

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

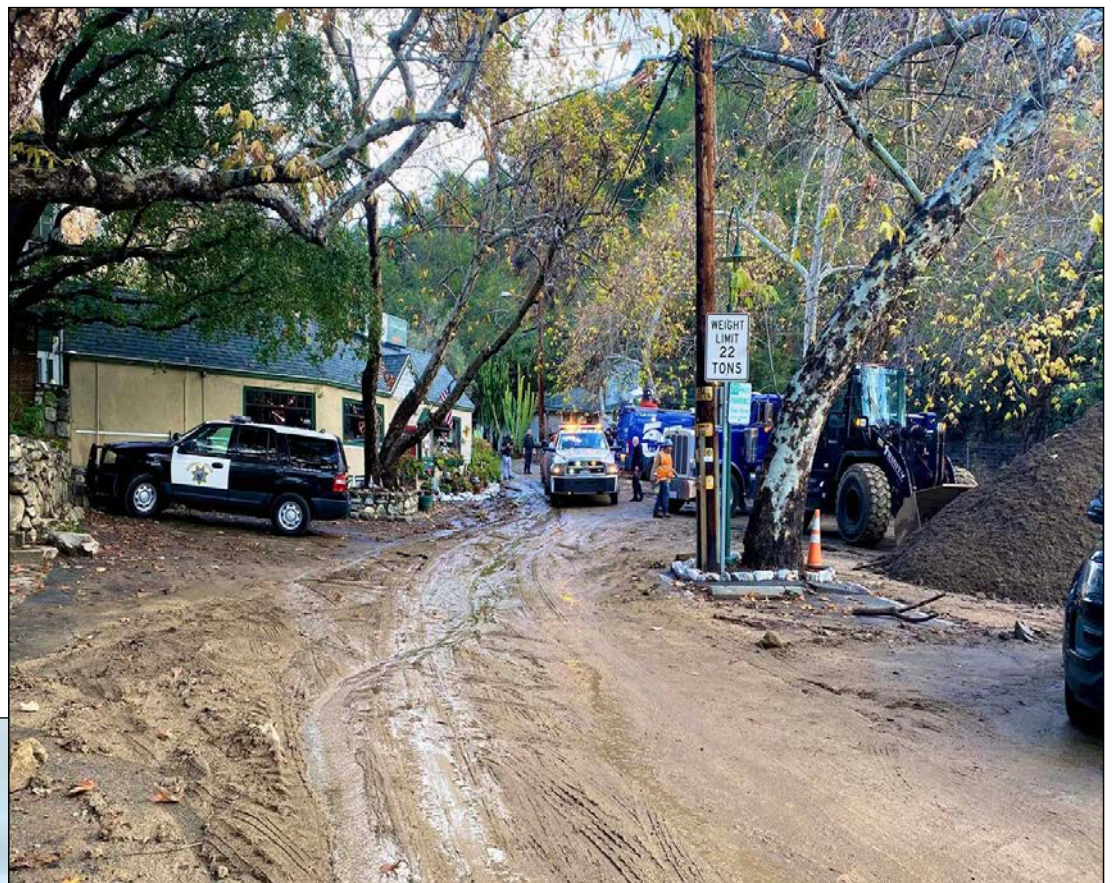
VOLUME 19 NO.07

6.75" OF RAIN BRING MUDSLIDES TO SIERRA MADRE

BREAKING NEWS: Street Closures Continue

On Saturday morning the City of Sierra Madre issued an additional road closure alert: Lower Canyon - All of Sturtevant Drive. Go to: nixle.us/G3NEF for complete details and updates.

The City of Sierra Madre, while beginning the process of recovering from 14 homes totally destroyed and approximately 60 homes and/or other structures either destroyed or damaged by smoke, was faced with yet another challenge on Thursday and Friday. According to resident Dave Felt who has reliably captured rainfall in the city for more than 15 years, the Sierra Madre total was 6.75" compared to 2.8" reported in downtown Los Angeles.



Fortunately, at press time there were no reported injuries or deaths.

Rivers of mud flowed down hillsides and streets. On Thursday, the city issued mandatory evacuation orders for



residents in multiple hillside zones. Public safety staff went door to door encouraging residents to leave in advance of the mud reaching their homes, however many chose to remain 'hunkered down' until the emergency was over and were asked to sign statements acknowledging their voluntary choice to remain in their homes. Here is a list of full street closures at press time:

Full Street Closures:

- Churchill Rd.
- Skyland Drive
- Orange Drive
- Idlehour Lane
- Sturtevant Drive

Prior to the storm, Sierra Madre Public Works prepared in advance for the anticipated rainfall by, among other things placing K Rails strategically to minimize the impact of the mud on homes and structures.

SMPolice, SM Fire and several other agencies assisted in keeping the public out of danger.

Story S. Henderson/MVNews
Photos L. Aguilar



A COMMUNITY UNITED:

In the wake of the devastating Eaton Fire, our hearts go out to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. This week has brought unimaginable challenges, but together, we will move forward.

Now is the time to come together and support one another as we learn about the larger changes this event has wrought in our community.

Our Sincerest Gratitude to the first responders who ran towards the flames as we fled and to the brave citizens who selflessly helped their neighbors.

