to the 1500 block of East Saint Joseph Street regarding a battery report. An investigation revealed an altercation between business neighbors resulted in the suspect trying to fight the victim, but the victim was able to subdue the suspect until officers arrived. The suspect, a 71-year-old male from Arcadia, was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.
- 13. At 11:46 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 100 block of Genoa Street regarding a battery report. An investigation revealed a dispute between a father and a teenage son resulted in the father pushing the son down six steps. The suspect, a 45-year-old male from Arcadia, was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Saturday, January 21:

- 14. At 4:07 a.m., an officer initiated contact with the driver of a vehicle which was parked on the side of the road with the hazard lights on. The officer discovered the driver was unresponsive. An investigation revealed the driver smelled of alcohol and admitted to being under the influence of alcohol while driving. The driver, a 24-year-old male from San Diego, was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

DUARTE POLICE BLOTTER

January 16, 2023

- Robbery (Armed car jacking): 1900 block of Huntington Drive. On January 16, 2023 at 11:24 AM, the victim was parked in a parking stall in his mother's 2019 white Honda CRV when he was approached by a male black adult wearing a black hoodie, black pants, and a black ski mask. The suspect produced a black handgun and tapped it on the window to get his attention. The suspect demanded the victim exit the vehicle and hand over the keys to the vehicle. The victim fearing for his safety, exited the vehicle. A second suspect, a male black adult wearing a black hoodie, black pants, and a black mask, entered the driver's side door as the first suspect entered the front passenger side door. The suspects fled the area in the victim's vehicle and out of view. No surveillance video is available.

January 18, 2023

- Burglary (Commercial): 1323 Huntington Drive (La Michoacana). On January 18, 2023 at 2:26 AM, suspect(s) unknown shattered the front glass door and entered the business. Once inside, the suspect(s) ransacked the location and stole the money left in the register and from a safe located in the office. The loss was approximately \$2,700, and roughly \$1,400 in damages to the shattered door. Video surveillance showed three male black adults, 5'10" and 170 lbs., wearing black hoodies, black pants, and black gloves, shatter-

ing the window with a hammer and entering the location.

- Petty Theft: 800 Block of Lewiston Street. Between January 17, 2023 8:30 PM and January 18, 2023 8:30 AM suspect(s) unknown stole the victim's bicycle, a green "Zizzo" from his driveway. The loss was approximately \$400. No surveillance video is available.

January 19, 2023

- No significant activity.

January 20, 2023

- Petty Theft: 1857 Business Center Drive (Element Materials Tech). On January 20, 2023 at 5:50 PM, suspect(s) unknown, a female adult, entered the victim's unlocked vehicle, a white 1989 Volvo 240, and stole some gloves and his work identification. The loss was approximately \$60. Surveillance video is available.

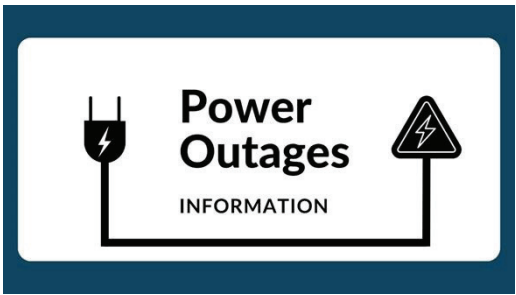
January 21, 2023

- Petty Theft: 1600 Mountain Avenue (Walmart). On January 21, 2023 at 12:00 PM, the victim stated she was in the store's hardware section when she was distracted by an unknown male suspect. While distracted, a second unidentified suspect took her wallet from her unattended shopping cart. The loss was approximately \$215. Surveillance video is available.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Arcadia Senior Services is partnering with the Arcadia Chinese Association to celebrate Chinese New Year on Friday, February 3, 2023. It will take place at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, from 11:30am to 1pm. Enjoy an afternoon with friends that includes lunch and entertainment. To register please visit the City's website at [www.ArcadiaCA.gov](http://www.ArcadiaCA.gov) or register in person at the Arcadia Community Center.

The event is only for individuals age 50 and over and the cost is \$10 per person. For more information, please call Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130.



On February 1, from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., Southern California Edison (SCE) will be conducting a pole replacement along the 700 block of West Walnut Avenue and 100 Block of East Colorado Boulevard. On February 1, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., SCE will be conducting a pole replacement along the 800 block of West Colorado Boulevard. Contact: SCE Customer Service, (800) 655-4555

MONROVIA



Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

There are still appointments available for the Monrovia Police Department Battle of the Badges Blood Drive next Thursday, February 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Center (119 W. Palm Avenue). Please consider donating blood, as your single donation can help save up to three lives! Also, consider downloading the American Red Cross app to track where your blood goes! In addition, all donors will receive a Battle of the Badges t-shirt (design above) and a \$10 Amazon e-card.

To schedule an appointment, please go to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code "BOB23" or call (800) 733-2767.

MONROVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO CELEBRATE REOPENING OF HISTORIC ANDERSON HOUSE

The Monrovia Historical Society will hold a grand reopening to celebrate the completion of repairs to the 1886 George H. Anderson House at 215 E. Lime Avenue, Monrovia, on Sunday, February 19 from 2-4 p.m., with a ribbon cutting at 2:15 p.m. The house is now presentable after years of work. It has a new roof, plastering, woodwork repair, and has been thoroughly cleaned. Refreshments will be provided and reservations are not necessary. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The Historical Society's goal is to "preserve and share Monrovia's historical legacy" through the Anderson House; the Legacy Project ([monroviahistoricalsociety.org/legacy-project](http://monroviahistoricalsociety.org/legacy-project)), an online collection of 6,000 historic photos and papers; an online map-based tour of historical Monrovia, [stevebakersonmonrovia.com](http://stevebakersonmonrovia.com); and its collection of 87 videos at its YouTube channel, [youtube.com/MonroviaHistoricalSociety](http://youtube.com/MonroviaHistoricalSociety).

For more information visit the Monrovia Historical Society web page at [monroviahistorical-society.org](http://monroviahistorical-society.org).

DUARTE

Wildlife Alert: Mountain Lion Spotted in Residential Neighborhood

A mountain lion has been spotted in the 200 Block of Melcanyon Road in Duarte. As temperatures increase, we will start to see more wild animals in residential areas. The Department of Public Safety suggests the following guidelines to assist in coexisting with wildlife:

- Do not leave small children and or small pets (even if pets are caged) unattended outdoors.

- Should you maintain your pet outdoors and have room to do so, consider the placement of an enclosed dog or cat run adequate in size to allow your pet to exercise. The run should contain a 6-sided shelter, potable water, and shade to protect your pet from direct sunlight.

- Do not encourage, entice, approach, or feed mammalian wildlife such as coyotes or bears. It is a violation of the law.

- Please remove your pet's food dish or bowl when your pet has finished eating, and do not leave any unattended food outdoors.

- You can pick up all fallen fruit & berries from your yard. If possible, do not leave ripened fruit on branches. If you need help removing ripened fruit, please contact Duarte's Local Harvest at (626) 359-5671, ext. 316, to schedule a harvest time and date.

- Enclose or remove woodpiles.

- Do not compost human food items.

- Enclose vegetable gardens with sturdy welded wire mesh or a greenhouse—clear dense vegetation to reduce wildlife hiding places.

- Clean all grills or barbecues after use.

- Secure or store trash containers in enclosed structures or securely strap down the lids. Only place refuse containers out on the day of service. Spray ammonia occasionally in the trash to cut down on food odors.

