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CITY SEEKS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AGAINST ABANDONED PROPERTY

By Kevin McGuire

City Council approved Resolution 24-62 confirming public nuisance abatement costs and authorizing the city staff to record a special assessment and/or lien against a Sierra Madre property to recover city expenses.

The abandoned property, located on Alta Vista Drive, has been the center of attention due to complaints by neighbors over the condition of the property and the sighting of a bear living at the house, which was dubbed "Jurassic Bear" for learning how to open doors like the velociraptors similarly did in the 1993 hit movie "Jurassic Park." But, in this instance, the bear broke the window to enter the home, according to city staff.

The Los Angeles Times featured the property in a September 2024 article, stating that the plot was covered with shrubs and downed trees and that a BMW was sitting in the driveway collecting dust. Foul smells emanated from the house, and the city has been sending violation notices since 2019, according to a report from City Manager Jose Reynoso, with no response from the homeowner, Steven Gaiser, who moved to the state of Washington.

According to City Attorney Aleks Giragosian, the city tried many times to reach the homeowner through phone calls, mail, and email but has not received a response. Giragosian addressed the issue during the City Council meeting on October 8, 2024.

Several notices have also been posted at the property. Giragosian stated that Mr. Gaiser has been paying his property taxes. "At this point, the city staff is seeking your approval of this resolution in order to work with the county to record a special assessment against this property so that the city can recover costs next time this property's property taxes are assessed," said Giragosian.

The city has recently taken action at the property by removing the high shrubs and debris outside the house, which is considered a fire hazard, cleaning up feces and dead animals, and decomposing food from inside.

Now, the city wants the property owner to reimburse \$18,003 in administrative, contractual, and legal fees associated with the public nuisance abatement, as the Sierra Madre Municipal Code allows.

As for "Jurassic Bear," who moved into the house in early August, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife attempted to capture it on August 14, but the bear was not home at that time.

The next day, the City's Code Enforcement Officer found the property to be a public health hazard and issued a Notice of Nuisance Abatement Action stating that after judicial approval, the city would have the right to remove rubbish, clear brush, remove biological hazards, and board up the property's doors and windows, which they did. Once again, Mr. Gaiser did not respond to the notice.

According to the Municipal Code, "The charge or cost of removal of the abatement of the nuisance by the city shall constitute a lien against the property occupied by the person maintaining the nuisance and a personal obligation against the owner of the property pursuant to Section 38773 of the California Government Code."

Resolution 24-62 passed unanimously.

A full report on this item, including invoices and totals, is available for review on the city's website at www.sierramadrecal.gov.

As for "Jurassic Bear," its whereabouts are unknown. But keeping doors locked may be a good suggestion.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Sierra Madre News	Pages 1 - 4
Pasadena	Page 5
Surrounding Cities.....	Page 6
Around SGV	Page 7
Education & Youth	Page 8
Puzzles For You	Page 9
Food - Wine & Fun	Page 10
Best Friends	Page 11
Good Life	Page 12
Opinion	Page 13
Legal Notices	Page 14
Sports and Fitness	Page 15
2024 Election:	Page 17

THE BAG HOSTS FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY'S 50TH WINE & CUISINE TASTING



FOL Board Members, - l to r: Vicky Ryan, Susan Gallagher, Leslie Ziff, Jeanne Martin, Julie Puterbaugh and Jill Frank.

Last Saturday, THE BAG (Baldwin Avenue Gallery) hosted the 50th Wine and Cuisine Tasting for The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. The gallery was filled to capacity with residents and 'Friends of the Friends' who enjoyed the added pleasure of viewing the magnificent art that is on display at The Bag.

Taylor's Market sponsored a wide variety of wines for tasting that are available at the store



Above: Chairperson Leslie Ziff -center- with gallery owners Michael and Mary Hoffman Serr. Left: Guests admiring one of the Exhibits.



and the cuisine was provided by Nano's Cafe, Monsieur Crepe, Raffi's, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Taylor's English Scones, Corner Bakery and The Only Place In Town.

The event also included a silent auction. Special thanks are also due SMPD Chief Gus Barrientos for the Helicopter Ride and Santa Anita Park for a Box for Six..

MVNNews/Photos by Dirk Bolle

We Are Bringing Out The Big Dogs To Help Make Your 2024/25 Real Estate Dreams Come True.

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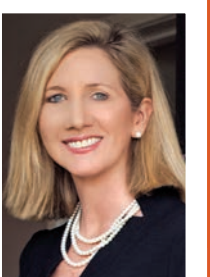


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DUARTE \$449,000
2 Beds, 2 Bath, 993 sf, TownHouse
Duarte gem on quiet ground floor corner lot with patio, pool, hot tub, modern kitchen, and 2-car garage.

PUBLIC SAFETY - SIERRA MADRE EVENTS

WHY THE URGENCY WITH BALLOT MEASURE PS

By: Martha Walsworth

From 1921 until 2007 the fire and medical services to the City of Sierra Madre were provided by a committed and dedicated group of volunteers with almost no budget impact to the city. In 2007 the residents of our city voted to receive Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) services which caused a strain on the city budget. The UUT was implemented to support the Paramedic Program and further staffing costs for police personnel.

For several years the volunteer department struggled to keep volunteers in place. By 2015 Sierra Madre could no longer adequately staff the fire department in order to respond to calls and the city then considered contracting the fire services to another entity such as Arcadia, maintaining our own department, or exploring various options. Residents of the city made their wishes clear that they wanted to maintain our own public safety departments.

The City Council, struggling with budget increases and revenue issues, created by the UUT sunsetting from its 10% level to 8% and it was heading to 6% the next year, created a citizens group to analyze the city's future revenues and rising costs. The Group presented their findings and recommendations to the City Council on September 22, 2015. Their findings indicated that the UUT should be increased to at least the previous level of 10%, and a stable revenue source such as a parcel tax was urged for the future if the city was to maintain our own fire department.

On September 1, 2019, the city chose to implement a career fire department. A full-time career department is a huge budget increase for the city and the department has been struggling to recruit and retain good, qualified people since they were earning 12-25% less than the comparable cities. To stop the continuous revolving door in both our police and fire departments, salary increases were applied to both departments. It took major efforts on the part of both departments (2019 to April of 2024) to get the staffing numbers up to what was needed.

There has been a lot of criticism on social media as to why the City Council did not address this matter sooner. The City Council has been addressing this matter for years, looking for ways to generate additional revenue for the city and cutting costs where possible. No one could have predicted the massive nationwide staffing shortages in fire and police departments across the country and most especially in Southern California. All the departments in our area are struggling to keep their staffing numbers in place. Some departments are so desperate to get people to work they are offering sign-on bonuses and luring people away from other departments. This is creating a crisis in smaller cities who are desperately trying to maintain their personnel. Sierra Madre can't compete in this arena, and we have a fire and police department that are highly trained, qualified and professional. They are working in Sierra Madre because they understand how wonderful our city is.

Our city is a wonderful place to live in large part because of our public safety departments. Our city is a safe place to live where people feel safe walking on our streets, our crime rates are low, and parents feel comfortable allowing their children to be downtown and being with their friends. People and businesses are not being hassled by homeless people camping in our parks and doorways.

A group of concerned citizens partnered with the police and fire unions and agreed to work towards generating a measure that would provide for additional revenue for our city to maintain stability in our police and fire departments. This committed group was able to attain the signatures required to get Ballot Measure PS on the November ballot.

There are those on social media who are stating that this is a scare tactic by the city and why don't we just have sheriffs like La Canada. First and foremost, this is a citizen's initiative by a group of concerned citizens and our public safety departments. This is a critical time for our city because if we can't maintain the staffing in our departments they can't function in their capacity. For the record the Long Beach police department is one of the hardest hit and is down several hundred officers from their staffing requirements. You see crime rates soaring and burnout in their departments.

For those of you who feel that we should just go to sheriffs and county fire which is what La Canada has please be aware that you will be getting less service and have line items for those public safety services much greater than Measure PS. The property tax bill in La Canada has line items to cover their public safety costs and a additional direct assessment. The information that I received was \$3,000 for one million is property assessment.

Time is of the essence. Please vote YES on Measure PS to help protect our city!

ABOUT THE MEASURE

The Public Safety for Sierra Madre Measure is a citizen-led initiative to raise the necessary funds to keep Sierra Madre safe. Without additional funding, our police and fire departments could be at risk of closing and being outsourced to county agencies.

The measure raises over \$2 million over the next 7 years by issuing a parcel tax on lots throughout the city. These funds would be subject to strict auditing that protects your tax dollars and ensures that funds stay in Sierra Madre to keep our city safe



SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

September 29 – October 5, 2024
 Calls for Service 282 Formal Investigations 8

Total Year to Date for 2024
 Calls for Service 8,939 Formal Investigations 403

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.

Sunday, September 29 Auto Burglary
 At approximately 1:30 AM, officers responded to the 600 block of West Sierra Madre Blvd regarding suspicious circumstances. A citizen reported he saw a vehicle trunk open and a man walking away from the vehicle. Officers arrived on scene and noticed the vehicle's trunk open along with the passenger door. Officers met with the owner of the vehicle who stated she was missing various items from her vehicle. Officers canvassed the area and were able to locate the subject who had the vehicle owner's possessions still on him. The victim was able to identify her belongings and the items were given back. The subject was arrested and transported to Pasadena Jail. The case has been forwarded to the District Attorney's office for filing considerations.

Sunday, September 29 Traffic Accident
 At approximately 12:30 PM, officers responded to Santa Anita Ave and Arno Dr for a traffic collision. Based on the officer's investigation, it appeared the citizen caused this collision by failing to properly place her vehicle in park while leaving it unattended, in violation of an unattended Vehicle on the Highway. Officer's took a report and documented the damage.

Wednesday, October 2 Vehicle Stop
 At approximately 5:00 PM, while on patrol, officers conducted a traffic stop on Baldwin Ave and Orange Grove Ave. The vehicle was stopped for expired registration tabs. A records check of the vehicle showed the registration had been expired since 2020, and the vehicle was displaying 2023 registration tabs. Officers removed the 2023 registration tabs from the vehicle and booked the registration tab into evidence. The driver was cited and released into the field.

Saturday, October 5 Injured Person
 At approximately 12:00 PM, officers responded to the 200 block of West Sierra Madre Blvd in regards to a citizen who fell and sustained injuries. Sierra Madre fire department was on scene and treated the citizen. She declined medical transport. The citizen stated her foot caught the raised concrete which caused her to fall forward. Officers took a report for documentation purposes.

Saturday, October 5 Vehicle Violation
 At approximately 2:40 PM, while on patrol, officers conducted a traffic stop on the 3000 block of East Sierra Madre Blvd for a vehicle without license plates. The driver told officers his license was expired, a records check revealed his license was suspended. The vehicle was displaying temporary paper plates which did not return back to the vehicle. A records check of the vehicle showed the registration had been expired since 2023. The driver was cited, and the vehicle was towed.

Saturday, October 5 Stolen Vehicle
 At approximately 10:30 PM, officers responded to the 200 block of North Grove St in regards to a stolen vehicle investigation. The vehicle owner stated he did not give anyone permission to take, use, or drive his vehicle. The suspect who took the vehicle is known to the citizen. The case has been forwarded to the Detective Bureau for follow-up.

NIXLE

Sign up for important messages from your city!
Text 91024 to 888777

- Community messages are used to convey everyday local news, happenings, and developments.
- Advisory messages are intended to communicate important, need-to-know information. For example, the Police Department will send out bear sighting notifications using this format.
- Alert messages are reserved for critically important information where loss of life and/or property is potentially imminent. Alert messages are time-sensitive and require your immediate action.

By default, residents who are signed up for Nixle alerts will only receive email alerts for advisory messages. We recommend that our residents opt in for text messages for advisory and alert messages

Free COVID tests are now available to order at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)

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VOTE YES ON PS

PS

NOVEMBER 2024

Yes on Public Safety for Sierra Madre

Maintain and Preserve a Safe Sierra Madre

For more information, please visit

SierraMadresafety.org

A YES VOTE ON PS WILL:

- ✓ Maintain the FASTEST 911 response times, every second counts!
- ✓ Prevent reductions in services vital to our town
- ✓ Attract and retain the best-trained and experienced police officers, firefighters, and paramedics
- ✓ Ensure 100% of funds stay in local Sierra Madre control
- ✓ Provide taxpayer oversight to ensure accountability and transparency

VOTE YES ON PS

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COMMITTEES TOP FUNDER PUBLIC SAFETY UNIONS

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ARCADIA

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MONROVIA

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"Autumn leaves are Mother Nature's way of showing us that change can be beautiful and messy at the same time."

"October is pumpkin spice, jack-o-lanterns, giant bags of candy, pumpkin pancakes, spooky decorations on every house. So glad we live in a world where there are Octobers."