Our Heartfelt sympathy goes out to all affected. Let us know how we can help you!

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

ATTENTION MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS HOME DELIVERY SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR RESIDENCE:

Please contact our office via either telephone, email or text and let us know where you are. We will be happy to resume your subscription at your new location. editor@mtviewsnews.com 626-355-2737

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SYLMAR \$249,000
Sylmar 3BR/2BA manufactured home with 2-car garage, patio, community pool, playground, gazebos, and athletic courts. Spacious living!



GLASSEL PARK \$750,000
Charming 2-bed 1-bath Glassel Park home with fireplace, ADU potential, spacious yard, fruit trees, and great location! Needs TLC, but worth it!



WEST COVINA \$850,000
Charming 3-bedroom West Covina home with pool, family room, and den. Quiet street near shopping, dining, and freeways!

SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA


PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

ONE BOOK ONE CITY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY!

CHECK OUT MORE THAN BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH FOR ONE BOOK ONE CITY!



MONDAY 3	8 PM: WRITING CONTEST Online submissions due today for a publication opportunity!	SATURDAY 15	11 AM: CRAFT-IT - FELTING Craft-It is back for this month only at the Library!
SATURDAY 2	ORIGAMI CAT All month long, enjoy learning how to make an origami cat!	THURSDAY 20	11 AM: THURSDAY BOOK CLUB Join in a discussion about this year's One Book One City pick!
SATURDAY 8	6:30 PM: SIP & SHUSH Silent Book Club at RT Rogers Brewing Co.	MONDAY 24	7 PM: OFF THE PAGE A reading of "The World's Strongest Librarian" at the SM Playhouse.
MONDAY 10	10 AM: PRESCHOOL STORYTIME OBOC themed Storytime with an in-person wet felting craft.	WEDNESDAY 26	4 PM: GREEN TEENS Teens, learn how to make sushi candles at the Hart Park House!
WEDNESDAY 12	4 PM: GREEN TEENS Teens, learn how to felt at the Hart Park House!	WEDNESDAY 26	7 PM: SIP & SHUSH Silent Book Club at RT Rogers Brewing Co.
FRIDAY 28	7 PM: BOOK READING Community published book reading & signing!		

Special thanks to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library and to the One Book One City Committee Members: Catherine Adde, Rich Procter, Jane Zamanzadeh, Julie Imahara, Marta Capoccia, Leigh Gluck, and Leila Regan.

HONORS DINNER AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

The City of Sierra Madre and The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the selection of the 2024 Honors Awards based on nominations received.

- Citizen of the Year:** Barb Bevington, Sierra Madre Rose Float Assoc.
- Business of the Year:** Vic Satamian, Corfu Restaurant
- 2024 Mayor's Award:** Analyst James Carlson
- George Maurer Lifetime Achievement Award:** Former Mayor Clem Bartolai
- Wistaria Award:** Russ Meek
Fred Thomas
- Public Safety Award:** Bear Lovers of Sierra Madre
- Youth Service Award:** Sierra Madre Girls 14U Softball B Division Western National Champions
- Employees of the Year:** Dony King
Markus Duson

The awards will be presented at the Honors Dinner on Tuesday, March 18, 2025:



"Volunteers are the lifeblood of our city. The diversity of this year's nominees shows the depth and breadth of the contributions to our community. Their efforts make Sierra Madre a great place to live, work, and play",
Mayor Robert Parkhurst.


Pictured above l to r, Chris Cimino, President SM Chamber, Barb Bevington and SMCC Board Member Lesslie Ziff

CREATIVE ARTS GROUP FACULTY SHOW




An exhibit of original artwork created by our talented instructors.

On view through March 1



The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society
presents
Author Layne Stalal
discussing her book
Pioneer Picnics: Settlers of the East San Gabriel Valley
Monday, March 3, 6pm
Hart Part House Senior Center



What began as a series of articles about her personal family history became a larger story of the settling of Henry Dalton's Ranchos Azusa and San José. In the mid-1800s, these California homesteaders built homes, schools, churches, and the local towns of the San Gabriel Valley. In her story, the author elaborates on this transition from vast Mexican land grants to small independent communities. Please join us as Ms. Stalal shares this amazing and historical journey.

A picnic-style ice cream social will be provided as refreshments!

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SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

The City has issued parking restrictions in the canyon area. Parking will be prohibited in canyon residential areas.. Additionally, overnight parking restrictions will be waived until Monday, February 17, 2025, at 2:00 AM due to the incoming storm. Athens will not collect trash in the canyon residential areas on Thursday. In a Nixle alert, residents have been advised not to place bins out for collection, as they may be carried away by mud and debris.

	Calls for Service	Formal Investigations
February 2 to February 8 2025	227	8
Total Year to Date for 2025	1,554	66

Sunday, February 2 Vandalism
At approximately 10:30 AM, officers responded to the 500 block of Woodland Drive regarding a vandalism report. Based on the officer's investigation, it appeared unknown suspect(s) vandalized the victim's vehicle. The suspect(s) smeared feces on the window of the vehicle, broke the mirrors, broke a windshield wiper, and ripped off the temporary license plate frames. There was nothing taken from the vehicle. Officers took a report and canvassed the area for witnesses and cameras. This case has been forwarded to the Detective's Bureau for further investigation.