- Report abandoned or severely neglected unkempt properties to the Public Safety Department at (626) 357-7938 and overgrown brush to the Fire Department as wildlife may often take up living at such locations.

- Carry a walking stick or large colorful umbrella when out on walks so that you can use it to fend off an animal. An open umbrella, for example, presents you as much larger than the animal and may frighten it away.

Please report suspicious activity and anyone feeding wild animals to the Public Safety Department at (626) 357-7938.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

ANNOYING OR HARASSING PHONE CALLS:  
California Penal Code 653m

"Every person, who with intent to annoy, telephones or makes contact by means of an electronic communication device with another and addresses to or about the other person any obscene language or addresses to the other person any threat to inflict injury to the person or property of the person addressed or any member of his or her family, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Nothing in this subdivision shall apply to telephone calls or electronic contacts made in good faith."

"Electronic communication device" includes items such as text messages, emails, faxes, etc.

Tips if you are receiving annoying or harassing phone calls:  
1. Screen your calls. If you don't recognize the number, don't answer it.  
2. You have no obligation to stay on the phone, do not engage in conversation.  
3. Do not tell a caller where you are or give out personal information such as your name, address, social security number, and bank account number.  
4. Ask your phone company about privacy options for your mobile/landline phone.  
5. Document specific details of annoying/harassing calls if you decide to notify the police. This information may give valuable clues to the caller's identity and establish a pattern that may help identify the call source or reason.

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# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## Peter Dills Knows

TWIST OFF ??

There was a wonderful eatery in Old Pasadena called “Pop”, and they’d specialize in (drum roll) sparkling wines and champagnes. They seemed to do quite well with “mouse\*” crowd. The story here was: sometime back, under different ownership, they were open Wednesday through Sunday. I asked the then bartender/sommelier Raphael what they did with the opened bottles of sparkling wine after closing on Sunday? He said they poured it all out in the sink. Having grown up in a waste-not-want-not household, I shook and quivered at such a thought. We made a deal on the spot that I could come in on any Sunday night and for \$15 (friends included) drink what otherwise would be thrown away.

As mentioned, Pop has long out of business, but it got me to think about the wine that is sitting in your favorite restaurant’s refrigerator: how long has it been sitting there?

As far as sparkling wines go (remember, it can only be called champagne if the grapes were grown in the region of Champagne, France), there should still be a “pop” when your server takes off the stopper. If you aren’t sure, simply grab a utensil and see if you can stir up some bubbles. White wines and red will stay fresh a day or two longer, but here is my tried and true suggestion (and not once have I had a “no” or a roll of the eyes). Simply ask the server when the bottle was opened, and if they aren’t sure, ask for a fresh bottle. The mark-up on wines by the glass is in the restaurants favor; all you are doing is evening the odds. There are a handful of restaurants that sell splits of sparkling wines which gives you about a glass and a half from a split. I don’t recommend splits of sparkling wine, though, as they come with screw tops instead of corks. Sparkling wine with a screw top? Dom Perignon would turn over in his grave. If you’re looking for wine by the glass, check out the Parkway Grill or Flemings in Pasadena. I promise that there will be no eye rolling and they do rotate their wines by the glass program often.

Check out my latest video reel on Youtube I talk about the difference between corks and screw tops!!

Peter Dills Youtube Channel.



## PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES FOUNDATION NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

*Applications will be accepted from January 23, 2023, through February 23, 2023.*

PASADENA, Calif. (January 23, 2023) – The Pasadena Tournament of Roses® Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2023 grant program. Since its inception in 1983, the Foundation has invested over \$4 million in more than 700 Pasadena-area organizations. The grant awards in 2022 totaled nearly \$200,000, which funded 19 organizations in the San Gabriel Valley.

The grants supported new and ongoing programs benefiting children, teens, adults and seniors. From nonprofits offering animal therapy to special needs children, to organizations providing technical skills to underserved students and dance therapy for seniors diagnosed with Parkinson’s and multiple sclerosis.

The 2023 grant cycle will be structured as follows – Tier 1: a one-year grant for \$35,000, Tier 2: a one-year grant for \$15,000 and Tier 3: several one-year grants for up to \$10,000. The Foundation will also require applicants to include information on how their program will be delivered.

Eligible applicants are organizations with 501(c)(3) status, as of the submission deadline, February 23, 2023, that serves one or more of the following communities: Alhambra, Altadena, Arcadia, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and Temple City. As in previous years, grants will be given in the categories of Performing and Visual Arts, Sports and Recreation, and Education (Early Childhood Education, Literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs.

To apply for the 2023 grant cycle, eligible organizations should visit the Tournament of Roses Foundation page: [www.tournamentofroses.com/foundation/](http://www.tournamentofroses.com/foundation/). The website will direct users to a welcome page with instructions on how to begin the application process.

Applications will be accepted from January 23, 2023, through February 23, 2023, at 5 p.m. The Foundation’s Board of Directors will make the final grant selections at its annual spring meeting, and applicants will be notified of their funding status via email in April 2023.

## ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF ARCADIA BOOK DRIVE



**FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2023**

Operation School Bell® provides two new paperback books, to over 1,000 students identified for services each year. For some, it will be the first new book they have ever owned. Operation School Bell serves the Alhambra, Arcadia, Duarte, Monrovia, Rosemead, San Gabriel, and Temple City School Districts.

Two ways you can help. 1) Donate **new age-appropriate paperback books** (especially chapter books) for students in grades 1-12 to our Donation Box located at Bargain Box Thrift Shop - 64 E. Live Oak Avenue, Arcadia. **Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10-1.** (Hint: Costco has reasonably priced sets.) 2) Purchase virtually below. Let’s promote literacy together!

**Optional Virtual Book Drive with support from our literacy partner:**



PayPal Donations  
<https://tinyurl.com/alapaypal>

**SCHOLASTIC**

**\$20 = 5 Books**

**\$40 = 10 Books**

**\$100 = 26 Books**



OPERATION SCHOOL BELL®  
[www.assistanceleague.org/arcadia](http://www.assistanceleague.org/arcadia)

## CREATIVE ARTS GROUP Faculty Show

**January 27 - February 18**

*Opening Reception*

Friday, January 27

7:30 - 9:30 pm



108 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre | (626) 355-8350 [CreativeArtsGroup.org](http://CreativeArtsGroup.org)



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# YOUNG & HEALTHY

## THE POWER OF COMPASSION

When we approach our children with compassion it helps them to know that regardless of what is happening around them, they will always have someone that they can rely on and trust. This series will focus on the importance of compassion in helping our children to feel secure and how feeling secure in their relationships with the adults in their lives effects behavior and academic achievement.



Join us for this monthly, multi week series beginning on September 13, 6-7 PM. If you cannot make a session, no problem, join us for the next one!