Speaking of giant bags of candy, I saw an article recently that stated that shoppers may spend less this Halloween. What!! Total Halloween spending in 2023 was a record-breaking \$12.2 billion. That's a lot of Snickers bars! Anticipated spending on Halloween is largely devoted to three major categories:

- Decorations: \$3.8 billion
- Costumes: \$3.8 billion
- Candy: \$3.5 billion

Estimates for this year are a measly \$11.6 billion. Obviously, somebody is not doing their share.

I, personally, have invested in two new Halloween shirts and a small led-lighted glass pumpkin. I've already got so much Fall décor that I'm sort of embarrassed to buy more. The stores have been Halloween-ized since August or early September and this shows that everyone is sick of summer and beyond ready for a change in the weather and a change in their personal scenery. The average person (whoever that may be) is expected to spend \$103.63 on Halloween. That's, of course, if they only buy candy to give to trick or treaters, not if they buy it several times because they ate it themselves! If I can stay away from small boxes of Dots, I'll be OK.

"Just to make it perfectly clear: I'm only here for the treats. No tricks!"

There are so many wonderful scarecrows round about town. Creativity abounds. But you may not have seen these particular ladies gathered 'round their cauldron. On a midnight cold and dreary, as I wandered weak and weary through dark and narrow alleyways, these...dare I say...witches... caught my eye. Intent on what they were doing, they dismissed my presence as "harmless." I took their picture, unobserved, and recorded what they were saying in voices cracked with age and haunting laughter...

"Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the caldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good."

I'm sure all of you recognized this delightful curse from Shakespeare's "Macbeth," and if you want to check out all of Shakespeare's works, the library is available in their temporary quarters for all you could possibly want. But, joy of joys, friends and neighbors, ground has been broken and the new library is coming.

A personal note: While attending Ramona Convent in tenth grade, I slept through the class on "Julius Caesar." Upon wakening, with drool running down my chin, my English teacher, Sr. Paula Marie, enquired sarcastically, "Nice nap, Deanne?" I was humiliated.

"When the witches go riding, and black cats are seen, the moon laughs and Whispers... 'tis near Halloween."

"Halloween wraps fear in innocence, as though it were a slightly sour sweet. Let terror then be turned into a treat." Nicholas Gordon

Thanks to Leah Davis, my official photographer, for all the great scarecrow photos. She has prowled the town ceaselessly searching for the very best scarecrows.

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
There are treasures there! Trust me!
Including "Just Desserts" A Fall Fantasy of Pumpkins Gone Wrong!
And all the Emma Gainsworth Adventures.
Pumpkins are so much more than mere squash.



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TEEN LEADERSHIP CAMP 2024!

WHAT IS TLC?

Teen Leadership Camp is an intensive training program for 8th graders. Talented young people attend a 3-day seminar organized by Rotary International District 5300. All of the participant's expenses are often paid by sponsoring Rotary clubs.

WHAT DOES TLC OFFER?

- Development of personal skills
- Development of leadership skills
- Improving self-confidence
- Gaining exposure to a variety of issues and people
- Improving career skills & knowledge
- Meeting and learning from community leaders and mentors



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SCARECROW FESTIVAL!

THE SCARECROWS HAVE BEEN POPPING UP ALL OVER TOWN!

Vote for your favorites on Facebook beginning October 1 through October 21, or pick up a paper ballot at CAG. Winners Announced October 26!



Save the date! **2024 ART FESTIVAL**
NOVEMBER 2-3 10am-5pm
STUDENT SALE: NOVEMBER 9th 10:00-4:00pm

CREATIVE ARTS GROUP
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ALVERNO HEIGHTS ACADEMY

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT

OCTOBER 17
5:00-7:00PM

- | | |
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| Bishop Amat | Polytechnic |
| Don Bosco | Ramona |
| Damien | St. Francis |
| Flintridge Sacred Heart | St. Lucy |
| Immaculate Heart | St. Monica |
| La Salle | Providence |
| Loyola | Cantwell-Sacred Heart |
| Mayfield | Maranatha |
| Sequoia | Flintridge Prep |
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All are Welcome to Attend!



SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

Weather Wise



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 22, 2024 5:30pm

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

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

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

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at foothillsmedia.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.



Sierra Madre Public
LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

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

October 14 — October 19

Monday

Library Closed for Holiday —

No Services

Wednesday

Tails & Tales— Library at 3:30pm

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

Thursday

Third Thursday Book Club—

Online at 11:00am. Call to register

Saturday

Library Closed for Staff Training

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

DOWNTOWN SIERRA MADRE HALLOWEEN WINDOW PAINTING

Window Painting is Back!!

Sponsored by the
Sierra Madre Civic Club

Gather your friends and paint local merchants' windows in Halloween themes.

The contest is open to youths ages 9-17. At least one member of the team must be a Sierra Madre resident.

Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age category.

For Applications and More Info:
SierraMadreCivicClub.org
Facebook
sierramadrecivclub.org
The Library
City Hall
Your Local School

PUT SOME SPOOKY PAINT HERE!

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PAINTING DATES AND TIMES
FRI, OCT 25, 2-30 P.M. — 6:00 P.M.
SAT, OCT 26, 7-30 A.M. — 10:00 A.M.

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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Domestic Violence Awareness at City Hall



Join the City of Pasadena Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department and the Commission on the Status of Women for Light a Candle to Honor & Celebrate Survivors of Domestic Violence on Thursday, Oct. 24 from 6-7 p.m. on the front steps of Pasadena City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave.

The public is invited to this free event to honor and celebrate survivors, and to raise awareness to end domestic violence. Refreshments will be provided by Der Wolf, courtesy of Commissioner Crystal Aceves. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple.

"Leaving an abusive relationship is the most dangerous time for people experiencing domestic violence," said Vanessa Rodriguez, Chairwoman, Commission on the Status of Women. "With one in three California adults experiencing some form of intimate partner violence during their lifetime, the Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to supporting survivors and providing access to city resources needed to overcome abuse."

The Commission on the Status of Women is collaborating with three community organizations that provide direct services to survivors of domestic violence to present the Light a Candle event. Organizations include YWCA Glendale & Pasadena, Shepherd's Door and Peace Over Violence.

According to crime statistics published by the California Department of Justice through the Open Justice initiative, domestic violence-related calls for assistance have been steadily rising in the City of Pasadena over the past ten years, with a particularly sharp increase in weapon-involved reports from 2022-2023, the most recent year of available data.

"These trends are alarming, and it is important that the City of Pasadena does more to both raise awareness and support survivors," said Maura Harrington Roggero, Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women.

For more information, please contact Leticia Lopez, at LeLopez@CityOfPasadena.net. To attend, please RSVP at bit.ly/3MLgZEC



Billie Jean King, Rose Parade Grand Marshal

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses revealed Monday morning that Billie Jean King, sports icon and champion for equality, will serve as Grand Marshal of the 2025 Rose Parade. Tournament President Ed Morales made the announcement on the front steps of the iconic Tournament House as King made a grand entrance to Elton John's hit song "Philadelphia Freedom"—a song famously written in her honor.

"The work of our Grand Marshal has brought respect and credibility to Women and Women's sports, but make no mistake, she is a champion and advocate for all athletes and has created countless best days ever for sports fans all over the world," Morales said. "We are thrilled to welcome the legendary Billie Jean King to serve as the Grand Marshal of the 2025 Rose Parade."

Billie Jean King's impact extends far beyond sports and the tennis court. Named one of the "100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century" by LIFE magazine, she is the first woman athlete to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and she will become the first individual woman athlete to

receive the Congressional Gold Medal. King is also the founder of the Women's Sports Foundation, the Women's Tennis Association, and the Billie Jean King Foundation Morales said.

"Just last week Cal State LA unveiled a statue of our Grand Marshal in front of the sports complex that bears her name," Morales said. As Grand Marshal, King will ride down Colorado Boulevard and participate in the pre-game ceremony at the College Football Playoff Quarterfinal at the 111th Rose Bowl Game on Jan. 1.

"Being from Long Beach and growing up in Southern California I have fond memories of watching the parade with my family and I am deeply honored to be named Grand Marshal of the 2025 Rose Parade," King said. "This parade is a wonderful celebration of joy and community, and it truly represents the 'Best Day Ever' for all who attend or watch."

The Women's Sports Foundation exists to enable girls and women to reach their potential in sport and life. We are an ally, an advocate, and a catalyst for tomorrow's leaders. Founded by King in 1974, we are one of the

first organizations to recognize the powerful connection between sport access, equity, and society. For more information visit: womenssportsfoundation.org.

For more information about the Pasadena Tournament of Roses visit: tournamentofroses.com.

Photo by D.Lee/MYNews

Pasadena Public Art Walking Tour

In celebration of Walktober, Jennifer Paige, Director of Planning and Community Development, and the Cultural Affairs Division are inviting the public to a special Public Art Walking Tour on Sunday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m.

The tour will start and end at the Pasadena Robinson Memorial, 95 Garfield Avenue.

Join Councilmember Justin Jones and Cultural Affairs Staff for a 2.5-mile tour showcasing notable public artworks commissioned under the City's Private Development and Civic Public Art Programs. Attendees will have an opportunity to explore the stories behind some of the city's most iconic public artworks, learn about the artists who created them, and gain insight into how public art enhances the cultural fabric and visual landscape of Pasadena.

Walktober is an annual international initiative to encourage walking, and this year marks Pasadena's 7th year of participation. Walktober offers a variety of events throughout October to promote walking for health, social connection, and appreciation of the city's cultural and natural beauty. The Public Art Walking Tour is one of many exciting activities aimed at inspiring the community to explore Pasadena's vibrant public spaces.

The Public Art Walking Tour is free and open to the public, with registration required. Members of the public who are interested in participating are encouraged to register early as space may be limited. Visit www.WalktoberPasadena.org for more information and to register. For accessibility information and requests, contact (626) 744-7311 or CSC@cityofpasadena.net.

For more information about the Public Art Walking Tour or the City's Public Art Program, visit www.cityofpasadena.net/arts or contact Corey Dunlap, Public Art Coordinator, Planning & Community Development Department: cdunlap@cityofpasadena.net, (626) 744-7547.

Polytechnic School Halts the PolyFields Project in Altadena



AltadenaWild unveils billboard on North Lake Ave. declaring "Help Protect our Foothills."

By Dean Lee

In a public letter to the community Tuesday, Polytechnic School in Pasadena, stated that they are officially withdrawing the land use application to the County of Los Angeles for the embattled PolyFields project in Altadena.

"This study [of the site's environmental conditions] brought new information to light," said Alec Hudnut, Chair of Polytechnic School Board of Trustees. "Ultimately, the site proved to be too complex, Infrastructure, engineering, and grading requirements drove the development costs to levels that were much higher than anticipated, and far beyond what we believe to be reasonable."

According to Hudnut a special board committee will lead a process to explore a variety of options, including a single site or a combination of smaller properties. "We are also evaluating investments in our existing athletic facilities on campus."

The school had been in talks with Nuccio's Nurseries to buy their property, which would have been the site for the complex. Co-owner Jim Nuccio said Friday that Polytechnic had pulled out of the sale but they were going to keep the Nursery property on the market.

"It's just a matter of how we are going to do it," he said. "We're going to get the whole family

together and see what we want to do on this? We'll have more information later on."

On the same day as Polytechnic School's decision to withdraw the project, the organization AltadenaWild unveiled a billboard on North Lake Avenue near East Mariposa Street declaring "Help Protect our Foothills." The organization was founded in 2022 by opposing the PolyFields project.

According to AltadenaWild Board of Directors, the campus would have included a football/soccer/athletics stadium, a baseball stadium, and six tennis. The proposal would have also included: a training facility, a student fitness center, a wellness center, a coaches building, batting cages, various equipment storage buildings, and a lounge. Poly Fields would have also included outdoor lighting for night events, amplified sound, and a 208-vehicle underground parking structure.

Many of the neighbors next to the Nuccio's Nurseries 3555 Chaney Trail have signs in their yards opposing the project, which they said would bring increased traffic, impact the native wildlife and associated migration corridors, create noise and light pollution, increase risk in a very high-risk fire zone and increase the risk of accidents involving vehicles and pedestrians.

"Our motto [Let's Keep Altadena WILD] will no doubt be tested in the future by other proposed developments," AltadenaWild Board of Directors said in a statement.

Roadway Safety Action Plan Workshops

City of Pasadena Department of Transportation staff announced Tuesday a series of workshops to help prioritize future traffic safety projects.

According to city officials, Pasadena is developing a Local Roadway Safety Action Plan to identify and prioritize traffic safety projects for future funding opportunities. The initial list of proposed projects has been identified based on crash history, the safety benefit of potential treatments, multi-modal safety benefits for complete streets, equity, and sustainability.