Sunday, February 2 DUI/ Alcohol
At approximately 11:00 PM while on patrol near the intersection of Baldwin Ave and Lowell Ave, officers observed a vehicle that failed to stop at two different stop signs. Officers stopped the vehicle for a moving traffic violation. The driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence and was transported to Pasadena Jail. This case has been forwarded to the LA County District Attorney's office for filing considerations.

Thursday, February 6 DUI/ Alcohol
At approximately 12:30 PM, officers responded to the police station lobby to meet with a citizen regarding a theft report. The victim was scammed via email to purchase gift cards. The victim still had possession of the gift cards and was able to get her money back. Officers took a report. This case has been forwarded to the Detective's Bureau for further investigation.

SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

Weather Wise



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Ptly Cldy	Hi	70s	Lows 40s
Mon	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Tues	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Wed	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 50s
Thur	Rain	Hi	60s	Lows 50s
Fri	Rain	Hi	60s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 25, 2025 5:30pm

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transparency efforts and The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. Public comment may also be made by e-mail to PublicComment@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 Foot-hills Media website at foothillsmmedia.org/sierramadre and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum)..

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

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



Sierra Madre Public LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the Sierra Madre Public Library

February 17 — February 22

Monday

Library Closed for Holiday — No Services

Wednesday

Tails & Tales— Library from 3:30pm— 4:30pm

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

Thursday

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

Saturday

Digital Services— In-person from 10:00am—11:00am

Town Hall— City Council Chambers at 11:00am

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

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"Self-care is giving the world the best of you, instead of what's left of you." Katie Reed

"Talk to yourself like you would to someone you love." Brene Brown

"Self-care means giving yourself permission to pause." Cecilia Tran

I had to go to the doctor a week or so ago. Nothing serious, turns out the reason my hip was killing me with every step I took and no sitting position was comfortable was because the poor thing has bursitis.

"Trochanteric bursitis is inflammation (swelling) of the bursa (fluid-filled sac near a joint) at the outside (lateral) point of the hip known as the greater trochanter. When this bursa becomes irritated or inflamed, it causes pain in the hip. This is a common cause of hip pain."

No kidding! I see there are over 200,000 cases of this per year...Symptoms include pain on the outside of the hip that's worse with activities such as standing, walking, or running and I can add sitting or lying down. Treatments include ice, anti-inflammatory medications, steroid injections, and physical therapy.

My doctor prescribed an anti-inflammatory called Meloxicam and I think my hip is getting better. Not better enough yet, but better. A few days after my office visit, I got an email from the medical center inviting me to fill out a survey about how happy/unhappy I was with my visit and the way everyone there treated me...excellent all the way around... and a nice essay about self-care by a Dr. Yazhini Srivathsal. He starts right off by talking about Valentine's Day and how we select this day to appreciate and recognize the people in our lives we love, he goes on to say it's equally, if not more important, to focus on self-love as love of ourselves is what allows us to empathize and really connect with others on a deeper level, i.e., an empty tank will take you exactly nowhere. Take time to refuel.

This is hard to do. We feel guilty if we're not always occupied doing something productive, useful, or for somebody else. The very idea of sitting down somewhere pleasant, reading and having a cup of tea makes us feel guilty. You know, that old Puritan work ethic.

Here are a few of the points that Dr. Srivathsal listed:

Know you are worthy – no matter what! Our worthiness does not depend on anything we do or don't do. It doesn't have anything to do with how we look. We deserve to treat ourselves with respect, compassion and genuinely love ourselves for who we are in this moment, flaws and all. Kind of like the way God views us: with love, flaws and all!

Treat yourself like you would treat your best friend – If our best friend is upset or feeling just plain crummy, we don't go out of our way to make them feel worse, do we? I hope not! So we need to treat ourselves with love and compassion...especially in one of those moments when things didn't go as planned.

Don't compare yourself to anyone else – That's hard. We want to have this person's body, that person's hair, this per-

A note from the Editor: Our beloved columnist and friend took a bad fall last week, but she will be back as soon as she is able to Walk Sierra Madre Again. In the meantime her timely messagee from February 22, 2020 is reprinted below.

son's ability to play the piano, that person's singing voice, and on and on. We are who we are and that's a lot to be grateful for.

Try to live intentionally every day – Little steps that will help us get where we want to be...you saw this coming, right? Eat good food that will help your body. More veggies, less cheesecake. More fresh fruit, and put down those Girl Scout cookies that are everywhere currently. If you got a huge heart box full of chocolate caramels, just eat a couple, not the whole box. It's probably too late for that, but if somebody gives you a huge box of candy any time soon, give it to somebody else! Do things that make you happy like walking and looking at everybody's flowers. Notice all the tiny green leaves that are beginning to appear signaling the coming of Spring!

Be your own cheerleader – There's nothing like the feeling of accomplishing something new, maybe something you never thought you could do. My friend, Marilyn Williams, started taking piano lessons when she was well into her 50's and it has given her more pleasure and enjoyment as she practices and improves than she ever imagined. She's always wanted to play the piano, and now she does. I've started doing jigsaw puzzles. These are somewhat addictive as you sit down for a minute and discover two hours have evaporated while you fit a piece here and a piece there.