All meetings can be accessed using the following Zoom Link:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86388641229>

Parent Ed Workshops at 6:00 PM: 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/6, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9  
Office Hours at 6:00 PM: 9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 12/13, 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23

Any Questions? Email Liz Arnold: [larnold@yhpasadena.org](mailto:larnold@yhpasadena.org)

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**  
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**626-818-2698**  
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## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy  
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Julia V. Fanara  
E-mail address: [jfanara@alvernoheights.org](mailto:jfanara@alvernoheights.org)

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

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

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

Bethany Christian School  
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527  
Preschool-TK-8th Grade  
Principal: Jonathon Hawes  
website: [www.bcsliions.org](http://www.bcsliions.org)

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

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

Frostig School  
971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 791-1255

Head of School: Jenny Janetzke  
Email: [jenny@frostig.org](mailto:jenny@frostig.org)

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

High Point Academy  
1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989  
website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

La Salle College Preparatory  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: [www.lasallehs.org](http://www.lasallehs.org)  
Principal Dr. Jamal Adams

Monrovia High School  
325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
(626) 471-2800 Principal Darwin Jackson

Email: [schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us](mailto:schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us)

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

Pasadena High School  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Mathew Kodama  
website: <http://phs.pusd.us>

St. Rita Catholic School  
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Principal: Adela Solis (626) 355-6114  
[solis@st-ritaschool.org](mailto:solis@st-ritaschool.org)  
Website: [www.st-ritaschool.org](http://www.st-ritaschool.org)

Sierra Madre Elementary School  
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Lindsay LUIS  
E-mail address: [LUIS.lindsay@pusd.us](mailto:LUIS.lindsay@pusd.us)

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

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

Weizmann Day School  
1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
(626) 797-0204  
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

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

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

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

Monrovia Unified School District  
325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016  
(626) 471-2000  
Website: [www.monroviaschools.net](http://www.monroviaschools.net)

Duarte Unified School District  
1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010  
(626) 599-5000  
Website: [www.duarte.k12.ca.us](http://www.duarte.k12.ca.us)

Arcadia Christian School  
1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006  
Preschool - and TK - 8th Grade  
626-574-8229/626-574-0805  
Email: [inquiry@acslions.com](mailto:inquiry@acslions.com)  
Principal: Cindy Harmon  
website: [www.acslions.com](http://www.acslions.com)

Chitter and Chatter went to visit...



# Newspaper Fun!

[www.readingclubfun.com](http://www.readingclubfun.com)



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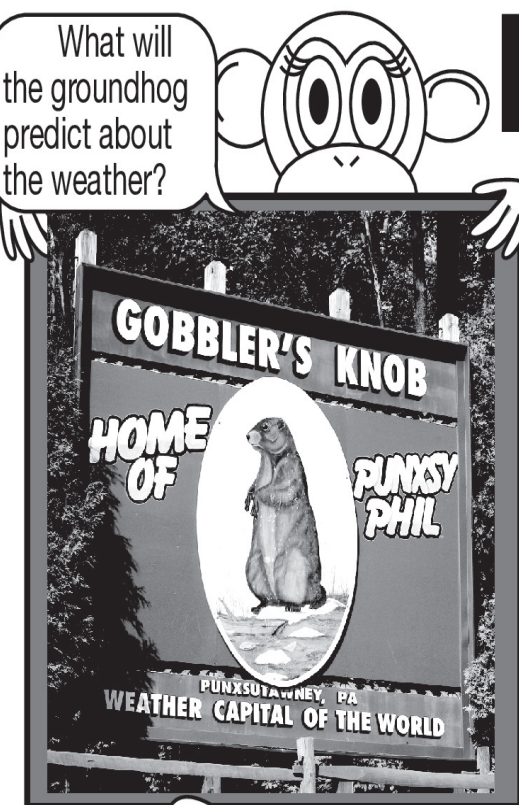
...Punxsutawney, PA, on their trip.



Kids: color stuff in!



What will the groundhog predict about the weather?



### A Groundhog:

- usually weighs about 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- burrows \_\_\_\_\_ with its curved claws to make a home
- can see well and has very good \_\_\_\_\_
- is also known as a \_\_\_\_\_
- is an excellent \_\_\_\_\_
- sometimes makes a \_\_\_\_\_ noise
- can be found in woods, fields and \_\_\_\_\_
- can live to be about 6-8 \_\_\_\_\_ old
- hibernates – its body temperature drops and its \_\_\_\_\_ nearly stops
- can climb into \_\_\_\_\_ to take naps
- is the only animal with its own national \_\_\_\_\_
- is an herbivore, which means it only eats \_\_\_\_\_

## Is Spring on its Way?



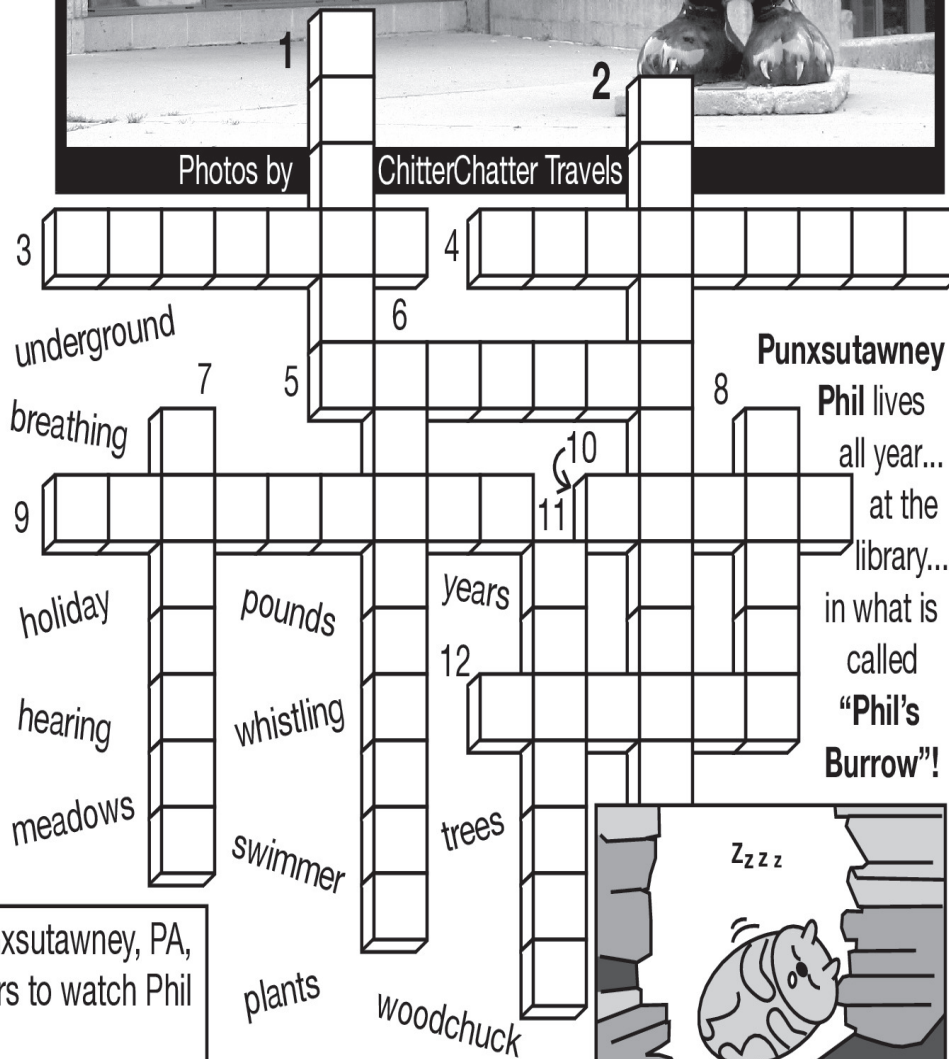
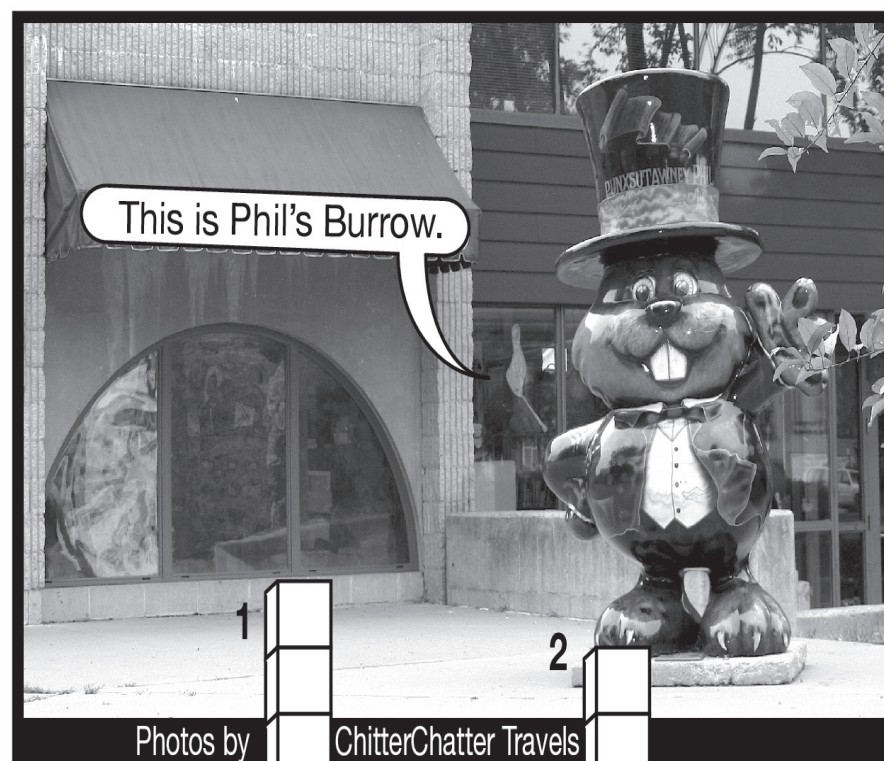
**Punxsutawney Phil will tell us!**