They are inviting the public to learn about planned

projects, and/or to suggest your own, at the website, bit.ly/PasadenaLRSAP, or at any of our upcoming community workshops. Project staff will be at each workshop to answer any questions. Arrive any time between 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to talk to staff, learn about projects, and give suggestions. Both the website and community workshops will have Spanish and Mandarin support.

Community Workshop Schedule:
Wednesday, October 16, 6-8 p.m. - Victory Park Room 3, 2575 Paloma St.
Thursday, October 17, 6-8 p.m. - Villa Parke Auditorium, 363 E. Villa St.
Tuesday, October 22, 6-8 p.m. - Robinson Park Recreation Center, 1080 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Thursday, October 24, 6-8 p.m. - City Hall Training Room, 100 Garfield Ave.
For more visit: cityofpasadena.net or call (626)744-7311.

ArtNight Pasadena Returns

Pasadena city officials announced an evening of artistic exploration as Fall ArtNight Pasadena returns on Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Experience 14 world-class arts and cultural venues throughout the city, showcasing the best of Pasadena's vibrant creative community.

This season, ArtNight Pasadena invites you to immerse yourself in a diverse array of visual art, dance, music, and more. Here are just a few highlights of the exciting offerings you can enjoy:

- Gamble House: Discover the intersection of sound and architecture with live performances by Royal Flux.
- Alkebu-lan Cultural Center: Experience dynamic on-stage tap dancing.
- A Room to Create: Witness kinetic dance performances by the Pennington Dance Group.
- At the Pasadena Museum of History, explore "Lights, Camera, Action! Hollywood Magic in Pasadena," an exhibition showcasing the multi-dimensional world of filmmaking, featuring artifacts from movies, television, and music videos.
- The Armory Center for the Arts presents "From the Ground Up," an inspiring exhibition of student artwork, inviting visitors to unleash their creativity in hands-on studio activities. At the - Light Bringer Project, an outdoor installation by local artists and PUSD students will explore the concept of "Home" through various lenses.
- Families can get hands-on at artWORKS Teen Center, where all ages can create sugar skulls and screen prints, while seasonal art activities and snacks will be available at City Hall, accompanied by music from DJ Rani de Leon.
- The Art Center College of Design will showcase three thought-provoking exhibitions, including "Seeing the Unseeable: Data, Design, Art," which explores the impact of Big Data on daily life, as part of the Getty's "Pacific Standard Time (PST) Art and Science Collide" initiative. Additionally, "Jinseok Choi: Before the Last Spike" examines the history of immigrant labor in connection with the first transcontinental railroad.

This event is made possible in part by the City's Arts and Culture Commission, which provides mini-grants to support small arts groups and individual artists. Each venue will offer Braille versions of the ArtNight brochure, and many locations, including City Hall, will feature food trucks.

For a full list of participating venues and more information about ArtNight programming, please visit ArtNightPasadena.org (available in Spanish).

For additional inquiries about Cultural Affairs Division programs, please contact Rochelle Branch, Cultural Affairs Division Manager, Planning & Community Development Department, at (626) 744-7062.

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San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

Trunk or Treat & Dance Party

Join us for a spooktacular evening at Trunk or Treat & Dance Party on October 25 from 6-8 PM at Lacy Park! Enjoy creatively decorated trunks, a costume contest, and a lively dance party under the moonlight. Wristbands are required for adults and youth ages 2 and up. Pre-order wristbands by October 24 at www.SanMarinoCA.gov/Registration for \$5 (residents) or \$10 (non-residents). Wristbands will also be sold at the gate the day of the event for \$15 for residents and non-residents. Pick up pre-sale wristbands at the San Marino Community Center by October 25 at 11 AM. For more info, call (626) 403-2200.

Impact on the Police & Fire Departments

Measure SM contributes approximately 22.2% of the budgets for San Marino's Police and Fire Departments. For the Police Department, these funds help maintain current staffing levels and public safety programs, supporting 16 sworn officer positions. The Fire Department also relies on funds from the Public Safety Parcel Tax to support firefighter and paramedic services, including 11 positions. Revenue from the measure will stay in San Marino and cannot be taken by outside entities. Residents will decide whether to continue the parcel tax on the upcoming ballot. For more information, visit SanMarinoCA.gov/MeasureSM.

Draft Housing Element To Be Available for Public Review

The City's Community Development Department is providing notice that the seven (7) day public review period for the City's updated Fourth Draft of the 6th cycle the Housing Element (2021-2029) will begin on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 and conclude on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 8 AM. The draft can be found on Tuesday, October 22 at 8 AM by visiting: www.SanMarinoCA.gov/HousingElement.

Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Rebate Program - Now Available!

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has expanded its Residential Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Rebate Program to include battery-electric leaf blowers, trimmers (weed wackers, edgers, and brush cutters), and chainsaws, in addition to lawn mowers. Residents in the South Coast Air Basin can now replace up to three gasoline-powered tools with zero-emission models purchased from authorized retailers. For more information, visit www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower, email lawngarden@aqmd.gov, or call (888) 425-6247, Tuesday through Friday, 9-11 AM & 2-4 PM.

Ocean Adventure: Our Octopus Friends

Sunday, October 13 at 2 PM, Barth Community Room
Get ready to celebrate one of nature's most intelligent and adaptable creatures just in time for World Octopus Day! Professional divers from Ocean Adventure will be at the Library with the actual equipment they use to explore the underwater world. After an introduction to octopuses and what makes them so unique, families are in for a treat as they go on a virtual underwater adventure to see and learn about real octopuses the divers have met and played with. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration is not required.

Smarter Living Series: Safeguarding Your Finances

Wednesday, October 16 at 1 PM, San Marino Community Center, Fireside Room

Protecting oneself from financial crimes, such as telephone scams and cybercrimes, requires a multifaceted approach, particularly for seniors who are often targeted. In this free lecture, San Marino Police Chief, John Incontro, and representatives from the San Marino Police Department will discuss ways to safeguard against various forms of financial exploitation. Registration is not required.

Story, Stomp, & Sing

Thursday, October 17 at 10:30 AM, Children's Room

In partnership with the San Marino Music Center, we are proud to present a rockin' music and movement storytime! This early literacy program will feature instrument exploration, songs, fingerplays, dance, and books. This month's theme will be "Halloween" and children are encouraged to come in their Halloween costume! Registration is not required.

Special Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers and Zoom (Public Access)

PPHD Advises Take Steps to Avoid Coyote Conflicts



Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) encourages the community to avoid coyote conflicts by taking precautions that can help protect themselves and their pets from coyotes. Coyotes are found throughout City neighborhoods and live among Pasadena natural resources, homes, and businesses.

"Coyotes are naturally fearful of people and typically go out of their way to avoid human interaction," said Acting Director of Public Health, Manuel Carmona. "When coyotes are comfortable around humans, it is a strong sign that someone nearby is intentionally or inadvertently feeding them."

Adolescent coyotes leave their dens late summer or at the start of fall, due to pack leaders forcing adolescent coyotes out of their packs. As they begin searching for their own territory or a new pack to join, the possibility of coyote activity in Pasadena neighborhoods increases.

Coyote hazing is a great way to maintain coyote's fear of humans and involves using deterrents to move coyotes out of an area or discourage coyote behaviors. Residents who work with their neighbors to establish a consistent culture of hazing will be more successful in keeping coyotes at a distance. "We all have a role to play in maintaining coyote's fear of humans and hazing is the most important action we can take to safely coexist with coyotes," said Carmona.

Follow these hazing tips when encountering a coyote to help ensure you and your family's safety:

- Make yourself appear large, stand your ground, and force the coyote to leave; never turn your back or run away from a coyote but ensure they are not cornered and always have an exit route.
 - Maintain eye contact and make the coyote feel uncomfortable.
 - Pick up small pets and young children off the ground, and stand your ground while facing the coyote.
 - Be aggressive by making loud noises such as yelling, using an air horn or other noisemaker, clapping, or banging a pot and pan.
 - Shine bright lights, spray water, open and close an umbrella, or throw tennis balls in the direction of the coyote.
- "It is important to create a culture of bold and consistent

hazing to prepare for the possibility of encountering coyotes when walking pets," said Director of Wildlife Education and Services of Pasadena Humane, Lauren Hamlett. "This includes always staying present and aware, leashing pets, and never placing pets in situations where they are vulnerable to wildlife interactions."

Take steps to be a more alert pet owner:

- Walk your pets on a 6-foot or shorter fixed-length leash. Retractable leashes do not provide sufficient control over pets and should be avoided.
- In the spring and summer, be on the lookout for coyotes and avoid areas where they are frequently seen, which may indicate a den site.
- Keep cats inside or consider using an enclosed outdoor patio space to help protect cats. Supervise dogs outdoors or keep them in enclosed areas.
- Remove all attractants from your property including outside pet feed, unsecured trash, messy bird feeders, and fallen fruit.
- Intentional feeding of wildlife is a crime and should be reported to Pasadena Humane for investigation (626) 792-7151 ext. 970.

Report coyote sightings call (626) 744-7311. The Pasadena Public Health Department will evaluate data to identify trends in reporting, which may indicate coyote hotspots.

Annual Chief's Breakfast 2024

The Pasadena Police Foundation is hosting its annual breakfast with Pasadena's Chief of Police, Gene Harris on Thursday at Hilton Pasadena.

According to organizers, the fundraising event is intended to give residents, members of business, non-profit community, and friends an opportunity to meet with Harris and hear about the current goals and accomplishments of the Pasadena Police Department (PPD). The Police Foundation's Annual Breakfast is also an opportunity to see first-hand how the Foundation fulfills its mission to support the planning, development, and implementation of programs and activities of the Department and vital programs such as, the Kids Safety Academy, the Junior Public Safety Academy, the Explorer Program, and other Police resources that enhance community safety they said.

"This year we are raising funds to support our various youth programs including the Kids Safety Academy, and the Explorer Program, the new Wellness Program, and K-9 Unit. Funds from this year's fund raiser will support these programs and scholarships for Camp Pasadena which provides an environment for youth and young adults to work with officers, build life skills and self-reliance, and the possibility of a police career. The Explorer program is for youth ages 14-21 thinking of a career in law enforcement. The Pasadena Police Explorer program currently has over 40 young people who are active in civic engagement, public service, and leadership roles within the community."

Auction Items at the event will include:
- Lunch with the Chief
- PPD Helicopter Ride Along
- Training Day with the S.W.A.T team
- PPD Patrol Ride Along
- And More
Ticket sales will end October 11 at 11:45 p.m.

Marc Cota-Robles from ABC7 Eyewitness News will be the emcee for the event.

The Hilton Pasadena is located at 168 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. The event will be in the International Ballroom. Check-in will begin at 7:00 a.m. with the program beginning at 7:30 a.m..

Greenhouse Gas Plumes Detected Using JPL-Designed Instrument

Officials announced Thursday that by using data from an instrument designed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the nonprofit organization Carbon Mapper released the first methane and carbon dioxide detections from the Tanager-1 satellite. The detections highlight methane plumes in Pakistan and Texas, as well as a carbon dioxide plume in South Africa they said.

The data contributes to Carbon Mapper's goal to identify and measure greenhouse gas point-source emissions on a global scale and make that information accessible and actionable.

Enabled by Carbon Mapper and built by Planet Labs PBC, Tanager-1 launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in August and has been collecting data to verify that its imaging spectrometer, which is based on technology developed at JPL is functioning properly. Both Planet Labs PBC and JPL are members of the philanthropically funded Carbon Mapper Coalition.

"The first greenhouse gas images from Tanager-1 are exciting and are a compelling sign of things to come," said James Graf, director for Earth Science and Technology at JPL. "The satellite plays a crucial role in detecting and measuring methane and carbon dioxide emissions. The mission is a giant step forward in addressing greenhouse gas emissions."

The data used to produce the Pakistan image was collected over the city of Karachi on Sept. 19 and shows a roughly 2.5-mile-long (4-kilometer-long) methane plume emanating from a landfill. Carbon Mapper's preliminary estimate of the source emissions rate is more than 2,600 pounds (1,200 kilograms) of methane released per hour.

The image collected that same day over Kendal, South

Africa, displays a nearly 2-mile-long (3-kilometer-long) carbon dioxide plume coming from a coal-fired power plant. Carbon Mapper's preliminary estimate of the source emissions rate is roughly 1.3 million pounds (600,000 kilograms) of carbon dioxide per hour.

The Texas image, collected on Sept. 24, reveals a methane plume to the south of the city of Midland, in the Permian Basin, one of the largest oilfields in the world. Carbon Mapper's preliminary estimate of the source emissions rate is nearly 900 pounds (400 kilograms) of methane per hour. In the 1980s, JPL helped pioneer the development of imaging spectrometers with AVIRIS (Airborne Visible/Infrared Imaging Spectrometer), and in 2022, NASA installed the imaging spectrometer EMIT (Earth Surface Mineral Dust Source Investigation), developed at JPL, aboard the International Space Station.