Make sure you have at least a few minutes of "me time" every day – Another tough one for us guilt embracers. This can be part of that walk you're taking. Thanking the Creator for the beauty of His creation is a nice way to spend some of that "me time."

Surround yourself with people who support you and lift you up – Learn about the grace of saying, "No." There are people in all our lives who are negative, needy, whiny, and who we wish we could avoid. So let's avoid them! We can't fix everybody and some people just need to be in someone else's life. So let's let them be with someone else. Also, just because someone tells us we'd be perfect for this committee or job doesn't mean we have to say yes.

Love yourself as you are right now – Not when you've lost ten pounds, learned to speak French, gotten a promotion or bought a Lexus. Loving ourselves as we are this minute, even if the dishes are still in the sink, the laundry isn't done, the lawn isn't mowed and there's nothing for dinner, means we are still splendid people, worthy of love.

Dr. Srivathsal winds up by saying that self-love and self-care are important parts of being a happy and healthy individual. I loved this whole idea of self-care and wanted to pass it along to you, dear friends and neighbors. Hence, in the interest of self-care, I saw these chairs at Target on sale for \$17.60 each and brought them home thinking how nice it would be to sit in the sun in the late afternoon when it's warm, the sun's not so hot, and enjoy a glass of an adult beverage. I've managed to do this very thing three times and enjoyed it immensely, in spite of the weeds that need to be pulled and the dishes that are sitting in my sink.

Do something loving for yourself this week. It will be good for your health. Honest! Trust me.

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date on Monday, February 24 from 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm for this FREE One Book One City event - a staged reading of *The World's Strongest Librarian* in collaboration with Sierra Madre Play-house's OFF the PAGE. It's a play about the power of books, muscles, and human kindness.

Call the Library at (626) 355-7186 for more information.

One Book One City is a community program that invites everyone in to read, discover and connect over the same book in February through book d... It's a play about the power of books, muscles, and human kindness.

Call the Library at (626) 355-7186 for more information. One Book One City is a community program that invites everyone in to read, discover and connect over the same book in February through book discussions, programming, and special events.

OBOC 2025 Selection:

What You Are Looking For by Michiko Aoyama and is available at the Library

THE KENSINGTON HAIR STUDIO OPENS



Despite the rain, the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce and the Kensington held a ribbon cutting for the facility's latest edition, *The Kensington Hair Studio*. Shown above are La-La Mann, Owner & Stylist in the forefront, and left to right, SMCC Board Member Rachelle Arizmendi, SMCC President Chris Cimino, Mayor Robert Parkhurst and Councilmember Ed Garcia.



SIERRA MADRE'S DOG "LENDING LIBRARY" - TAKE A STICK LEAVE A STICK is back and ready for business! Originally designed, built, and installed by Bob Spears, it was destroyed because of the winds on 1/7th. It is now back in its original location on Grandview Avenue adjacent to the Sierra Madre Elementary School Field, courtesy of Jim Walsworth. This is another sign that Sierra Madre is springing forward stronger.

ONE BOOK ONE CITY OFF THE PAGE

From the book by Ash Manganam

THE WORLD'S STRONGEST LIBRARIAN

Drama/Comedy

Adapted by Self-Gottsfeld and Elizabeth Wong

SIERRA MADRE Playhouse

Sierra Madre Public LIBRARY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24
7:00 PM
SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE
87 W SIERRA MADRE BLVD



Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Presidents' Day Closures & Reminders



In observance of Washington's Birthday, City Hall and many City services will be closed Monday, Feb. 17. Specific closures, exceptions and reminders are noted below. The City Service Center (CSC) will be closed on Monday and will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 8 a.m. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will occur as scheduled. There will be no delay in pickup for residents.

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

The City's Municipal Services Payment Center and Parking Office will also be closed on Washington's Birthday. All parking meters will be free and parking time limits will not be enforced. Violations for overnight parking restrictions, red curb parking and blocking fire hydrants will be issued. Parking meter enforcement resumes after the holiday. Pasadena Transit and Dial-A-Ride buses will operate on their regular schedules.

The Housing Department will also be closed on Monday.

The Permit Center will be closed on Washington's Birthday; however, many services will be available via Permit Center Online, where you can obtain subtrade permits and submit plans for new construction, tenant improvements, accessory dwelling units and additions. In-person operations will resume Tuesday.

All Pasadena Public Library branches will be closed Sunday and Monday and will reopen Tuesday.

All parks will be open for picnics, fun and play; however, no site reservations are being accepted for the holiday. Community and recreation centers will be closed to the public on Monday.

The Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) will also be closed Monday. Upcoming vaccine clinics are scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 19 and Monday, Feb. 24. PPHD reminds you to take measures to protect yourself from respiratory viruses, including masking indoors, getting vaccinated, and staying home when sick.

City Council will not meet on Monday, Feb. 17. The next council meeting is scheduled to take place Monday, Feb. 24.

Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to provide patrol, jail, fire, paramedic and other emergency services. For life-threatening emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, call (626) 744-4241. If you "See Something, Say Something." Report suspicious activity at (626) 744-4241.