On February 2nd, all eyes will be on Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog who predicts whether spring and warmer weather will come soon, or winter and the cold weather will stay awhile longer.

How does he do this? Well, legend holds that when the groundhog pokes out of his hole, if the sun is shining, he will see his shadow, be frightened and dive back into his burrow to wait out six more weeks of winter. But, if he sees clouds when he comes out of his hole, he will not be afraid and we will know that spring is near!



**Gobbler's Knob** in Punxsutawney, PA, is where everyone gathers to watch Phil "make his prediction"!



**Punxsutawney Phil** lives all year... at the library... in what is called "Phil's Burrow"!

Zzzz





CHRISTOPHER Nyergeres



BUILDING A LEAN-TO

[Nyergeres is an educator and author. He has written “Urban Survival Guide,” “How to Survive Anywhere,” and other books. More information is available at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com).]

Should you build a primitive shelter if you get lost in the woods and you know you need to spend the night there? Perhaps. But if you were alert, you might be surprised how many ready-to-occupy shelters abound in the wilderness. Why build something if you can simply find some shelter for the night, whether man-made or natural? You know, hollow trees, caves, rock overhangs, old cabins, outhouses, utility shacks.

But if there is nothing around to protect you from the cold, the snow, the rain, then you must build something.

We frequently build shelters during my survival skills classes so students can learn the basic principles of shelter-building. We primarily build lean-tos and body hollows, and many variations and combinations of these two most basic of primitive shelters. I should point out that I am well-aware that you hope that you will never have to do this because of an emergency. Most of you are comfortably tucked inside during the very cold weather, and when it raining hard. If you have never built, and stayed in, a primitive shelter, it can be quite a miserable experience. I do it because I enjoy making a shelter in the woods, and I enjoy the learning process. And I have spent countless nights wrestling with the cold, finding ways to allow my body to sleep comfortably. One result of this is that I have endless empathy for the homeless people of L.A. County, who are undoubtedly suffering from cold whenever the temperatures dip.



Javier Palare inspect the nearly-finished lean-to built by a survival skills class.

OK, so we need to build a shelter. How do we begin?

Just like with real estate, the primary consideration is location. You need to build your shelter where there is the necessary abundance of natural materials. You want a location that provides some natural protection, if possible. But you don’t want rocks or branches to fall on your shelter. You don’t want to be too close to water for many reasons: mosquitoes, possibility of flooding, inability to hear people approaching. Etc.

You’ve found your ideal spot. A simple lean-to begins with a tripod so that one length is as long as your body. The simple tripod is the frame for your shelter, and then you simply lean branches onto your frame, keeping in mind where your entrance will be. Once you’ve covered the frame with branches, you add little branches and leaves, and eventually cover the shelter with a thick layer of insulation.

You then add thick layers of grass or leaves into the floor of the lean-to for your bedding. I try to avoid using pine needles for insulation because it pokes into your body, and you get full of the bits of sap that seep out of it. But if there is nothing else, use it. If possible, add a layer of large rocks to define your bedding area to keep all the leaves and grass from flattening out too much.

An easier way to begin a lean-to is to simply lean a solid ridge post onto a low branch of a standing tree. Then lean your smaller poles onto the ridge post, and continue from there. Shelter is extremely important, whether you’re in the extreme heat of the desert, or exposed to the winter snows. But the process of shelter-building need not be a daunting task. After all, children all build “forts” and “hideouts” in the woods.

Perhaps the best way for adults to make shelters is to become like a child again, not worry about getting dirty, and just go and learn by doing.



Siblings, HENRY & VIOLET!

WANTED! For stealing hearts and getting along with dogs! Age 10 mos., they're as cute and sweet as they look!  
HENRY is a shy but sweet boy, tabby & white. See the cute little Mari-lyn Monroe beauty spot on his pink nose? Hops to high places to watch the happenings around him. He will gently nudge your toes, just to say, "Hi, I am here in case you didn't notice."  
Loves carrying his plush toys while softly humming.



VIOLET is the pretty tuxedo! Gorgeous mask, always looking perpetually surprised. She gets along with everyone and is very curious. Super playful, but demure and not too pushy.  
BOTH were raised with two nurturing doggies, so if you have a nice dog all the better. Find the adoption application on our website where you'll also find more adorable pix on our Very Young Cats page, at [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org). Thank you!

Pet of the Week

Winston is a dapper six-year-old greyhound mix who is ready to race his way into your heart! He has a beautiful shiny brindle coat that turns heads wherever he goes. He's not just a pretty face, though. Winston has smarts as well. He appears to be housebroken and knows a handful of tricks, with the desire to learn more.

Winston likes to chase things, especially toys! His favorite is the squeaky ball, but really, he's not very picky. His long legs make it seem like he's floating through the air in pursuit of whatever is thrown his way. This also means that Winston should not live with cats or other small animals. After a few rounds of fetch, he will contentedly relax and enjoy chewing on his toys until it's time to run again!

At six years old, Winston is eligible for the Seniors for Seniors program, meaning his adoption fee is waived for an adopter over sixty.

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

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

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

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





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SIERRA MADRE Playhouse

Solo Shows Festival 2023



CALL ME ELIZABETH  
BY KAYLA BOYE  
DIRECTED BY ERIN KRAFT



MR. YUNIOSHI  
BACKSTAGE WITH LADY DAY  
WRITTEN BY AND STARRING  
SYNTHIA L. HARDY  
DIRECTED BY  
BRYAN RASMUSSEN



DI LADY DI  
BOOK, MUSIC, &  
LYRICS BY  
CHARLOTTE MUNSON  
MUSIC BY  
RICHARD MUNSON

MR. YUNIOSHI IS THE SECOND PRESENTATION OF SOLO SHOWS FESTIVAL 2023!

"I desired to write something about a very difficult topic...I think the show is a reflection of how it feels to see yourself, or not see yourself, represented."