A descendant of those instruments, the imaging spectrometer aboard Tanager-1 can measure hundreds of wavelengths of light reflected from Earth's surface. Each chemical compound on the ground and in the atmosphere reflects and absorbs different combinations of wavelengths, which give it a "spectral fingerprint" that researchers can identify. Using this approach, Tanager-1 will help researchers detect and measure emissions down to the facility level.

Once in full operation, the spacecraft will scan about 116,000 square miles (300,000 square kilometers) of Earth's surface per day. Methane and carbon dioxide measurements collected by Tanager-1 will be publicly available on the Carbon Mapper data portal at: data.carbonmapper.org.

Pasadena Chorale Presents Twenty Fingers Benefit Concert

The Pasadena Chorale announced Wednesday, Twenty Fingers, an extraordinary benefit concert featuring celebrated pianists Jeffrey Kahane and Tali Tadmor. The concert will take place on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. at San Marino Community Church, with all proceeds benefiting the Pasadena Chorale's ongoing efforts to provide high-quality, community-based choral music experiences.

In this rare collaboration, Kahane and Tadmor will perform an exquisite program of piano music for four hands, showcasing works by Samuel Barber, Astor Piazzolla, Francis Poulenc, and Franz Schubert. This intimate yet dynamic concert promises to be an unforgettable evening

of musical artistry, bringing together two talented and versatile pianists.

"Twenty Fingers is a unique opportunity to experience the magic of piano four hands played by two of the finest musicians. We are beyond excited to bring this extraordinary concert to our community," said Founding Artistic & Executive Director Jeffrey Bernstein.

This concert is a key fundraiser for Pasadena Chorale, and the funds raised will support Pasadena Chorale's mission to provide high-quality, expansive, and inclusive concert and education programs to the public at no cost. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit pasadenachorale.org.

Free Pasadena Flu Shot Clinics

Pasadena Public Library offers free flu shot clinics in partnership with the Pasadena Public Health Department and Huntington Health, an affiliate of Cedars Sinai. Vaccine supplies are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please wear short sleeves.

Pasadena Public Health Department Free flu shots are available to those 6 months and older. Children under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

- Thursday, Oct. 10 • 1:30 - 4 p.m. • Lamanda Park Branch Library
- Thursday, Oct. 17 • 1:30 - 4 p.m. • La Pintoresca Branch Library
- Thursday, Oct. 24 • 1:30 - 4 p.m. • Linda Vista Branch Library
- Thursday, Oct. 31 • 1:30 - 4 p.m. • Hill Avenue Branch Library
- Thursday, Nov. 14 • 1:30 - 4 p.m. • Santa Catalina Branch Library
- Thursday, Nov. 21 • 1:30 - 4 p.m. • San Rafael Branch Library

Huntington Health Community Outreach Free flu shots will be offered to those ages 9 and older. Children under 18 years must have their parent's consent and be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Not for people with an allergy to eggs or previous influenza vaccine, Guillain-Barré syndrome, or serious illness or fever on the day of vaccination.

- Wednesday, Oct. 16 • 10 a.m. - noon • Hastings Branch Library

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net/library.

Altadena Libraries

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10-11am
Main Library Community Room

We will be using acrylic paint. Please wear clothes that can get messy. To register, scan QR code or visit www.AltadenaLibrary.org/programs.

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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

SOUTH PASADENA HISTORIC PROPERTIES ONTO THE MARKET AFTER DECADES-LONG CALTRANS OWNERSHIP

- The Dave Knight Real Estate Team of Keller Williams Realty today announced the long-anticipated return of five, [historic residential properties in South Pasadena](#) after a decades-long dormancy. These historic residential properties were among the hundreds acquired by [Caltrans](#) for the now defunct [710 freeway extension](#).

When escrow closed on September 17, 2024, the five historic properties were transferred to the City of South Pasadena and are now available for prospective buyers to see during Open Houses that are planned in the coming week.

David Way, CEO of The Dave Knight Real Estate Team, states: "We are very excited to be opening the doors again to these time-honored properties in South Pasadena. With these properties now fully-accessible, we have spent the past several days getting them ready for our showcases to prospective buyers. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for buyers to acquire these homes, and help restore and return them to their original glory."

The five properties now on the market include four single family homes at: 216 Fairview Avenue: a single-story, two-bed/one bath home; 217 Fremont: a single-story, 3-bed/2.25-bath home; 225 Fremont Avenue: a single-story 4-bed/2-bath home; and 1707 Meridian Avenue: a single-story, 2-bed/1 bath home. The fifth property is an extra-large multi-family lot at 726 Meridian Avenue just a few blocks from South Pasadena's main retail area with three bungalows. There are two bungalows that consist of 1-bed/1-bath and one with 2-bed/1-bath. Each of these homes include authentic design elements of a time gone by including: Craftsman, Spanish Revival and Mid-Century Modern styles.

The City of South Pasadena has long been known as one of the safest and most livable cities in Southern California. [Open houses](#) will be announced this week by [The Dave Knight Real Estate Team](#) representing the City of South Pasadena on all prospective offers.

For more information, please contact: David Way, CEO, The Dave Knight Real Estate Team at: 626-628-1528 or davidway@daveknightrealestate.com. To see these listings, go to: <https://daveknightrealestate.com/sopascaltrans>.



217 Fremont: a single-story, 3-bed/2.25-bath home



Teachers, staff, and their children from Camino Grove Elementary School enjoying AUSD's recent Staff Appreciation Night

ARCADIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RANKED IN TOP 1% OF U.S. SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Arcadia Unified School District (AUSD) continues to solidify its position as a beacon of educational excellence, once again being ranked in the top 1% of school districts across America according to Niche's 2025 rankings. This marks the third consecutive year that AUSD has achieved this prestigious accolade.

In addition to this national recognition, AUSD has maintained its ranking among the top 10 school districts in California, showcasing consistent excellence over the years. The district has also been lauded as the number one place to teach in L.A. County, a testament not only to the quality of education but also to the supportive and enriching environment for educators. The "Report Card" via Niche also revealed impressive marks, with AUSD receiving an A or A+ in the following categories: Academics, College Prep, Teachers, Administration, Clubs & Activities, and Resources & Facilities.

"Receiving this recognition for the third straight year is a profound honor and reflects the relentless dedication of our staff, the active involvement of our parents, and the supportive spirit of our entire community," said Dr. David Vannasdale, Superintendent of Arcadia Unified School District. "This ranking is not just about numbers; it's about our shared commitment to nurturing well-rounded, thoughtful, and engaged citizens. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff, whose passion and expertise are the backbone of our success."

Arcadia Unified Niche Rankings By the Numbers:

- Top 1% in the United States
- #9 Best School District in California
- Top 25 School Districts in California for Best Places to Teach and Districts with the Best Teachers
- #1 in Los Angeles County for Best Places to Teach
- A+ or A Ratings for Academics, College Prep, Teachers, Administration, Clubs & Activities, Resources & Facilities

The consistent high rankings over the years highlight AUSD's focus on holistic student development, integrating academic rigor with comprehensive support for mental health and wellness, arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities. This approach ensures that AUSD students are not only prepared academically but are also equipped with the life skills necessary for future success.

The community's role in this achievement cannot be overstated. "Our community's support is invaluable," continued Dr. Vannasdale. "From volunteering in classrooms to supporting our initiatives, the Arcadia community's involvement has been pivotal in maintaining our status as one of the nation's best school districts. This is truly a collective victory."

In addition to its detailed data analysis, Niche parses over 100 million reviews and survey responses to reach its annual rankings. Arcadia Unified's current and complete Niche rankings can be found here.

For more information about the Arcadia Unified School District, visit www.ausd.net, and for more information about Niche's rankings, visit www.niche.com.

For more information, contact Ryan Foran, AUSD Chief Communications Officer: rforan@ausd.net, work (626) 821-6664, cell (626) 802-7602

34TH ANNUAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Saturday, October 26, 2024
8AM - 12PM

Registration/Check-In: 7AM-8AM

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PUSD MAXIMIZES FUNDING TO ADVANCE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

By Superintendent Elizabeth Blanco, Ed.D., and Chief Business Officer Saman Bravo-Karimi

The Pasadena Unified School District leadership remains deeply committed to maintaining a quality education for our students while resolving the district's budget shortfall due to the expiration of one-time COVID relief funds and lower-than-expected State revenue.

Our priority is to increase our students' proficiency in literacy and math and advance their college and career readiness in an environment that prioritizes their well-being.

PUSD's final budget for 2024-25 included measures to ensure fiscal stability for the next three years and achieved positive certification from the LA County Office of Education. The effort continues through the 2026-27 fiscal year to meet our goal of long-term budget sustainability. Like other districts across California, we are currently spending more than we are bringing in in revenue, or deficit spending. PUSD's responsible fiscal stewardship during the pandemic allowed us to grow our one-time reserves.

While we are fortunate that these one-time reserves are sufficient to cover the deficit this school year, we are projected to fully exhaust our reserves, and, in fact, have negative reserves, by the end of next school year if no actions are taken. We are facing difficult choices, but the work has already begun.

We have already made progress in our deep review of our district's financial practices and operational efficiencies and are adjusting to improve both the short and long-term budget outlook. In continuing our work, we are fulfilling our commitment to engage our community through the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee, gathering a wide range of views on our progress and future. The Advisory Committee is helping identify priorities and will provide valuable recommendations.

Here are some key steps we have taken as part of the district's Fiscal Stability Plan that strengthen the district's fiscal stability by 2026-27 and beyond:

- As a result of reductions to the 2024-25 budget, we realigned the services of central office staff and moved them to schools and classrooms
- We achieved reductions as possible by attrition through retirements and closing of vacant positions;
- We are reviewing hourly payroll expenses and working to bring some contracted services in-house

On the other side of the ledger, we are actively enhancing revenue by increasing attendance, managing assets, and offering services to other districts. This is wide-ranging and creative in developing additional revenue to offset necessary budget reductions. These have been crucial steps in our budget, a demanding task involving the Board of Education and our PUSD community in the decision-making process.

The PUSD Board of Education fully understands its responsibilities and works closely with staff to address this critical issue. Budget stabilization is a long-term process with many steps along the way to fiscal solvency, at the same time protecting the learning of the students entrusted to our care.

Our path to fiscal stability has been challenging and is ongoing. We are committed to making our district stronger and more efficient in serving our community of students and families/caregivers. This effort will continue through the 2026-27 fiscal years to meet our goal of long-term budget sustainability.

We are proud of our teachers, administrators, and staff and their professionalism. We are committed to ensuring fair and equitable compensation for our valued employees.



Superintendent Elizabeth Blanco, Ed.D.



Chief Business Officer Saman Bravo-Karimi

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463
Head of School: Joanne Harabedian
E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

La Salle College Preparatory
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org
Interim Principal Ernest Siy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weizmann Day School
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

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

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

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

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

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Which party do you like? The one with the best food!

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2024 V40 Kids: color stuff in!

Elections – A Party of Parties!

Have you and your family been talking about the elections this year? Have you asked your parents if they belong to a political party? Political parties are made up of different groups of people who organize to point out the way they think the government should work.

Political parties choose their candidates to run for government offices. They run campaigns and ask people to vote their candidates into office. When they win, they will surely “party” to celebrate their victory!

I’m an independent voter. I don’t belong to any political party.