Group Saves Iconic Batchelder Fireplaces

By Dean Lee

In an effort to save hundreds of historic Batchelder tile fireplaces still standing in the ashes of homes destroyed in last month's Eaton Fire, a South Pasadena Masonry business owner and a local Altadena resident have teamed up removing valuable tiles, racing the clock, as L.A. County's debris removal program begins.

"Two weekends ago we had over 80 volunteers come out and we sent them on a scouting mission, said lead volunteer Stanley Zucker. "We broke Altadena into nine zones, based on the fire evacuation maps. We had them walking up and down the streets with phones and take pictures of the fireplaces from the street. We identified 200 Batchelder fireplaces.

Zucker said there were now in the process of finding the owners of the orphaned fireplaces. About 70 homeowners have reached out to them on social media, "so we know they want us to do it. We need to pull those as quickly as we can before they are looted or plowed over."

Cliff Douglas owner of Douglas Masonry said of those they have 27 fireplaces signed off on and ready to go, some of them are his clients. Both Douglas and Zucker said they are willing to do the work for free.

"It's a real art to take it [tiles] off, you have to know what you are doing," Douglas said. "All the tiles have been "re-fired," literally hotter than they were when first made. Anything with glaze on them are going to crack if your not careful."

Zucker said the tiles are historically significant.

"Ernest Batchelder was a

renowned tile artist 100 years ago, his studio was in Pasadena along the Arroyo," Zucker explained. "Batchelder did these beautiful tiles fireplaces that became famous across the country. A large part of this work was in Pasadena and Altadena. There was another company that came along, Claycroft and did knockoffs that are now more valuable than the Batchelder's because there are far fewer of them remaining. And then there is also Catalina tile."

Zucker also said they spoke with the Army Corps of Engineers and there are two phases of debris removal.

The Environmental Protection Agency first handles the removal of hazardous materials such as asbestos, EV batteries, solvents, etc. This is automatic and ongoing for all. The second is dealt with by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and involves removing chimneys, hazardous trees, fire ash, and debris, up to six inches of soil, and any hazardous material not removed by the EPA during phase one. The Army Corps uses contractors to do the work, and owners must opt-in to participate.

Although dangerous if owners want to remove the fireplace and leave the rest of the debris, they won't be disqualified from the program officials said.

The Pasadena Museum of History started a Batchelder Registry about five years ago. They are asking any homeowners that do save their fireplace to contact and register it with the Museum.

The museum can be reached at (626) 577-1660 or at pasadenahistory.org.

To contact Douglas and Zucker

call Pasadena Heritage at (626) 441-6333.

Photo by Stanley Zucker

Mayor Gordo to give State of the City

City officials announced that Mayor Victor Gordo is set to give the State of the City Wednesday night at Pasadena Elks Lodge, 400 W. Colorado Blvd.

This year's theme is "Pasadena: A Resilient Community."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Free on-site parking will be available.

The State of the City will also be live-streamed at PasadenaMedia.org/Kpas

For accessibility information and requests, contact (626) 744-7311 or CSC@cityofpasadena.net. Providing at least 72 hours advance notice will help ensure availability.

African-American Ballet Icon to Share Story

Los Angeles City Ballet company Founder and Artistic Director Robyn Gardenhire, a leader in the African-American and Los Angeles ballet and dance world, will share her inspiring story a special Black History month Cultural Thursday event on February 27 at 2 p.m. onsite at the Pasadena Senior Center.

The event is free for Pasadena Senior Center members, and \$5 for non-members and reservations are suggested.

Gardenhire began her ballet and dance journey as a young girl growing up in Lynwood, CA. Her mother, who dreamed of becoming a dancer herself, enrolled Robyn in local ballet lessons at the age of three at a predominately African-American ballet school in Compton. Soon, Robyn displayed her talents and trained with top ballet instructors before being offered a position in the Joffrey II company at the age of 16.

Now, with the Los Angeles City Ballet that she founded in 2000, Gardenhire focuses on enabling students of color and those who are economically disadvantaged to access a ballet education.

To register or for more information, visit www.pasadenaseniocenter.org and click on Special Events, or call 626-795-4331.

PCC Gets \$1 million from Ballmer Group for Fire Relief



Pasadena City College announced Thursday that they have received a \$1 million grant from the Ballmer Group to support critical relief for students, faculty, staff, and community members recovering from the devastation of the recent wildfires.

"The PCC community is extremely grateful to Steve and Connie Ballmer and the entire team at Ballmer Group," said José Gómez, superintendent/president of Pasadena City College. "With this gift we will continue to support those whose lives have been upended by this disaster."

Hundreds of PCC students and employees resided in burn areas, which were hardest hit by the wildfires. Many lost homes, apartments, cars — all of their possessions. Recovery will require time and commitment, Gómez said.

"This gift from the Ballmer Group embodies the compassion, kindness, and generosity that our community needs as it begins the long road to recovery," Gómez said.

The grant from the Ballmer Group is the largest single gift to the PCC Community Relief Fund, said Frank Cardenas, executive director of the Pasadena City College Foundation.