- J. Elijah Cho, Mr. Yunioshi writer/director/performer

In Mr. Yunioshi, we get a snapshot into the mind of legendary actor Mickey Rooney during a time when he is surprised to find out the studio wants him, a white man, to play the Asian character in Breakfast At Tiffany's. Who better to play the role of Mickey as he wrestles with his conscience and this character than a young, Asian American actor, J. Elijah Cho? You will be intrigued and entertained by this performance of an Asian American actor playing a white actor playing a stereotyped Asian character, running for only 6 performances!

Learn more from Mr. Yunioshi writer/director/performer J. Elijah Cho himself in the above video about what inspired him to write the show (and catch a sneak peek of what's to come with the presentation of this show at Sierra Madre Playhouse!) Click the image above to watch Solo Shows Festival 2023: What Inspired You To Write Mr. Yunioshi?

Be sure to make plans to join us for this presentation as well as our other 2 upcoming solo shows presentations: Call Me Elizabeth, and Di Lady Di.

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ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOME?

There are many myths about Assisted Living being like Nursing Homes. This is not true at all. Nursing facilities are for those with chronic health issues who require care around the clock from medical professionals.

In Assisted Living, one will get the support as needed, such as getting help with showering, grooming, and dressing. Again, these services are based on the seniors needs.

There are many reasons in working with us. At Safe Path for Seniors, we will assess the senior and depending on their care needs and budget, make recommendations. For example, we may suggest that the right fit is a Board and Care Home (normally a 6-bedroom house) as opposed to an Assisted Living Community or a Memory Support Facility. You will work with an experienced agent who knows the industry well and will give you recommendations. The good news is that there is no cost for this service.

If you have any questions about placing a loved one, visit [www.safepathforseniors.com](http://www.safepathforseniors.com) or call Steve at 626-999-6913



HOW TO COVER DENTAL CARE IN RETIREMENT

*Dear Savvy Senior:*  
*I had dental insurance through my work for many years but lost it when I retired and joined Medicare. Where can retirees find affordable dental care? Uninsured Al*



Dear Al:  
Unfortunately, about two-thirds of U.S. retirees don't have dental insurance today. Without coverage from traditional Medicare, and with private dental insurance typically costing too much to be feasible, most seniors are stuck paying full out-of-pocket prices every time they visit a dentist. While there's no one simple solution to affordable dental care there are a variety of options that can help cut your costs. Here's where to look.

Medicare Advantage: While dental services are mostly excluded under original Medicare, many Medicare Advantage plans do provide coverage for dental care, but it's usually very limited. Medicare Advantage plans are government approved health plans (usually HMOs and PPOs) sold by private insurance companies that you can choose in place of original Medicare. To shop and research Advantage plans in your area visit [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](http://Medicare.gov/plan-compare) or call 800-633-4227.

Dental insurance: If you have gum problems and need extensive dental care, a dental insurance plan may be worth the costs versus paying for care yourself. Monthly premiums for individual plans range from about \$20 to \$80. A typical plan includes two or three cleanings and checkups per year, but these plans will likely have a waiting period – anywhere from a few months to a few years – before coverage for more expensive procedures kicks in. To find dental plans in your area, see [eHealthInsurance.com](http://eHealthInsurance.com).

Dental savings plans: While savings plans aren't as comprehensive as insurance, they are a good option for those who don't have dental insurance. How this works is you pay an annual membership fee – around \$80 to \$200 a year – in exchange for 10 to 60 percent discounts on service and treatments from participating dentists. To find a savings plan, go to [DentalPlans.com](http://DentalPlans.com) (or 888-632-5353) where you can search for plans and participating dentists, as well as get a breakdown of the discounts offered.

Veterans' benefits: If you're a veteran enrolled in the VA health care program or are a beneficiary of the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), the VA offers a dental insurance program that gives you the option to buy dental insurance through Delta Dental and MetLife at a reduced cost. The VA also provides free dental care to vets who have dental problems resulting from service. To learn more about these options, visit [VA.gov/dental](http://VA.gov/dental) or call 877-222-8387.

Cheaper dental care: Because prices can vary by dentist, one way to ensure you get a good deal on your dental care is to call multiple provides and compare prices. To get an idea of what different dental procedures cost in your area, see [FairHealthConsumer.org](http://FairHealthConsumer.org). If you're paying cash, it's also perfectly reasonable to ask your dentist for a discount.

There are also a number health centers and clinics that provide low-cost dental care to those in need. And all university dental schools and college dental hygiene programs offer dental care and cleanings for less than half of what you would pay at a dentist's office. Students who are supervised by their professors provide the care. See [TeethWisdom.org](http://TeethWisdom.org) to search for a center, clinic or school near you.

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

FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



4 COMMON MISTAKES MADE ON LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Investing in life insurance is a foundational part of estate planning, and when done right it's a primary way to say "I love you" to your loved ones after you are gone. However, when naming your policy's

beneficiaries, several mistakes can lead to potentially dire consequences for the people you're investing to protect and support.

The following four mistakes are among the most common we see clients make when selecting life insurance beneficiaries. If you've made any of these errors, you'll want to change your beneficiary designations on your policy and ensure the proceeds provide the maximum benefit for those you love most.

1 - Failing to Name A Beneficiary  
Although it would seem common sense, whether intentional or not, far too many people fail to name any beneficiary on their life insurance policies or inadvertently name their "estate" as beneficiary. Both errors will mean your insurance proceeds must go through the court process known as probate. During probate, a judge will determine who gets your insurance death benefits. This process can tie the benefits up in court for years. Moreover, probate opens the proceeds to creditors, which can seriously deplete—or even totally wipe out—the funds. To keep your insurance proceeds out of court, make certain you designate—at the very least— one primary adult beneficiary. In case your primary beneficiary dies before you, you should also name a contingent (alternate) beneficiary. Name more than one contingent beneficiary for maximum protection in case your primary and secondary choices die before you.

2 - Forgetting to Update Beneficiaries  
While failing to name any beneficiary is a huge mistake, not keeping your beneficiary designations up to date can be even worse. This is particularly true if you are in a second (or more) marriage and fail to remove an ex-spouse as beneficiary, which can leave your current spouse with nothing when you die. To prevent this, you should review your beneficiary designations annually as part of an overall review of your estate plan and immediately update your beneficiaries upon events like divorces, deaths, and births. You simply must ensure your beneficiary designations (along with all other documents and decisions in your plan) are regularly reviewed and updated when necessary.

3 - Naming A Minor (Or Their Guardian) As Beneficiary  
You are technically permitted to name a minor child as a beneficiary of your life insurance , but it's never a good idea. Minor children cannot receive insurance benefits until they reach the age of maturity. In the event a minor is listed as beneficiary, the proceeds of your insurance will be distributed

to a court-appointed custodian, who will manage the funds (often for a not insignificant fee) until the child reaches the age of maturity. At that point, all benefits are distributed to the beneficiary outright and unprotected. This is true even if the minor has a living parent. A child's living parent could petition the court to be appointed custodian but there is no guarantee a parent would be appointed custodian, especially if the parent cannot qualify or pay for a bond. In many cases, a court could deem a parent unsuitable (if they have poor credit, for example) and instead appoint a paid fiduciary to control the funds. Rather than naming a minor as a beneficiary, you may think to name the person you have chosen as guardian of your child. But that's not the right answer either. In that case, all insurance would pay outright to the named guardian and could be used in any way they choose, or even be at risk of being taken in a divorce or by a judgment creditor of the guardian. Instead, the right answer is to set up a trust to receive the insurance proceeds and name a trustee to hold and distribute the funds to a minor child you would want to benefit from your insurance proceeds, when and how you determine, or even hold them protected for your beneficiary to control but safe from divorce and creditors if that's what you choose.