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

- having to do with government affairs
- election where one candidate wins by a large majority
- in a _____ election, parties vote for the people who will represent them in the general election
- a person who is running for President
- a political party's largest gathering
- highest political office in the United States
- group of people joining together to make government work the way they want it to
- a political party's official stance on the issues
- a Presidential _____ is held every 4 years
- Tuesday in November set aside for voting
- planned activities to help people win an office
- discuss or argue an issue; sides present their ideas
- information gathered by asking voters questions
- sitting President whom may be replaced after election
- to register a choice in the election
- money given by people to help their candidate win
- problems in the world that voters worry about
- compartment where a person votes secretly

PUZZLES FOR YOU

Mountain View News Saturday, October 12, 2024

HALLOWEEN

ACROSS

1. Cut of lamb
6. Numbers, abbr.
9. Friend from Down Under
13. Jonas Salk's conquest
14. Bingo!
15. Secret storage
16. Like a beaver?
17. Sun, in Spain
18. Knightly suit
19. *Can take the form of a certain flying mammal
21. *Spell casting
23. Between E and NE
24. Fisherman's fly
25. Away's partner
28. Biology lab supply
30. Offspring of alumnus
35. Month before Nisan
37. Latte choice
39. Filthy dough
40. Sound on a scale
41. *Homeowner's Halloween option
43. Subsequently
44. A deadly sin?
46. Competitive advantage
47. Assigned theater spot
48. Popular post
50. Biblical firstborn
52. What skeletons and skeddaddlers have in common
53. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex", e.g.
55. French vineyard
57. *Grisly
61. *Ghostly apparition
65. Throat dangler
66. **"The Murders in the _____ Morgue"
68. Actress Watts
69. Relating to a lobe
70. Songwriter Gershwin
71. a.k.a. tangelos
72. Pitcher
73. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
74. River clay deposits

DOWN

1. Hightailed it
2. *Adjective for Merlin, hairwise
3. Aquarium scum
4. **"Unattractive" Munster relative
5. Sl vakian monetary unit
6. Project Apollo org.
7. Exclamation of surprise
8. Pico de gallo, e.g.
9. Painter Chagall
10. Pinnacle
11. Chris Hemsworth's Marvel role
12. *Like decorated house on Halloween
15. El Chapo's organization, e.g.
20. MC Hammer's "Too _____ to Quit" album
22. Black gold
24. Puppy purveyor, often
25. *Teeth of #19 Across
26. Love intensely
27. a.k.a. honey badger
29. 0.405 hectare
31. *Blood and _____
32. Partner of pains
33. *Spooky house sound
34. "Fiddler on the Roof" gossipy character
36. Coral barrier
38. Gads, anagrammed
42. Mold a mind
45. Expel a lawyer
49. Ever, to a poet
51. Bluish planet
54. *#12 Down, alt. sp.
56. Sushi option
57. Stubborn beast
58. Swear, not curse
59. Type of hexahedron
60. Having wings
61. Black-eyed legumes
62. Sound of a bell
63. Fail to mention
64. Magnolia State, abbr.
67. *R.I.P. container

CROSSWORD

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	4							9
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9	6	5	2	1	4	7	8	3
2	1	8	7	9	3	4	5	6
4	3	6	9	5	7	2	1	8
5	2	7	6	8	1	3	4	9
8	9	1	3	4	2	6	7	5



CORFU RESTAURANT, SIERRA MADRE

A Blend of Mediterranean Charm and Middle Eastern Flavors

Perched in the quiet town of Sierra Madre, Corfu Restaurant takes its name from the famous Greek island in the Ionian Sea. It's a cozy spot with patio seating, where you can enjoy live music on most weekends, adding to the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. I had the pleasure of meeting Vic, the owner and chef, who has been at the helm for over 15 years. Although Corfu boasts a Greek name,

I would dub this restaurant more Middle Eastern in spirit, offering a versatile menu that has something for everyone—from sandwiches and salads to American dishes. But let's be clear, I'm here for the Greek food.

Ambiance and Service: Corfu's patio offers a great spot for people-watching, and you might just catch local resident Hansalicious and his sidekick Jim, AKA Bud, grazing on appetizers and chatting it up with server Maribel. The atmosphere is casual, yet there's something undeniably authentic about the space. The staff are attentive, and Vic himself makes sure everything runs smoothly.

What to Order: Let me start by saying, as someone born in Greece, I have a soft spot for authentic Greek flavors. A must-try is the Greek Village Salad—this is the real deal, folks. No lettuce, just fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, olives, and feta cheese, all drizzled with olive oil and herbs. It's as authentic as you can get, and a refreshing option for anyone seeking a true taste of Greece.

Now, while Corfu offers all the Middle Eastern staples—hummus, gyros, boreg—it's their kebobs that steal the show. My personal go-to is the chicken kebob, which is tender, juicy, and perfectly seasoned. Whether you're there for lunch or dinner, the kebobs are a standout. Pair them with a cold bottle of Hillas, a Greek beer that is both crisp and delicious.

Greek Siesta Time: A word to the wise—Corfu takes a well-deserved siesta from 3 PM to 5 PM daily, so plan your visit accordingly. It's a nod to the slower pace of life in Greece, where mid-afternoon breaks are sacred.

Final Thoughts: Whether you're in the mood for Mediterranean or Middle Eastern cuisine, Corfu has a little something for everyone. The mix of authentic Greek dishes with Middle Eastern classics makes it a versatile choice. And if you're looking for a laid-back evening with good food, good music, and even better company, Corfu is the place to be.

Rating: 8.7/10 Delicious kebobs, a great village salad, and the perfect spot to unwind on the weekends. Just don't forget about that Greek Siesta Time!

Expect to spend about \$60 for dinner two, no crime in sharing though! Im stuffed.
48 W. Sierra Madre



Dills and Owner Vic



CONTACT VIC:
626-372-2681

CORFU RESTAURANT
48 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



ONGOING SILENT FILM SERIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RETROFORMAT FILMS COMING SOON!

As part of our 100th anniversary celebration, these screenings honor the Playhouse's roots as a silent film cinema, continuing our legacy of bringing timeless stories to the screen. We can't wait to see you there as we continue celebrating Sierra Madre Playhouse's rich history!

CHICAGO (1927)

Thursday, November 14 @ 7PM
Tickets: \$20



Get ready for a dazzling tale of manipulation and media frenzy in Chicago. Follow Roxie Hart's cunning efforts to sway public opinion and escape a murder charge in this witty, captivating film set during the Roaring Twenties!

"Chicago" is a captivating silent film that delves into the themes of celebrity, scandal, and the American justice system through the tale of Roxie Hart, a woman who manipulates the media and public opinion to escape a murder charge. This early cinematic gem, known for its sharp wit and engaging narrative, provides a fascinating glimpse into the Roaring Twenties, making it a must-watch for fans of classic cinema and historical narratives.


"THE IMMIGRANT" (1917) & OTHER SHORT COMEDIES

Wednesday, December 4 @ 7PM
Tickets: \$20



Join us for an evening of laughter and heart with Charlie Chaplin's The Immigrant. This beautiful short film, along with other comedic gems, showcases Chaplin's iconic humor while touching on the challenges of immigration—a true cinematic treasure!

"The Immigrant" (1917) is a poignant silent film directed by and starring Charlie Chaplin, that gracefully explores the hopes and hardships of the immigrant experience in America. Through Chaplin's iconic blend of humor and heart, the film tells the story of a newcomer's journey to find a better life, capturing the universal themes of struggle, compassion, and the pursuit of happiness. This timeless classic not only showcases Chaplin's genius but also offers a tender reflection on the human condition, making it an essential piece of cinematic history.





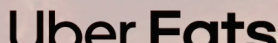
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ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown

HOW TO GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD: 12 MIND SHIFTS WHEN YOU'RE STUCK IN YOUR HEAD



1. Focus on your senses: Come back to the space around you. Engaging the senses brings attention to the present moment. Like a tree that isn't watered don't attend to a thought and it dies away. There is no mental pain without thinking. What's wrong with right now if you don't think about it?
2. Get into nature: Stepping outside and immersing oneself in the natural world is highly restorative.
3. Focus on your breathing: Conscious breathing is a powerful tool for centering one's thoughts. Envisioning oneself inhaling positivity and exhaling stress can act as an emotional and mental reset, effectively dialing down anxiety and promoting relaxation.
4. Get moving: Physical activity is an effective distraction from ruminative thought patterns. This can range from intense exercise to leisurely activities like a casual walk to a coffee shop.
5. Focus on someone else: Thoughts are empty. They dissolve if you don't give them attention. One becomes less preoccupied with personal worries by actively seeking to assist another individual. Help others.
6. Get busy: Immersing oneself in a project or hobby requires concentration and diverts attention from repetitive thoughts. Scott Kiloby Basics 1 & 2 on Youtube is helpful with too much thinking
7. Focus on gratitude: Acknowledging things one is thankful for can shift the mind from a negative space to one of appreciation and contentment.
8. Focus on forgiveness: Forgiveness is a pathway to mental liberation; it allows individuals to release resentment and embrace peace. Viewing others with empathy & understanding enables people to move past lingering negative emotions.
9. Talk it out: Discussing troubling thoughts with someone trustworthy can be cathartic and healing.
10. Get in the flow state: Engaging in activities that induce a flow state, where one is fully absorbed and losing track of time, creates a sense of euphoria and engagement.
11. Practice meditation: Meditation offers a refuge for the mind, a serene space to be still. Thoughts are generally not important. They will come and go by themselves less and less if you don't give them attention.
12. Focus on the present moment: Living in the present is the ultimate remedy for a preoccupied mind. Reorient one's awareness to the immediacy of the present, dissolving the grip of past regrets or future worries.



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CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



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

DAY OF THE DEAD
Remembering Those who have Passed

This year's Day of the Dead taught me a lot about myself and my relations to other people in my life. For one, the whole point of the Day of the Dead commemoration is to first pay tribute and honor to all those who have gone before us, and are no longer with us. We honor them because we are foolish to not do so. Plus, since we are honoring those whom were close to us and we loved, we remember them because they made us who we are, they enhanced our lives, and they (hopefully) made us better people.

A second reason for the commemoration of the Day of the Dead is to remember that we will not be here forever. I know we all intellectually believe that, and even know that, but somehow we do not translate that into treating our fellow men and women better. IF we really, deep down, grasped the shortness of life and the fact that we all have a finite amount of days to do something meaningful, then we'd most likely not waste time, and make every moment count.

During my Day of the Dead, I just happened to see a Bruce Lee quote: "If you love life, don't waste time, for time is what life is made up of."

That's quite an insightful quote, from perhaps the most legendary modern figure in martial arts, who died way too young. Wasting time is wasting your life!

Day of the Dead (November 2) is the day to remember and honor those who have died. I have noted that it has started to morph into the modern abomination that All Hallows Eve has become - which is a day of drinking, partying, and costumes - and missing the point of it all!

Though I believe that All Hallows Eve /Hallowe'en and Day of the Dead have the same basic roots, they culturally shifted in different directions: the first went into the direction of "fear," and the second into the direction of honoring and respecting the departed. Hallowe'en has long gone down the rabbit hole of candy, parties, and mindless fear. Though the holiday is redeemable, that is possible probably only through the path of individuals who choose to observe in a more traditional way.

On the eve of Day of the Dead, we lit a little candle, set out flowers, and remembered the departed loved ones. I recalled my mentors, my brother, my sister, my parents. We recalled Helen's mother, recently departed. We recalled close friends and their parents and spouses who have left the physical sphere. I found that I used to think of the departed with fear and uncertainty. These days, I try to allow myself to smile, to think of how their time in my life enhanced who I am and what I do. I smile, and sometimes I cry, because I loved them so much.

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Katnip News!

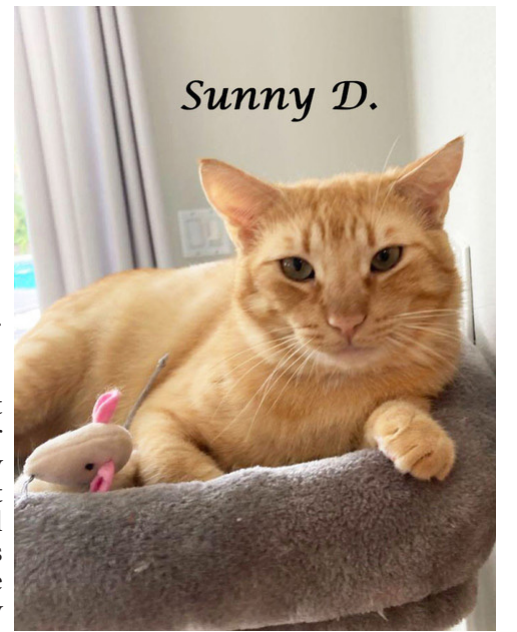


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Lifeline for Pets presents Sunny D, a very sweet and gentle lovebug in search of a quiet forever home with just one or two adults. He has only been with his rescue family and is not quite yet used to new folks, so he will be shy at first until he's comfortable. But once he's knows you, he's the very best cat you can have and will give you lots of hugs and kisses! This sweet boy eagerly awaits his forever home where he can shower his new family with endless love and affection. Submit the application link above to hopefully be able to come and meet him!



Sunny D.

Pet of the Week

You don't have to go to galaxy far, far away to find this adorable Princess- she's patiently waiting to meet you at Pasadena Humane!

Princess Leia is the sweetest, friendliest dog. She loves everyone she meets instantly, especially those who can be enticed into giving her a belly rub.

Leia is about 3 years old and has a mellow vibe. She likes going to walks and will walk right next to you on a loose leash. She knows some training cues and takes treats with a soft mouth.

Her favorite place is right by someone's side, soaking up all the pets that they're willing to dole out- no question- her love language is physical touch!

This lovely lady is ready to be your copilot!

Princess Leia and all other pets at Pasadena Humane will have their adoption fees waived on Saturday, October 12!

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

Walk-in adoptions are available every day from 2:00 - 5:00. For those who prefer, adoption appointments are available daily from 10:30 - 1:30 and can be scheduled online. View photos of adoptable pets at pasadenahumane.org.

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet. Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email.