Through the fund, other campus resources, and partnerships, PCC provides a range of support for those facing the greatest need, including monetary assistance.

"The PCC Foundation stands with everyone at Pasadena City College as we rise in service to the community that sustains us," said Hoyt Hilsman, president of the PCC Foundation Board of Directors. "On behalf of the leadership of the PCC Foundation, I thank the Ballmer Group for their incredible partnership and support."

The Ballmer Group moved swiftly to begin providing assistance to organizations helping victims of the wildfires. On January 15,

the group announced it had dedicated \$15 million to address "immediate food and shelter needs in the community and supporting first responders."

"We understand that there will be a long road to recovery for the L.A. region and remain committed to supporting the community," the Ballmer Group said in a press release. The organization is headed by Steve Ballmer, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers and the former CEO of Microsoft.

The deadly Eaton Fire raged through parts of Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre. The fire burned more than 14,000 acres, destroyed more than 9,400 structures, and killed 17 people.

"The support from our community has been a bright spot in a very difficult time," said Alton Wang, president of the PCC Board of Trustees. "We are grateful to the Ballmer Group for standing with our community as it begins the healing process."

Throughout the wildfire disaster, PCC has also served as a community-wide resource for victims of the wildfires. The college has served free meals to school children and their families, transformed a parking lot into a donation distribution center providing essential supplies, and served as a gathering space for displaced teachers.

PCC's Foothill campus housed a Disaster Recovery Center where community members met with Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives and other federal, state, and local agencies. The campus also hosted the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Outreach Center.

"Our community needs us now more than ever. We are a part of the community and we are part of the solution," Gómez said. "This support from the Ballmer Group will help sustain our students, faculty, and staff and the spirit of this place that we all love."

County Seeks Rental Units for Families Displaced by Eaton Fire

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger announced Thursday that she is urgently calling on local property owners with available rental units to help house displaced families.

The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) is working alongside the American Red Cross to locate one- and two-bedroom rental units within a 10-mile radius of the Eaton Fire boundary. Properties in nearby communities such as Pasadena, Glendale, and Monrovia are especially needed.

"We have an immediate need to support wildfire survivors who have been displaced from their homes and want to remain close to their communities," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "Many of these families are struggling to rebuild their lives while ensuring stability for their children. I urge property owners with available units to partner with us and provide a lifeline for those in need."

Displaced renters will be



responsible for covering rental costs similar to any other private market tenant.

"Property owners are the key to helping the County's impacted residents start to rebuild their lives," said Emilio Salas, LACDA Executive Director. "The LACDA is prepared to hear from property owners to connect them with the American Red Cross, so that together, we can serve as a bridge in this critical step for families to move forward."

Property owners with an available unit are asked to contact the LACDA at (626) 586-1570, (626) 586-1565 or via email at Owner.Services@lacda.org. LACDA staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN HARABEDIAN INTRODUCES THE INSURANCE PAYMENT PROTECTION ACT TO PROTECT POLICY-HOLDERS FROM UNFAIR FEES AND PRICE GOUGING

(SACRAMENTO, CA) - Assemblymember John Harabedian (D-Pasadena) introduced AB 597 to protect policyholders from unfair fees and price gouging by public adjusters after major disasters.

"Public adjusters should help wildfire survivors rebuild, not wreck their recovery. Some public adjusters will charge excessive fees or take a portion of homeowners' insurance payouts through unfair practices. I'm proud to partner with Commissioner Lara on AB 597 to ensure wildfire survivors get every dollar they deserve to rebuild their lives," said Assemblymember John Harabedian (D-Pasadena).

"As disasters become more frequent and severe, my responsibility is to assist wildfire survivors in their recovery. This proposal is designed to safeguard them from unfair charges and exploitation, ensuring that consumers keep as much of their insurance claims as possible to support their recovery and rebuilding efforts. I am proud to collaborate with Assemblymember Harabedian on this vital consumer protection bill," said Commissioner Lara, sponsor of the legislation.

In short, this bill will do the following:

- AB 597 - The Insurance Payment Protection Act: prevents unfair fees and price gouging by adjusters, particularly after major disasters, and applies to residential properties and certain commercial properties. Inspired by the need to safeguard policyholders during vulnerable times, this bill also allows policyholders to cancel contracts if the public adjuster violates the law or solicits business during prohibited periods. Additionally, public adjuster contracts must clearly outline the services being provided, including the specific claims or coverages they will handle. By ensuring transparency and fairness, AB 597 strengthens consumer protections and protects wildfire victims.

This bill is sponsored by the California Department of Insurance. The bill will be heard in Assembly policy committees during the spring.

#####

Assemblymember John Harabedian represents the 41st District composed of the cities of La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Bradbury, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Oak Hills, Piñon Hills and Phelan.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY NEWS BRIEFS

MONROVIA

Notice of Temporary Traffic Lane Closure on East Huntington Drive Between South California and Shamrock Avenue

We are thrilled to share that the Route 66 Huntington Drive Pedestrian Bridge Public Art Project is nearing completion! To facilitate the final phase of this project, the City will implement single-lane closures on East Huntington Drive between South California and Shamrock Avenues. Please note that only one traffic lane will be affected in each direction at any given time.