4 - Naming an Individual with Special Needs As Beneficiary  
Although a loved one with special needs is likely one of the first people you'd consider naming as beneficiary of your life insurance policy, doing so can have tragic consequences. Leaving insurance directly to someone with special needs could disqualify that individual from receiving much-needed government benefits. Rather than naming someone with special needs as a beneficiary, you should create a "special needs trust" to receive the insurance proceeds. This way, the money won't go directly to the beneficiary upon your death. Still, it would be managed by the trustee you name and dispersed according to the trust's terms without affecting benefit eligibility. The rules governing special needs trusts are complicated, so if you have a child with special needs know that special needs planning involves much more than just life insurance—it's about providing a lifetime of care and protection. Take Action Now to Eliminate Future Problems  
While naming life insurance beneficiaries might seem simple, if you're not careful, you can create major problems for the loved ones you're doing your best to benefit. Meet with a trusted financial or legal advisor today to ensure you've done everything properly.

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...JANUARY BIRTHDAYS\*

Mary Tassop, Judy Webb-Martin, John Johnson, Mary Bickel, Marlene Enmark, Shirley Wolf, Ross Kellock, Ruth Wolter, Sandy Thistlewaite, Bobbi Rahmanian, Fran Syverson, Judy Zaretska and Becky Evans. \* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required

DOMINOES TRAIN GAME

1st & 3rd Wednesdays 11:00 am— 12:30 pm Hart Park House

The object of the game is for a player to play all the tiles from their hand onto one or more trains, emanating from a central hub or "station". Call Lawren with questions that you may have.

TEA AND TALK BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, 1/11 & 1/25 9:00 am Hart Park House

Staff has launched a new book club series, Tea and Talk, which meets twice a month to discuss the fun, suspense, intrigue, love and so much more that each selection will have in store!

FIBER FRIENDs

Tuesday, 1/17 10:00 am Hart Park House

If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, embroidery, needlepoint, bunka, huck, tatting or cross stitch then we have a group for you! Bring your current project, sit and chat with like-minded fiber friends.

HULA AND POLYNESIAN DANCE

Every Friday 10-10:45 am

Bring a lei, your flower skirt or just your desire to dance! Hula in the Park is back and waiting for you to join in on all the fun! Memorial Park Pavilion.

CHAIR YOGA

Every Monday and Wednesday 10-10:45 am

Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercise and overall relaxation with Paul. Classes are ongoing and held in the Memorial Park Covered Pavilion or the Hart Park House.

BINGO

Thursday, 1/19 Hart Park House 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Please join in a fun and lively game of BINGO. Several rounds fun will be had with prizes for each rounds winner.



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

SOW A THOUGHT REAP A PIE

One thing that has been burning in my life has been thoughts. Not that I don't have thoughts, but I'm not quite sure how to use them when I have them. Looking back over my life, it has been my thoughts that got me into trouble. I just never learn.

I was finishing up a little project in my office, and I couldn't help but think about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's wonderful coconut cream pie. She makes a lot of pies, but this one has to be her best. It's been a long time since she baked a coconut cream pie.

Being a husband as long as I have been, over 50 years, I know it doesn't do any good for me to tell my wife what to do, particularly in the kitchen. My access to the kitchen has to be supervised by her. How can I get her to bake her infamous and delicious coconut cream pie?

This thought took a whole bunch of other thoughts to come up with a good idea. I don't always come up with a good idea, but I thought I had done it this time. I needed to plant a thought in her mind concerning this coconut cream pie. How I was going to do this demanded some more thought, then I came up with an idea.

We get spam callers about medicare benefits and my expiring auto warranty, so I come up with a little idea. The next time someone like this calls me, I will use it to plant a thought into my wife's head.

It didn't take long, and one of those spam calls came.

Somewhere in the conversation, they asked me a question, and I noticed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was in the next room within hearing distance.

I inserted into the conversation, "And my wife bakes the most delicious coconut cream pie I have ever eaten." I mentioned it several times in the conversation, hoping I had planted some thought in someone's mind.

The expiring car warranty call came, and I used that as an opportunity to say, "You should taste the amazing coconut cream pie that my wife bakes. You would love it." I even used it when some friends called me. I would say, "Do you remember my wife's delicious coconut cream pie?"

This routine went on for a couple of weeks, and I hadn't noticed any difference with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I was beginning to feel that maybe my "sowing a thought" wasn't working. That thought in and of itself caused a little bit of despair on my side.

Giving this quite a bit of thought, I just couldn't come up with another scheme to entice her to bake coconut cream pie without knowing it was me.

I kept it up for several weeks, hoping that one little thought might take root. It was worth the trouble if I got one of her coconut cream pies.

One day this past week, I had several appointments across town that would take up most of the day. So, I would be out of the house all that time, unable to sow any more thoughts.

It was a long and boring day, but finally, it was over, and I headed home. I pulled into the driveway, got out, and entered the house. As I entered, there was this familiar aroma that I really couldn't place at the time. It smelled delicious, but I didn't quite understand what it was.

My wife was in the kitchen, so I went into my office and sat at my desk to finish my day's task.

It wasn't long before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to the doorway into my office with something in her hand. Then she said, "Look what I baked this morning. It's a coconut cream pie. For some reason, I kept thinking about my coconut cream pie I made a couple of years ago. I don't know why, but I just decided to bake this pie this morning." Then she smiled at me.

I smiled back at her and said, "When can I have a piece of that delicious pie?" She brought me a piece, and I sat there enjoying every bite. I was beginning to think that my planting the thought would not work.

After finishing that pie, I began thinking, is this pie the result of me planting a thought, or did she just hear what I was saying and was trying to trick me? I never will know which way it was. But then I got to thinking; maybe I will try this again to get my wife to do something in the future. I'm going to have to give this an awful lot of thought because it's very hard to fool The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Sometimes my thoughts get me into trouble and sometimes they don't. I can never tell which way any of thoughts will go.

I thought about what David said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:22-24).

It is important for me to allow God to search me and know my thoughts and if there is anything that offends God, I need to deal with it regularly.

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

## STUART TOLCHIN



### PUT THE LIGHTS ON CONFUSION

Well, after two weeks I finally have tested negative for the Covid Virus. You brave souls who struggled through my article of last week know that I was pretty confused. Prior to the time the article hits the newsstands on Saturday I send it out to a number of friends. The surprising thing about the replies I received is that the newer the friend, the more concerned they seemed to be. It is true that I exaggerated a bit in an attempt to create an overall comic effect; but really there was not that much exaggeration. My newer friends seemed to be very worried about me while my oldest friends just said that I seemed as crazy as I always seemed and they got a good laugh from the article.

Anyway now the virus may be gone but I am still experiencing what I have heard called “brain fog”. This is a lingering sense of confusion and an inability to focus very much on anything. Perhaps this is simply a condition, like the loss of taste and smell that will in time disappear. What I fear is that the confusion is just the first signs of increasingly serious mental disabilities associated with the ageing process. In case you forgot, and I wish I could forget, I am approaching eighty and experience all sorts of problems. For most of the time during my enforced Covid inactivity I have done very little other than to grow my goatee and wake up to admire it. On my first Covid free day on Monday my wife drove me all the way to Chino to see my regular dentist. This was necessary because a front lower tooth right in the middle of my mouth was very loose and there was a danger I would swallow it.