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From The Desk of Steve Sciurba, Safe Path For Senior

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HOW TO FIND A CHEAPER MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

Dear Savvy Senior:

What's the easiest way to compare Medicare Part D prescription drug plans? My Part D premium is increasing again in 2025, so I would like to use the fall open enrollment to find and sign up for a cheaper plan. Shopping Around



Dear Shopping:

I'm happy to hear you're comparing your Medicare coverage options this fall! Research shows that many Medicare beneficiaries with Part D coverage can lower their prescription drug costs by shopping among plans each year during the open enrollment season, which runs Oct. 15 to Dec. 7.

There could be another Part D plan in your area that covers the drugs you take with fewer restrictions or with lower costs. You never know until you look.

You'll also be happy to know that thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, in 2025 annual out-of-pocket costs will be capped at \$2,000 for all Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

Here are some tips and tools to help you shop and compare Part D plans.

Plan Finder Tool

If you have internet access and are comfortable using a computer, you can easily shop for and compare all Medicare drug plans in your area and enroll in a new plan online, and it only takes a few minutes.

Just go to Medicare's Plan Finder Tool at Medicare.gov/find-a-plan. You can do a general search on the right side of the page, under the title "Continue without logging in." If you wish to save your drugs and pharmacy information, you can log into or create your Medicare account on the left side of the page.

Next, type in your ZIP code and choose the type of coverage you're looking for, enter the drugs you take, choose the pharmacies you use, and indicate whether you are interested in a mail order option.

The plan finder will then display results for plans in your area. Be aware that a plan may not cover all the drugs you take, but it may cover alternatives. It will also tell you if the plan has a deductible and how much the monthly premium is.

Initially, the plans will be sorted by "lowest drug + premium costs." This is the closest estimate to what

you may pay out of pocket for your Part D coverage for the year. You can select "plan details" to find out more specifics about coverage, including any coverage restrictions that might apply to your drugs.

Before enrolling, it is a good idea to call the plan directly to confirm any information you read on plan finder, as information may not be completely up to date.

If you need help, you can call Medicare at 800-633-4227 and they can do this for you over the phone. Or contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free unbiased Medicare counseling. To find a local SHIP counselor call 877-839-2675 or see ShipHelp.org.

Any changes to coverage you make will take effect Jan. 1, 2025. If you take no action during open enrollment, your current coverage will continue next year.

Extra Help

If you're lower-income and having a hard time paying your medication costs, you may be eligible for Medicare's "Extra Help" program. This is a federal low-income subsidy that helps pay Part D premiums, deductibles and copayments.

To be eligible, your annual income must be under \$22,590 or \$30,660 for married couples living together, and your assets (not counting your home, personal possessions, vehicles, life insurance policies or burial expenses) must be below \$17,220 or \$34,360 for married couples. For more information or to apply, call Social Security at 800-772-1213 or visit SSA.gov/medicare/part-d-extra-help.

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

SENIOR MATTERS

COMBATING LONLINESS AMONG SIERRA MADRE'S SENIORS

As we age, maintaining social connections becomes vital, not just for mental health, but for overall well-being. Many seniors in Sierra Madre face isolation, which can lead to depression, anxiety, and even physical health decline. Fortunately, there are plenty of local services and activities to help break the cycle of loneliness and build meaningful relationships.

The Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is resourceful in identifying senior needs and coordinating activities through the Hart Park House Senior Center. Programs include free movie afternoons every Wednesday at 1 PM (complete with refreshments and popcorn), a senior lunch program Monday through Thursday (\$3 suggested donation, co-sponsored by the City of Sierra Madre and the YMCA), exercise classes, chair yoga, bingo, quarterly group excursions, a Tea & Talk book club, arts and crafts, and various social events. These activities provide opportunities for seniors to stay active and engaged. For those unable to leave their homes, Dial-A-Ride is available at 626-355-3873. A list of resources can be found on sierramadre.gov, located residents tab then senior tab to download the guide.

Volunteering is another excellent way to foster connections. The Sierra Madre Public Library, Civic Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, and the Sierra Madre Woman's Club (men are welcome too) encourage senior volunteers, offering a rewarding way to remain active. The YMCA also provides special senior memberships, promoting social interaction through fitness classes and events.

Research shows that maintaining social ties can improve cognitive function, reduce stress, and lower the risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease. Socializing strengthens the immune system and can even add years to life.

For seniors feeling isolated, taking the first step—joining a club, volunteering, or attending community events—can lead to a more vibrant and healthier lifestyle. Staying connected helps enrich not just their lives but also the community around them.



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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... OCTOBER Birthdays*



Janda Ferris, Darlene Traxler, Margit Johnson, Sole Krieg, Mary Jane Baker, Dixie Coutant, Jill Frank, Cathleen Cremins, Adie Marshall, Darlene Crook, Susan Gallagher, Maggie Ellis, Gloria Giersbach, Ellen O'Leary, Jenny Piantenti, Anita Thompson, Linda Boehm and Angela Stella *

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

Chair Yoga

10am - 10:45 am
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Hart Park Senior Center

Monthly BLOOD Pressure SCREENING

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HART PARK SENIOR CENTER
THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY
MONTH
AT 12:30PM

SENIOR CINEMA

Movies at the Hart Park House will be held every Wednesday at 1pm after our senior lunch program. Free popcorn, sweet snacks, and refreshing beverages will be available for all participants. Registration is not required.

OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

I'VE BEEN ACCUSED OF MANY THINGS.....



..... BUT NEVER HAVING A GREAT MEMORY.

It's not that I don't try to remember things; I can't remember things I'm supposed to remember. It has nothing to do with my age because it started as far back as I can remember. This dramatically affects my relationship with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Her memory is perfect. She can remember things that actually never happened. How she does that is beyond my understanding. Trust me, I'm not going to ask her to explain it to me because then I would have to remember that explanation for the rest of my life. Some things are not worth remembering. It's not so much that I don't remember things, I just am busy when things are happening. I don't remember what's happening when I'm watching TV because I'm busy doing something else. When The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is conversing with me, I don't remember everything because I'm busy doing something else.

When I was young, one of my favorite authors was James Thurber, who wrote the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," which later became a movie.

When Thurber was young, he and his brother played a game called "William Tell," which I had never heard of before but somehow involved bows and arrows. In the middle of that game, his brother, by mistake, shot an arrow hitting Thurber in the left eye, causing him to lose that eye. Later, his other eye suffered, and he was almost completely blind.

Thurber was a writer, and most of his writing was done in his head. Then, the next morning, he would sit down with his secretary, and she would write out the story as Thurber would dictate it to her. Often, when Thurber and his wife were having dinner with some friends, his wife would say, "Jim, will you stop writing and listen to what we're saying?" Of course, he was always working on some short story wherever he was.

Although I am not blind, I often do the same thing. I'm always working on a sermon, a newspaper column, or an article in my head even when I'm with others. I might be watching TV, visiting friends at some restaurant or just sitting at home with my wife.

I can remember just about everything I'm writing in my head which I will write out later. That technique, which I learned from James Thurber, has greatly profited me. However, it has also hindered me in the social area.

Even though I can remember what I was working on in my head at the time, I can't remember the conversation with people around me. I can never figure that out. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage often says, "Do you remember what I told

you yesterday?" That is a question to ponder. Whether I say yes or no, I'm still in some trouble. Now, if she said something like, "Do you remember what you were thinking last week when we were at dinner with some of our friends?"

I would remember almost to the word what I was thinking, but the talk around the table is beyond my recollection.

Even while watching television, something will happen on some program, which will get me thinking about the sermon I'm working on. Pretty soon, I'll be working on that sermon and laying out details. I call it my thinking cloud.

While watching TV together, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sometimes laughs and says, "Did you hear that? Wasn't that funny?"

I will look at her, laugh and say, "That was hilarious."

Once, she looked over at me and said, "Did you really hear that joke?"

She knew I didn't hear that joke. Now, if she would say, "What were you thinking about when they told that joke?" I would immediately begin to respond and tell her what I was thinking.

I have so much work to do that I need to take advantage of every bit of time to work on it. I don't necessarily have to be at my computer but as long as my brain is working, so am I.

Whenever we have dinner with friends, I look forward to the next morning. During that dinner, my head is swarming with ideas and thoughts about a project I'm working on.

One of these days, I'm going to thank those people for giving me the opportunity to think through a project I'm working on.

On occasion, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I are on a trip across town.

While driving the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will look over at me and say, "Ok, what are you thinking?"

Because I'm thinking I don't hear her at first. Finally, she gets my attention and I once replied, "Oh, I was just thinking of what a wonderful, lovely, gracious wife I have. I'm so fortunate."

She has a hard time responding to that. Great thought.

A verse of scripture came to mind. Psalm 139:23-24, "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."

God knows what I'm thinking all the time. I want to discipline myself to have thoughts that honor and please God. To think about God is the great pleasure of being a Christian.

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STUART TOLCHIN



PUT THE LIGHTS ON IS EVERYONE LOSING? OR ARE THEY LYING TO US?

This morning in the rebroadcast of an interview with Connie Chung, I heard her use the term "tabloidiism" as a way of describing what has happened to news reporting. I consulted the internet and read that tabloidiism is "a style of journalism that uses the tabloid format to focus on popular culture and celebrity gossip and uses sensational headlines and quick unverifiable articles." Typical of the genre is focus on intimate details about the lives of celebrities and other pop-culture figures.

When the interviewer, Walter Issacson, asked Connie to explain the reason behind the phenomena, her answer was a simple one-word response, "money". No surprise, huh? Human beings are who they are and as Walter Issacson has described in the five biographies that I have read covering Leonardo da Vinci, Elon Musk, Albert Einstein, Benjamin Franklin, and Steve Jobs all exhibited questionable behavior. And these are, or were, all celebrated people.

For example, I hate knowing that Albert Einstein the super-brilliant physicist, pacifist (in fact I am wearing socks with his picture on them at this very moment) a man whom I admire greatly, did something that I cannot forgive.

No- I am not talking about the indisputable fact that he was the impetus behind the creation of the atomic bomb eventually dropped unnecessarily upon the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even now, as Iran appears to be just a moment away from the possession of their own nuclear bomb, I do not connect Einstein to this situation. Einstein did his best to explain his reasoning but explained that he had been caught up in wartime hysteria and misled.

This is the point. All of us are imperfect but most things are forgivable if understood in context. Instead let us move away from the bomb and instead focus on what really bothers me. At the very beginning of the Einstein biography, in a section entitled "main characters" there is described "Lieserl Einstein (1902-?) Pre-marital daughter of Einstein and Mileva Maric". Mileva was Einstein's future wife but the shame of fathering the child prior to wedlock influenced Einstein to refuse to acknowledge the birth of the child. He never saw the child who may have been adopted away and lost to history.

Poor Lieserl and poor me! As I said above. I hate knowing that my hero would yield to pressure from his mother, public disapproval, and even financial need and refuse to acknowledge the birth of his first born. Yes, I am afraid that this is what is typical of we human beings influenced by needs for approval and acceptance and instead pursuing money and status. Certainly, Connie Chung was correct as she characterized tabloidiism as inevitably resulting from the corporate and media owners desire for money and thereby profiting and taking advantage of human weakness. Where are the true journalists and seekers of truth? Yes, we are surrounded by corporate masters who use shocking or exciting stories or language at the expense of accuracy in order to provoke public interest. Of course, the master of this unfortunate phenomenon is Donald Trump who has absorbed so much public attention despite his lies, or perhaps because of them, that he may well be re-elected as President of the United States.

Most of us have been affected by tabloidiism and the short and often inaccurate descriptions of what is actually happening around us. Few of us any longer read full books and bookstores are closing all over town. Seeing the "For Lease" sign at the nearby Vroman's bookstore felt to me like the loss of a dear relative.

HERE IS MY HOPE: We should know that much of the news that surrounds us ARE LIES designed to just keep bringing more money to the undeserving power brokers. Perhaps the best remedy is to pay attention only to GOOD NEWS and to eschew the spectacle.

Sure, I know that Hurricane Milton is about to land in Florida and there may well be catastrophes, but we must try and not be distracted and keep our eye on the ball to find the best true pathways to cope with future needs. Of course, I will feel better tonight if the Dodgers win their game. After all, like the rest of you, I am only human.

HOWARD HAYS As I See It



"With all due respect, he is lying." - Abby Phillip, CNN, on Donald Trump's claim of the Biden Administration withholding aid from victims of Hurricane Helene

"A smooth lie is still a lie." - Joy Reid, MSNBC, on JD Vance's debate performance

What stood out to me in Special Counsel Jack Smith's recently unsealed brief on Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election was the extent of his sociopathic lying. It isn't a matter of being wrong and later correcting oneself (as Gov. Tim Walz said on Fox News, "I own up when I make a mistake"). With Trump it's constant, deliberate lying. As the brief makes clear, Trump knew what the truth was - no meaningful numbers of missing ballots, ineligible voters, voting machine hacks or corrupt election officials. He'd been repeatedly so advised by staff and personal counsel. His concern, though, was not discerning the truth but staying in power - so he lied about it.