The lane closures will take place from through Friday, February 21, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to check out the stunning artwork coming to life on the Huntington Drive pedestrian bridge—it's truly impressive! We appreciate your understanding and patience during this period. For additional information about the project, please contact Kerri Zessau at kzessau@monroviaca.gov or 626-932-5564.

ALTADENA

Sisterhood in Action: "Lunch with Love" to Support Women Affected by Altadena Fires

Pasadena, CA – In the spirit of compassion and unity, a sisterhood of dedicated women is coming together to support those impacted by the devastating Altadena fires. Committed to service and love, this group is hosting a special event, "Lunch with Love," aimed at uplifting women who have lost their homes and providing a space of comfort and hope. The luncheon is more than just a meal—it is a heartfelt gesture of solidarity and encouragement, a reminder that no one faces hardship alone. Through this gathering, the sisterhood seeks to foster a sense of community and remind these women that they are seen, supported, and surrounded by care.

Event Details:

Date: Sunday, February 23, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM PT - 4:00 PM PT

Location: Alkebulan Cultural Center

Address: 1435 North Raymond Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103

"Lunch with Love" embodies the mission of this sisterhood: to stand together in times of need and extend hands and hearts to those facing adversity. By creating an environment filled with warmth and encouragement, they aim to inspire hope and healing for those affected by the fires.

The sisterhood invites the community to join them in this effort of compassion and solidarity. Together, they seek to make a meaningful impact and reaffirm their dedication to service and love.

For more information, please contact:

Laverne Gray Davis

Email: lavernegraysdavis@yahoo.com

DR. DENISE KWOK DEPUTY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR AT USC TO SPEAK AT USC TROJAN AFFILIATES PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON MARCH 6TH

Dr. Denise Kwok, Deputy Athletic Director for Internal Operations and Senior Woman Administrator at USC, will speak to the USC Trojan Affiliates on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at The Hill -Harbison House, (Girl Scout House), 1841 Alhambra Road, San Marino. The meeting will begin with hearty refreshments at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Denise Kwok was promoted to Deputy Athletic Director for Internal Operations and Senior Woman Administrator in October 2023, overseeing athletics admissions, academic advising and support, personal and career development, student services, department Title IX and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programming. Kwok is the primary point of administrative contact for USC Athletic Medicine (sport psychology, nutrition, athletic training) and Office of Athletics Compliance and serves as the sport administrator for beach volleyball. In the critical role of Senior Woman Administrator, Kwok represents the department on Conference matters.

Kwok's career includes more than twenty years of service at USC. Her previous roles include Interim Executive Administrator, Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development, Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Academic Services, Assistant Athletic Director and Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs at USC.

Kwok earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at USC Rossier School of Education in 2004. Originally from Tiburon, California, Kwok is married to Dr. Roy Fu and has two children, Madelyn and Tyler.

USC Trojan Affiliates, a women's organization located in the San Gabriel Valley, supports the University of Southern California and welcomes all interested women to attend its meetings and events. This meeting will focus on new member recruitment and all women parents, alumni, and friends of USC are encouraged to attend. The group meets five times a year at various homes and locations within the San Gabriel Valley and hosts additional social and cultural events while raising needed scholarship funds for USC students. It currently supports scholarship for six students who attended local San Gabriel Valley high schools.

USC Trojan Affiliates is in its ninth year of contributing money to its scholarship endowment fund of \$100,000, (now well over the initial funded amount) using these dollars to support its scholars. Money is also raised from selling unique USC products --- jewelry, scarves, clothing, tablecloths, towels, handmade signs, and more. Members also volunteer at the Pasadena Showcase House to earn funds and participate in the USC Women's Conference (March 7), USC Day of Service (March 22), Swim With Mike (April 5), USC Homecoming (Fall), Town and Gown of USC Holiday Boutique (Fall), and USC Trojan Affiliates Holiday Boutique (November), and programs to support the University and its students.

Past meetings have included the February 6th meeting featuring local author Lian Dolan, who reviewed her book *The Marriage Sabbatical* and delighted the members with highlights from her past books, life issues, and humor. Her next book *Abigail and Alexa Save the Wedding* will be available May 20, 2025. The last meeting of the 2024-2025 program year will take place on Thursday, May 1st at Matt Denny's Restaurant in Arcadia. The guest speaker will be announced shortly.

Trojan Affiliates President Ayuko Siegel, of Glendale, and the Board of Directors, look forward to welcoming prospective members to this Prospective Membership Meeting. For information and reservations please contact Trojan Affiliates Membership Chairman Kandi Wopschall by March 3rd at wopschall@earthlink.net or (818) 790-1970.

REPORT EATON FIRE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE

- Report structural damage from the Eaton Fire.
- Email DAMAGEREPORT@SIERRAMADRECA.GOV
 - A description of the damage
 - address/location of the damage
 - Photos of damage

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HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH FEMA AFTER A DISASTER

FEMA works with private sector vendors to help fulfill the response and re-recovery needs for disasters like the recent Los Angeles County Wildfires. The Doing Business with FEMA webpage outlines the steps that companies and small businesses looking to compete for federal contracts should take. During response and recovery, FEMA's goal is to contract with local businesses in the affected area whenever practical and feasible. FEMA will only engage with companies through the federal procurement process. Business solicitations sent to individual members of the FEMA workforce will not be processed. The FEMA website outlines how companies can see and respond to the agency's solicitations. The key steps to beginning the process are:

Consult your local procurement center: We recommend you consider consulting with these Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

Register with SAM.gov: This is the System for Award Management. Entity registrations are free, and registration is required to do business with the federal government.