The journey was full of surprises. My dentist had injured himself while try to fix some machine and had cut off his right thumb. Still my one-handed dentist had managed to pull the tooth from my mouth and keep it in his possession so that it could be worked on and replaced in my mouth wired to the adjacent teeth. Right now I am toothless which is a new look to mesh with my recently grown, and still growing, goatee. My wife insisted on driving which was fine with me. We followed the route suggested by, more like ordered by the GPS system within the car. (If you know what GPS stands for you are way ahead of me.) Interestingly, I have never used the GPS system and am proudly ignorant about most technological advances or possibly retreats.

I have never used Social Media probably because my wife has never taught me how to log on to it. She tells me that overall it would be to upsetting. That's okay with me because I have trouble reading text messages and would always prefer directly talking with someone and actually having a conversation wherein the parties actually listen to one another. Texting is something else which allows one party to just go on and ignore the other person. In fact I have recently noticed that even in my phone conversations the other party really doesn't listen and I believe that, rather than listening, they are “multi-tasking” ignoring me and just waiting for me to shut up so that they can prattle on. Maybe, the problem is me related to my isolation, retirement, and an inability to fill my time satisfactorily.

Perhaps I am just angry that the world seems willing to leave me behind and I don't know what to do about it. Today was my regular Wednesday golf date and I begged off sadly happy to remain in bed and allow my wife to prepare a late tasty breakfast. A friend called wanting to meet in Pasadena for lunch. I am bit hesitant about driving and fear getting confused about directions so I picked up my son and brought him to lunch with us. I was impressed with how my disabled son presented himself. He remembered every time I had taken him to Court and was interested in learning about my friend's life. He asked questions and talked to strangers much like I do. My friend complained about spending thousands of dollars to fly to Florida with his first wife to visit their son. It sounded a bit complicated and unpleasant. I felt pretty fortunate having the life I do. My son, daughter, and granddaughter live right nearby and other than during the quarantine period I see them regularly and speak on the phone with my son every day. (Yes it's true that my daughter has little time to talk but she does text.) After I got home I looked in the mirror and admired my goatee as some sort of accomplishment. I saw my missing front tooth as a statement that, like my perhaps clumsy but persevering dentist, I was doing my best to deal with the present.

Well, that's about the best I can do. This article truthfully describes my present confusion and the hope that there can be some improvement. I am proud of myself for continuing to write, and for me somehow, that makes for a better world. Confusing isn't it?

DO YOUR BEST!

## TOM PURCELL

### GRATEFUL FOR PUNXSUTAWNEY'S SILLY FUN



Groundhog Day cannot come soon enough.

It's the thick of winter. Cabin fever is setting in. Incivility is worse than ever. A delightful, silly diversion is what we need about now, and Punxsutawney Phil has been delivering needed joy this time of year since 1887.

As you know, every Feb. 2, on Groundhog Day, Phil is pulled from a tree stump on Gobbler's Knob, a few miles outside of downtown Punxsutawney, Pa. If he sees his shadow, his Inner Circle organizers allege, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, spring will be just around the corner.

Regardless of what Phil proclaims, there will be an abundance of fun surrounding the event.

The Inner Circle, a group of local dignitaries, works hard all year long to make sure of that.

As the legend goes, the Inner Circle president is the only person on Earth who understands Phil's native language, “Groundhogese.”

At daybreak on Feb. 2, Phil tells the president whether or not he has seen his shadow. The president then directs his vice president to present a paper scroll that shares Phil's prognostication to the world.

This event has put smiles on thousands of people's faces for many years, but, with the popularity of the delightful 1993 Bill Murray movie, “Groundhog Day,” it has swelled to attract some 20,000 visitors to the small town every year.

In addition to the festivities on Feb. 2, visitors enjoy a large banquet, a talent show, a dueling-piano contest and a “Groundhog Club” event in which Phil's fans from all over the world celebrate their love of all things Phil.

Phil's popularity has led to the establishment of the Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center, which, this Feb. 2, will induct Phil as the final member of the Weather Discovery Center's Meteorologist Hall of Fame.

The Center hosts a series of entertaining and educational weather exhibits for children, as well as adults, that helps them learn and explore “tornados, thunderstorms, weather folklore (including our own famous Punxsutawney Phil), precipitation, clouds, the water cycle, weather forecasting technology, lightning, and weather emergency readiness.”

The Center also hosts a variety of field trips and educational events, such as the exploration of the winter season through activities, games and technology.

Their “Snow Day Saturday” lets children immerse themselves in winter-related exhibits, snowy crafts and activities like the “famous snowball fight” — even though that old-fashioned childhood “sport” is probably now illegal in other parts of the country! All of these wonderful, fun and informative communal events — which have grown out of an innocent and silly bit of folklore — are what we need right now.

They offer an example of human nature at its best — one worth noting in a world surrounded by so many examples of human nature at its worst.

I wish I had planned ahead to attend the events in Punxsutawney this year. My two-year-old Labrador, Thurber, was born there (he can't predict the weather but he sure does have meal times down pat).

I've become good friends with the two terrific “Punxsutawney-ians” whose two beautiful dogs, Sunny and Tank, gave me the best pup I could ever hope for. (See more at ThurbersTail.com.)

The point is, every day, each of us has the choice to be positive or negative, hopeful or dour, kind or rude.

The kind citizens of Punxsutawney have chosen to bring much needed cheerfulness into an increasingly uncheerful world with an enjoyable and upbeat tradition that brings out the best in us all.

When a whole town of people get civility and good humor so right, it's worth calling attention to their great work!

## RICH & FAMOUS

### FIRST GRADERS TAKE ON PROVERBS



I run this column, oh, every year or so, because it is my personal favorite. Years ago I sat down with a classroom full of 1st graders and proceeded to recite the first half of the proverbs listed below. I queried the class to finish the proverb. And below is what we created together.

First Grade Proverbs

I will recite the original proverb followed by the student's “revision”. These were the actual comments generated in this pedagogic experiment. Please try to apply these timeless truths to your own life.

Better to be safe than.....sorry!  
Better to be safe than.....punch a 5th grader!

Strike while the.....iron is hot!  
Strike while the.....bug is close!

It's always darkest before.....the dawn!  
It's always darkest before.....daylight savings time!

Never underestimate the power of.....a woman!  
Never underestimate the power of.....termites!

Don't bite the hand that.....feeds you!  
Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty!

A miss is as good as a.....mile!  
A miss is as good as a.....mr.!

You can't teach an old dog.....new tricks!  
You can't teach an old dog.....math!

If you lie down with dogs, you.....get up with fleas!  
If you lie down with dogs, you.....will stink in the morning!

Love all, but trust.....a few!  
Love all, but trust.....me!

An idle mind is..... the devil's plaything!  
An idle mind is..... the best way to relax!

Where there's smoke, there's.....fire!  
Where there's smoke, there's.....pollution!

A penny saved is.....a penny earned!  
A penny saved is.....not much!

Two is company, three's.....a crowd!  
Two is company, three's.....the musketeers!

Children should be seen and not.....heard!  
Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded!

If at first you don't succeed.....try, try again!  
If at first you don't succeed.....get new batteries!

You get out of something what you.....put into it!  
You get out of something what you.....see pictured on the box!

When the blind lead the blind..... both shall fall into a ditch!  
When the blind lead the blind.....get out of the way!

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you. Cry and.....you have to blow your nose!

Since this is my favorite piece of writing, I took a bit of a deep dive to find out what other “celebrated” authors looked to as their favorite literary masterpieces (most of them had several).