64 lawsuits had been filed with only one partially successful (involving some 200 disputed votes). In response, Trump replaced reality-based counsel with Rudy Giuliani - more amenable to the continued lying. Erstwhile advisor Steve Bannon suggested Trump simply declare victory; "That doesn't mean he's the winner... He's simply going to say he's the winner."

Then-V.P. Mike Pence spoke with Republican Governors who assured him there'd been no evidence of election fraud in their states. But regardless, Trump warned Pence that if he didn't go along with the lying, hundreds of thousands would "hate your guts" and "think you're stupid".

In late November 2020, then-Attorney General Bill Barr heard Trump lie on Fox that the Justice Department had "ignored evidence of fraud". Barr told the Associated Press they had indeed thoroughly investigated whatever "evidence" and came up empty. He resigned shortly before Christmas.

This remains relevant today as Trump on the campaign trail continues repeating what he knows to be lies - with MAGA members now sitting on local election boards continuing to believe them.

I use the term "sociopathic" advisedly, but in terms of "manipulation, deceit" and "lack of empathy" - it fits. I've no sympathy for the 1,300 who've been charged with federal crimes

for January 6, with some 500 behind bars. Many are there because they fell for Trump's lies of a "stolen election" and Trump couldn't care less.

Election workers throughout the country have been subjected to physical (and death) threats against themselves and their families. Considerable time ahead of the election is now devoted to security training and site reinforcements - but for Trump, all the better.

Beyond elections, Trump and his surrogates have been lying about Hurricane Helene, accusing the Biden Administration of withholding aid from Republican-leaning areas. (As president, Trump sought to withhold wildfire aid from California - until staff brought him electoral data showing there were in fact parts of California that voted Republican). He's lied about funds diverted from FEMA - lies repeated by MAGA congressmen who know full well how the appropriations process works.

More than 230 have been killed in Hurricane Helene, with hundreds of thousands homeless or without power. From former Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan of Georgia, "The lies are one of the biggest reasons, I am a lifelong Republican supporting Vice President Harris. The lies are dangerous. ... We need to hold him accountable for it." Knox County, Tennessee Mayor Glenn Jacobs posts that if MAGA "could maybe put aside hate for a little bit and pitch in to help, that would be great." But Trump relies on the hate.

This unabashed, unabated lying was on full display at the debate between Trump's running mate Sen. JD Vance and Gov. Tim Walz. PolitiFact scored Vance "False" or "Mostly False" on subjects ranging from immigration to abortion, Iran, opioids, healthcare and January 6.

Vance refused to acknowledge that Joe Biden won in 2020. But the highlight was his outburst, "you guys weren't gonna fact-check!" It was like - "You're telling me I can't just lie? There goes the gameplan!" At the beginning of last week's "60 Minutes" interview with V.P. Harris and Gov. Walz, it was explained that a primary reason for Trump's refusal to participate was that there'd be fact-checking. (As CBS reminded, "That's what we do.")

JD Vance is an educated guy. He undoubtedly knows the truth (as in 2016 when he wrote that Trump could be "America's Hitler"). But for now, he has to follow the head of the ticket: It's not campaigning on the facts to win an election, but lying as necessary to ultimately prevail regardless of how votes are cast.

And, as noted by author Nancy Farmer, "Lying is the most personal act of cowardice there is."

RICH JOHNSON NOW THAT'S RICH



LOVE AND MARRIAGE FROM A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

Let us take a week off from all things political. I'll just make one observation for your consideration (I promise):

• Some countries, such as India, Greece, Ukraine, and Colombia, have a "None of the Above" option on their election ballots. In the United States, only Nevada offers a "None of These Candidates" option.

Now, let's talk about something really, really dangerous...love and marriage...from a different, neutral and insightful perspective. An untapped cornucopia of new ideas and thoughts on relationships.

We are in luck. A source ignored by the relationship and self-help professionals. Who would that be? Why, kids under 10 years of age of course!

How would you make a marriage work? "Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck." Ricky, 10

What do you think your mom and dad have in common? "Both don't want more kids" Lori, 8

How can you tell if two people are married? "You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." Derrick, 8

What have they to say? An eight-year old girl named Judy was asked at what age people should get married? Her reply, "Eighty-four. Because at that age you don't have to work anymore and you can spend all your time loving each other in your bedroom."

At the other extreme Tommy, aged 5 told us, "Once I'm done with kindergarten, I'm going to find me a wife." Good luck Tommy.

Mike, 10, told us what usually transpires on a first date: "They just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date."

Is it better to be single or married? Lynette, 9, tells us, "It's better for girls to be single, but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them."

Nine-year old Roger was asked what falling in love was like. "Like an avalanche where you have to run for your life." Hmmm.

David, 8, informed us: "Lovers hold hands a lot because they want to make sure their rings don't fall off, because they paid good money for them."

Ava, 8, reminded us of a quality necessary to be a good lover: "One of you should know how to write a check. Because, even if you have tons of love, there is still going to be a lot of bills."

Carin, 9, was asked how a person learns to kiss: "It might help if you watched soap operas all day."

Winding down, how to make love endure: eight-year old Roger suggests that you "Don't forget your wife's name. That will mess up the love."

Randy, aged 9, offered this up: "Be a good kisser. It might make your wife forget that you never take the trash out."

And finally: "Never laugh at your wife's choices...you were one of them!" anon (smart little kid)

Let me give you another shameless pitch for my up and coming (early) Halloween Birthday Concert. My 1960s-1970s band, JJ Jukebox is performing at Nano Café, Saturday night, October 26 from 6:30-9:15. You are invited to come in costume or in street clothes (please, no clothing optional options). There will be costume contests, access to a delicious dinner menu, full bar and a dance floor.

And yes, it truly is my birthday (answers a lot of questions, right?) Call the restaurant at (626) 325-3334 if you want a table reserved for you. Or, you can just show up, take your chances and at least, capture a seat at the bar.

Sound deadening ear plugs are optional and will be on sale for \$250 a pair.

Hope to see you there!



DICK POLMAN



How sweet it is that Donald Trump's crimes in the wake of his 2020 defeat are finally back in the headlines, just in time for the final sprint to the 2024 election.

Thank you, Jack Smith, for the recently-released court brief that meticulously details the federal case against Trump. And thank you, Liz Cheney, for crossing the aisle and warning voters that Trump's "depraved cruelty" - putting his own vice president's life in jeopardy on Jan. 6 - is proof that he "can never be trusted with power." And thank you, Tim Walz, for those final minutes in the VP debate, exposing JD Vance as an election-denying MAGA who hates democracy.

Trump has been rage-posting about Smith and Cheney (of course), and it's easy to see why. He's terrified of losing his campaign to stay out of jail, and the timing of Smith's evidentiary brief could not be worse for him. Even though he's horrifically stupid about substance, he instinctively understands media optics, so he knows it's politically perilous to have the coup criminal case in the news between now and Nov. 5.

Granted, there's a huge pool of potential voters who've inexplicably forgotten about the violent Capitol insurrection, and who don't know or care about Trump's relentless efforts to overthrow the free and fair election he lost - like plotting with various conspirators to scream "election fraud" where none existed, pressuring local authorities to "find" him votes that didn't exist, trying to bully some key counties to stop tallying ballots, and ginning up slates of fake electors, and much more. For millions of feckless or oblivious voters, the developments will not matter a whit.

But with less than a month left on the clock, in a race that's supposedly close, the chilling factoids in special counsel Smith's court document could resonate with enough Trump-averse independents and Republicans to buttress Kamala Harris' campaign in the home stretch.

In Bruce Springsteen's endorsement of Harris, he said that our fight for a democratic future depends on "women and men with the national good guiding their hearts." It's those people, across the political spectrum, who might well heed the tidbits in Smith's narrative. Especially these:

- On Jan. 6, after Trump personally tweeted his Capitol goons with the news that VP

'SO WHAT?': TRUMP'S REAL THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

Mike Pence was refusing to play ball, the goons went ballistic and Pence (plus his family) had to be whisked to safety because his life was in danger. Trump, alone in his dining room, watched the violence on TV. When an aide informed Trump that Pence was imperiled, his answer was: "So what?"

- Trump told family members that "it doesn't matter if you won or lost the election. You still have to fight like hell." (Translation: If you vote against a totalitarian, your vote doesn't count. The totalitarian will say he won anyway.)

- When Trump's lawyers told him that his baseless election fraud claims wouldn't hold up in court, Trump ordered them to file lawsuits anyway. The fight was all that mattered; in his words, "The details don't matter." (Example: At one point Trump spread word that 36,000 non-citizens had voted in Arizona. Five days later, he upped the figure to "a few hundred thousand." Then "40 or 50,000." Then back to 36,000. All those numbers were illusions.)

- One Trump aide, who repeatedly told Trump that his loss was legit and that his election fraud claims were delusional, got so fed up that he emailed a colleague: "It's tough to own any of this when it's all just conspiracy shit beamed down from the mothership."

- Trump wanted Republican national chairwoman Ronna McDaniel to circulate a lie about (non-existent) election fraud in a key Michigan county, but McDaniel told Trump that even Michigan's Republican House Speaker thought the claim was "f...ing nuts."

At the tail end of the VP debate, slick Trump supplicant JD Vance tried to dodge questions about the 2020 election aftermath, insisting that he's focused on the future. Too bad his boss didn't get that memo, because in Michigan last week, Trump focused yet again on the past. Referring to 2020 he said: "We won, we won, we did win."

I doubt Trump knows who William Faulkner is, but he clearly hews to one Faulknerian: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

The bloody chaos he inspired in the wake of that election - for which he's been indicted on four counts by a federal grand jury - is a harbinger of what's to come unless Harris wins by the most decisive possible margin. If that were to happen, he might finally be held accountable in court for the havoc he has wreaked on our core democratic institutions.

HALLOWEEN: LET THE GAIN BEGIN

For many, Halloween kicks off a cycle of overeating that lasts through the holiday season. It starts with sneaking a few candies in the weeks before Halloween, followed by nibbling on leftover treats. Then, as Thanksgiving approaches, there's more food around. Soon, we're indulging at gatherings with family, friends, coworkers, and acquaintances. With so much tempting food around, it's hard to resist. After all, it's just once a year, so what's the harm in a little extra here and there? But does it really have to lead to three months of overindulgence?

Overeating often starts on Halloween and doesn't stop until after the holidays because of a combination of factors. First, Halloween kicks things off by filling our homes with candy. After that, the holidays bring more temptations like pies, cookies, and rich meals. Emotional eating also plays a role—stress from family, finances, and packed schedules makes people turn to food for comfort. Social gatherings during the holidays are food-centered, making it tough to avoid overeating when surrounded by endless options. Plus, there's a cultural expectation to eat, and saying "no" can feel like missing out on the celebration. Routine disruption is another key factor. Travel, parties, and holiday chaos often interfere with regular exercise and healthy eating habits. Finally, many people fall into the trap of the "all or nothing" mindset. After indulging in Halloween candy, they feel like they've already blown their healthy habits, so they figure, "Why stop now?" All of these reasons create a perfect storm for overeating that stretches well beyond Halloween.

With a little forethought though, you can avoid the holiday overeating trap. Here are some ways to prevent the downhill slide:

- 1. Set a few clear goals**
Setting specific, realistic goals helps keep you grounded during the holiday season. Instead of aiming for perfection, focus on manageable targets, like maintaining your workout routine a few times a week or limiting desserts to weekends.
- 2. Practice portion control**
Portion control is a powerful tool to help you enjoy holiday treats without overindulging. You don't need to deprive yourself completely—just be mindful of how much you're eating. Using a small plate can help trick your brain into feeling satisfied with less, while planning ahead allows you to set clear limits on how much candy or dessert you'll have.
- 3. Eat before social gatherings**
Heading to a holiday gathering on an empty stomach can lead to overeating, so it's a good idea to eat a healthy snack beforehand. A small, balanced snack with fiber or protein, like fruit, veggies, or nuts, can curb your hunger, making it easier to resist overeating when you arrive. Staying hydrated also helps, as thirst is often mistaken for hunger.
- 4. Keep healthier options available**
Have nutritious snacks, like fruits, veggies, whole-grain crackers, or nuts, readily available in your kitchen. When preparing for holiday gatherings, include a few healthier options, like veggie trays or fruit platters, alongside more indulgent treats. It will make it easier to choose something nutritious, even when surrounded by high-calorie holiday foods.
- 5. Find alternatives to stress eating**
The holiday season often brings stress, whether from family dynamics, financial pressures, or the busy schedule. Do your best to find healthier ways to cope. Taking a walk, meditating, or talking with a friend can help reduce stress without leading to overeating. Recognizing emotional triggers is the first step in managing stress eating.
- 6. Break the "all or nothing" mentality**
One of the biggest obstacles during the holidays is the "all or nothing" mindset. If you lose control one day, it's easy to feel like you've failed and might as well continue overeating. But a small indulgence doesn't have to derail your progress. Focus on getting back on track with your next meal or workout rather than giving up entirely.