Ernest Hemingway: “Anna Karenina” by Leo Tolstoy

Stephen King: “1984” by George Orwell

Jane Austen “Sir Charles Grandison” by Samuel Richardson

Ray Bradbury: “The Gods of Mars” by Edgar Rice Burroughs

F. Scott Fitzgerald: “A Doll's House” by Henrik Ibsen

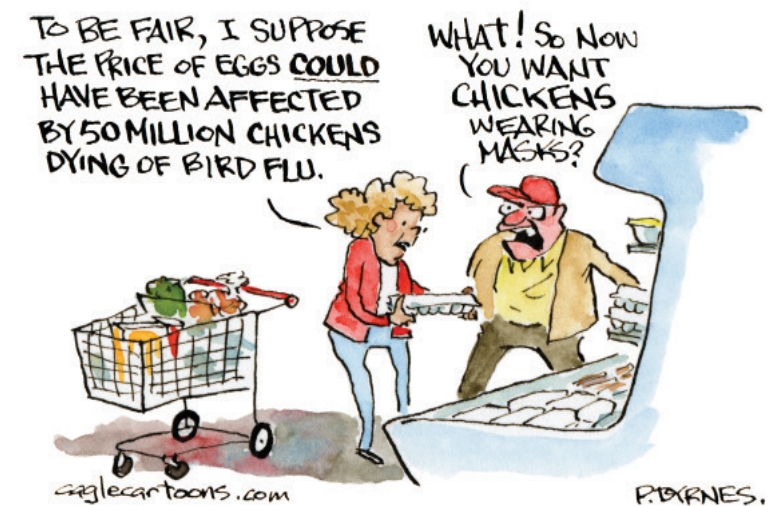
Suzanne Collins: “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” by Betty Smith

Mark Twain: “Le Morte d'Arthur” by Sir Thomas Mallory (Steinbeck's favorite)

J. K. Rowling: “Emma” by Jane Austen

If you want a great meal, adult beverages and memorable fun rock and roll join my band at Nano's Sierra Madre, Saturday night February 4th. Performance 6:30-9:30. (626) 325-3334 for reservations.

Finally, thank you for enjoying my column. I write it with you in mind, hoping you will share the humor and experience the joy of brightening up someone's life with humor.















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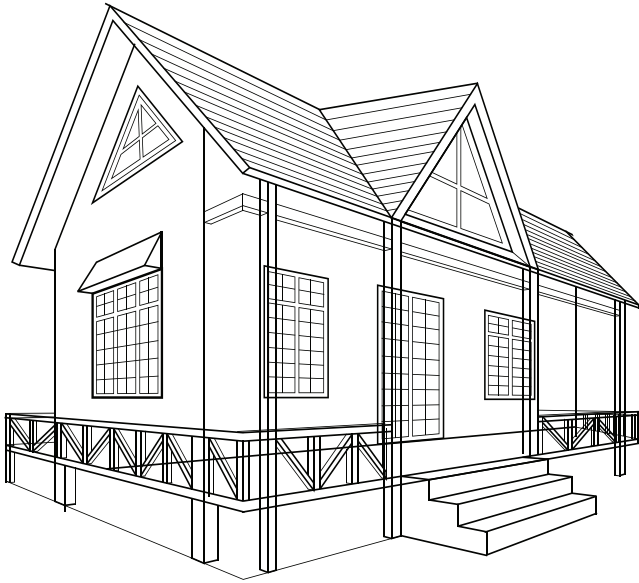
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Often known as granny flats, in-law apartments or cottages, these small units have a variety of uses for housing, work and play.

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## FINANCIAL BENEFITS of Accessory Dwelling Units

- Rental Income
- Reduced Expenses
- Increased Property Value

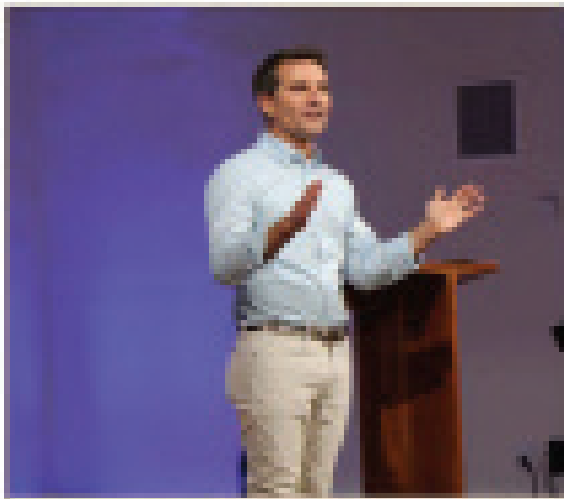
There are now **1.4 Million** ADUs in the United States, with most in the South and Western regions of the country.

a) Have you been considering adding an ADU?  
b) Does your property qualify for an ADU?  
c) How much does adding an ADU cost?

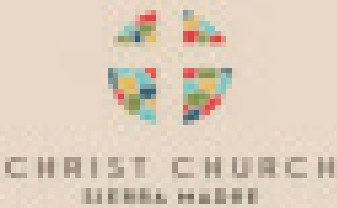
**Contact me today to discuss the benefits of ADUs.**

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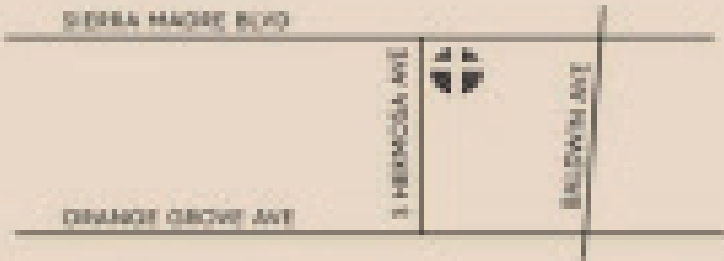
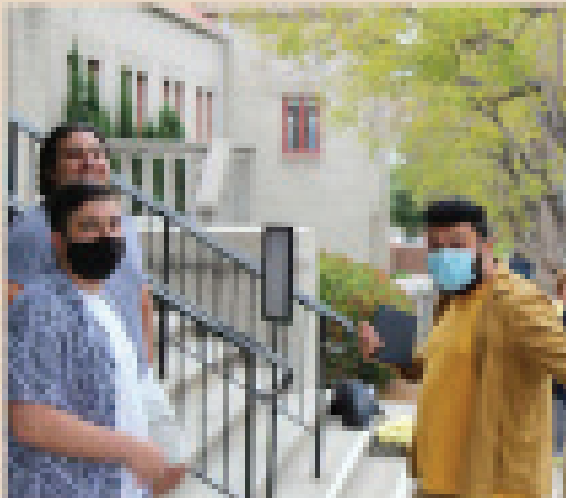
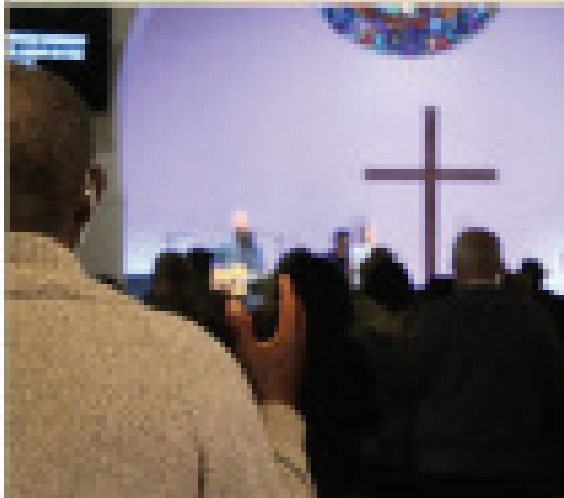


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