Take it one holiday at a time. In terms of Halloween be sure to buy candies you don't like. You won't be as tempted to eat them. Buy them later not sooner. The sooner they're in your house the more opportunity for overeating. Place candy out of sight and fruit in plain view. After Halloween get rid of leftover candies. You can donate them to local food banks, shelters for women and children, Soldiers' Angels Treats for Troops, nursing homes, senior centers and dentist offices who participate in candy buyback programs where kids can trade their candy for prizes or money. If you'd like to donate to children in the area, and your candy does not have Halloween designs, our nonprofit runs a Stockings From Santa project every year and candy is always included in the stockings. Contact me for drop off.

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9/1 - 10am to 12:00noon	10/20 - 10am to 11am	12/22 - 10am to 12:00noon
9/8 - 10am to 11am	10/27 - 10am to 11am	12/29 - Raiders Football
9/15 - Raiders Football	11/3 - Raiders Football	1/5/25 - 10am to 11am
9/22 - Angels Baseball	11/10 - 10am to 12:00noon	1/12/25 - 10am to 11am
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Events Around Town in October!

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<p>One Time Events</p> <p>October 4 5:00 pm – 9:00pm Monrovia Street Fair and Market Stroll through the fair and discover lively vendors, handmade crafts, live music and more.</p> <p>October 4 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm San Gabriel Dumpling and Beer Fest Mission District: Twist on Oktoberfest - craft beer garden, food, entertainment, and kids' activities.</p> <p>October 5 VIP: 12:30 General: 1:30pm – 5:30pm Craftoberfest at The Rose Bowl "Fun for the whole family" food and drink festival featuring curated craft breweries.</p> <p>October 5 10:00 pm – 4:00 pm Latino Heritage Parade and Festival Parade and festival at Pasadena City Hall- Live entertainment, booths, children's activities, food.</p> <p>October 6 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Fall Fest at One Colorado Join in an afternoon of live music, fall treats, games, a beer garden, and more!</p> <p>October 11 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm ArtNight Pasadena An evening of art, music, and entertainment as the city's prominent museums and cultural institutions offer special programming. Free!</p> <p>October 12 1:00 - 2:30 pm & 3:30 - 5:00 pm Pumpkin Fairy Gardens at the Arboretum Kids and families can build enchanting fairy gardens in real pumpkins. Two workshops.</p> <p>October 12 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Old Town Fall Festival in Monrovia Enjoy family friendly activities including music, crafts, hay wagon rides & pet costume contest.</p> <p>October 13 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Taste of Old Town Monrovia 2024 Experience delicious dishes from local restaurants and vendors, live music.</p> <p>October 25 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Members Pumpkin Party 2024 at the Arboretum Enjoy live music, pumpkin crafts and outdoor games. Wear your costume and bring a picnic.</p>	<p>October 25 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm Downtown Arcadia Halloween Haunting Enjoy Trunk-or-Treating and play games from the City of Arcadia.</p> <p>October 26 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm Pasadena Symphony @ the Ambassador Concert includes works by Mahler, Korngold, and Boyer, and violinist Akiko Suwanai.</p> <p>October 26 11:30 am – 3:00 pm Halloween Spooktacular/ Bob Baker Marionettes at One Colorado Create your own spooky pumpkin and enjoy the ghouls of Bob Baker Marionettes.</p> <p>October 26 3:00 – 3:30 pm Thrill The World at the Arboretum This international dance event brings people together to perform the iconic "Thriller" dance.</p> <p>October 27 11:00 am – 4:00 pm Barks and Boos at the Arboretum Dress up your canine friend and bring them along as you stroll in the garden. Pet adoptions.</p> <p>October 31 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm Halloween Spooktacular and Trick-or-Treat Bash in Monrovia Bring the family for Trick or Treating, costume contests, library activities, booths, and more.</p> <p>Ongoing Events</p> <p>October 4 – 6 Tesla: A Radio Play for The Stage Caltech The story of the brilliant and controversial Tesla's relationship with Thomas Edison, American business, national security, and more.</p> <p>October 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 31 Haunted Pasadena Walking Tour Discover eerie alleys, hidden courtyards, and historic sites of Pasadena's past. 6:30 – 8:30pm</p> <p>October 19, 20, 26, 27 Pumpkin Patch Fall Fest at Santa Anita The infield comes alive with a pumpkin patch, a maze, rides, "Spooky Treat Hunts" and more.</p> <p>October 19, 26, 31 Pasadena Halloween Bar Crawl Put on your costume and enjoy ghostly cocktails and bewitching brews at the city's most haunted bars and taverns.</p>
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Wednesday, October 9, at the PUSD School Board candidate forum for District 6 at Sierra Madre Town Hall, I watched in frustration as the incumbent evaded public questions, misrepresented her record, and avoided accountability.

Sierra Madre constituents in attendance said Ms. Fredericks had not been keeping the community informed, for example, with the passage of the current PUSD ballot measures. Ms. Fredericks placed the blame on the consultants who conducted the survey, claiming she relied on their survey results to determine public support of the measures. She also said she did not have enough time to inform the public because the resolution had just recently passed.

However, the survey only reflected the input of 406 "likely voters" district-wide. At the August 17, 2023 PUSD Board meeting, consultants presented the timeline, and at the February 29, 2024 PUSD Board meeting, Ms. Fredericks voted to move forward with the measures. Her answers stating she didn't have enough time to inform the public nor gather feedback in the area she serves were disingenuous.

The reality is that instead of keeping the public informed, Ms. Fredericks spent her time volunteering for other political candidates, as well as traveling to DC and Sacramento to meet with Congressional and State officials. Her re-election campaign was rewarded with big-name endorsements while we were left in the dark (plus PUSD paid for these trips to DC and Sacramento).

The discussion then shifted to questions on the current \$516 million Measure O bond allocation, Ms. Fredericks suggested that there were hundreds of millions of dollars that the Board could still reallocate. In reality, although the bond has not been drawn down yet, those funds are dedicated to specific projects over the next 5 years.

Ms. Fredericks pointed out that she advocated for a study session on health and safety projects for all PUSD schools. Parents who were at the meetings, like myself, know this was just grandstanding after finding out that she had a School Board challenger. This study session she requested failed to capture any other Board votes because the Board had already voted (6-1 with Ms. Fredericks in favor on Sept 7, 2023) to spend most of the bond money to prioritize three schools (Longfellow, Madison, and Muir) and to allocate just \$40 million for the fire, life, and safety and other necessities for other schools. Ms. Fredericks voted to prioritize modernizations based on a heat map of where most students live (which is not in District 6) instead of spreading the money to the schools that objectively need the most urgent infrastructure repairs.

There was an estimated \$400 million in assessed needs and we had a \$516 million bond. Fredericks did not initially support ending facility disparity but has misled the public to think she has. In fact, in her op-ed in Pasadena Now on Sept 27, 2023, Ms. Fredericks advocated for closing more of our schools instead of repairing the schools where children attend.

Ms. Fredericks attests she plans to "do better" if re-elected. She continues to evade the public with her ability to blame others, without taking any accountability for her actions.

The time for change is now. If the challenger, Lisa Kroese, wins on November 5th, I know we will get clear information, a chance to be involved in the decision process and a leader who is able to gather information and share it with both constituents and the Board.

My vote is for Lisa Kroese and I hope yours is too. Tarah Kennedy
Tarah Kennedy is a District 6 voter, and a parent of two PUSD children.



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YES ON MEASURE R + MEASURE EE MEANS YES TO GREENER COOLER PUSD SCHOOLS

By Tina Wu Fredericks, PUSD District 6 Representative

I humbly ask for your vote YES on Measure R and Measure EE to prioritize our public schools this November 2024. Investing in today's children means many generations return on investment. This month we witnessed the death and devastation of families and communities caused by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton throughout our nation's southern states, underscoring the importance of preparing for the extreme weather conditions caused by climate change.

At the other extreme, our communities in southern California have experienced record high temperatures, longer and dryer summers in recent years. Extreme heat creates increasingly hazardous conditions in outdoor areas and structures where the 14,000 students of our district learn and play. Even the California legislature is taking the extreme heat conditions seriously. On October 1, 2024, California passed Senate Bill 1248, a bill requiring local schools to implement protocols for extreme weather situations. The bill was nicknamed Yahushua's Law, in honor of the 12-year-old boy who died during P.E. during a summer 2023 heatwave. Unfortunately, weather protocols which typically means keeping students inside creates other problems and challenges. Firstly, not all of our facilities have air-conditioning systems or they need upgrading, so keeping students inside on an extremely hot day may not be feasible for some schools and students would need to be sent home, losing instructional time. Keeping students indoors is not a long-term solution as we already know the detrimental effects on the mental health of children (and adults) of quarantine during the height of the COVID pandemic. Especially our young learners, they need to learn by playing and staying active.

The simple answer is to make our school's outdoor spaces cooler. The temperature of today's playgrounds are not like what we grew up with in elementary school. For example, on a 91 degree day this year, the asphalt measured 157 degrees without shade and 119 degrees with shade, and a plastic slide measured 166 degrees, while the grass under an oak tree measured 82 degrees. According to the California Schoolyard Tree Canopy Equity study of 2023, PUSD school sites tree canopy coverage ranges between 8% and 15%, well below the 30% recommended by urban forestry experts. This is why I introduced this week at the PUSD Facilities Committee meeting, the Resolution to Increase Tree Canopy Levels and Reduce Asphalt in Outdoor Areas of Pasadena Unified School District in order to Enhance Student Learning Environment and Safety.

Our buildings are between fifty and one hundred years old - in some cases, it's beyond repair simply because they no longer make the parts. This is why with Measure O funds of 2020, the district chose to modernize rather than simply repair some schools as that would be a more efficient use of tax payer dollars to invest in construction that lasts. In November 2023, the Board approved a 5 Year Bond Program, which has a construction timeline for schools and the cost of each project. The plan includes modernizing 7 elementary, middle, and high schools across the district, each school

costing between \$21 million and \$63 million. Additionally, many schools have and will receive wet utility repair, electrical service, new restrooms, accessibility/walkway repair, field reconditioning, and HVAC repair and upgrades. The total cost of the 5 Year Bond Program Plan is about \$470M. We would save \$124M in state matching funds if State Measure 2 passes (so please VOTE YES on Measure 2)

You can find the 5 Year Bond Program at pUSD.us/departments/measure-o/master-plan. Additional projects beyond the \$470 million include district wide security lock replacement so that teachers can easily lock doors from the inside in an emergency situation, as well as security cameras and secure front entry way at each school. An additional \$40 million budget is reserved specifically for urgent health and safety projects including HVAC, fire alarm systems, structural building integrity, accessibility (elevators and ramps), window replacement, roofing, asphalt repair/reduction, lighting, classroom repairs. I'm happy to report that Sierra Madre Elementary successfully upgraded their electrical system and HVAC modernization this summer. For more detail on the current status and expenditure of construction projects, please go to PUSD Facilities & Capital Projects Committee website for the agenda containing the most recent Construction Project Status Reports. In summary, while \$140 million in bonds have been issued and \$84 million has been spent to date, the remaining balance of the \$516 million of Measure O has been earmarked according to the 5 Year Bond Program plan.

PUSD's Measure R is a unique bond that a local community group called PUSD Green Schoolyard Coalition helped to craft. In addition the traditional upgrades, this bond includes outdoor greening projects. Founded by a few Sierra Madre Elementary school parents, this group successfully convinced the district to include student-accessible green space as an allowable use of Measure R funds, for example, asphalt removal, stormwater retention systems, bioswales, heat-mitigating surfaces, shade trees, facilities infrastructure to support carbon-free energy sources and waste management systems, composting, pedestrian and bicycle paths, electric bicycle stations and parking.

While Measure R funds building improvements, PUSD's Measure EE will help to fund the competitive salaries our teachers and staff deserve. Some of our teachers work multiple jobs and often pay for classroom supplies out of their own pocket. They deserve to be fully supported for the quality instruction they provide for our students. Given that 80% of our public school funding comes from the state and the state budget is only giving a 1.07% cost of living adjustment this year, our district will need to make up the difference to keep our quality teachers and staff.

There are many choices on this November ballot. This is an opportunity to invest in the 14,000 students of Pasadena Unified School District, our emerging leaders for our community. I humbly ask for your YES vote on Measure R, Measure EE, and Measure 2.

Editor's Note: The entire City of Sierra Madre is in District 6 of the Pasadena Unified School District.

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UTP TINA WU FREDERICKS



for re-election Nov. 5

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