Understand the FEMA mission: FEMA's mission, as authorized by the Robert T.

Stafford Act, is to help people before, during and after disasters.

Monitor contracting sites for opportunities: Contracting sites are listed on FEMA's webpage

Debris removal is often contracted locally after a disaster. If your company provides debris removal services, you can sign up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contractor Registry. You can also register your business information (including capabilities and locations served). Additional information can be found on our Frequently Asked Questions webpage.

For the latest information about California's recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4856. Follow FEMA Region 9 @FEMARegion9 on X or follow FEMA on social media at: FEMA Blog on fema.gov, @FEMA or @FEMAEspanol on X, FEMA or FEMA Espanol on Facebook, @FEMA on Instagram, and via FEMA YouTube channel.

California is committed to supporting residents impacted by the Los Angeles Hurricane-Force Firestorm as they navigate the recovery process. Visit CA.gov/LAFires for up-to-date information on disaster recovery programs, important deadlines, and how to apply for assistance.

SBA RELIEF STILL AVAILABLE TO CALIFORNIA PRIVATE NONPROFITS AFFECTED BY JANUARY WILDFIRES

Deadline to Apply for Business Physical Damage Loans Approaching

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) encourages private non-profit (PNP) organizations in California that sustained property damage caused by wildfires and straight-line winds that began Jan. 7, to apply for an SBA disaster loan before the March 17, 2025, deadline.

The disaster declaration covers Los Angeles County.

Under the declaration, PNPs that provide non-critical services of a governmental nature are eligible to apply. Examples of eligible non-critical PNP organizations include, but are not limited to, food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, community centers, schools, and colleges. PNP organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. Interest rates can be as low as 3.625%, with terms up to 30 years.

Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amount terms based on each applicant's financial condition. Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase of up to 20% of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements might include insulating pipes, walls and attics, weather stripping doors and windows, and installing storm

windows to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by any disaster. The SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the PNP suffered any physical property damage.

The SBA encourages applicants to submit their loan applications promptly. Applications will be prioritized in the order they are received, and the SBA remains committed to processing them as efficiently as possible.

To apply online, visit SBA.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The deadline to return applications for physical property damage is March 17. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Oct. 15

FEMA Rental Assistance is available for those affected by the Los Angeles County Wildfires; new applications will be accepted until March 10. Rental Assistance may pay up to two months rent, with incremental three-month extensions. Visit a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Los Angeles County open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., call 1 800-621-3362 or visit DisasterAssistance.gov to apply today.

USPS UPDATE ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS

as of February 7, 2025

The wildfires burning in Southern California are a catastrophic disaster, disrupting services and operations for many organizations – including the Postal Service's ability to deliver mail and packages – across the Los Angeles region. During this time, the Postal Service's primary focus is to maintain the safety and security of our employees, while ensuring that customers affected by the 'California Wildfires' receive their mail and packages as swiftly as possible.

The Postal Service operations team continues to work around the clock to restore operations wherever safe to do so. USPS is committed to delivering mail safely and where allowable, constantly adjusting our operations for a swift restoration of services in impacted areas. The full recovery of service to the impacted areas may stretch forward for some time.

Effective February 10, 2025, customer pick up hours for packages and letters have been adjusted at the Pasadena and the Rancho Park Post Offices.

Customers interested in submitting an Official Mail Forwarding Change of Address Order to re-route their mail, including packages and letters, may complete the process online at <https://movers-guide.usps.com/> or by filling out a PS Form 3575, Change of Address, available at any post office.

Facility
Mail Pickup Location
Altadena Post Office
2271 Lake Avenue
Altadena, CA 91001 - 9998

Pasadena Post Office
600 Lincoln Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109-9998
Mon – Fri: 9 am – 6 pm
Sat: 9 am – 3 pm

Altadena Customer Pickup Hours:
Mon - Fri: 10 am – 5 pm
Sat: 10 am – 3 pm

COUNTY DEBRIS REMOVAL HOTLINE



(844) FIRE DEBRIS
(844) 347-3332

- For general questions about fire debris removal.
- Available Monday through Friday: 7 AM to 7 PM
- Saturday and Sunday from 8 AM to 6 PM.
- Visit pw.lacounty.gov/epd/debris-removal/ for more information.



CA WILDFIRE RELIEF GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

REALTORS® are dedicated to their communities and the importance of homeownership. Apply now for a REALTOR® Relief Foundation grant (up to \$1,000/household) to support rebuilding and recovery from the recent Southern California wildfires.

Who Can Apply?

This program is available to full-time residents who are U.S. citizens or legally admitted for residence in the United States and have experienced displacement or damage to their primary residence due to the recent wildfires. Eligible households can receive up to \$1,000 in housing-related financial assistance.

What Does the Grant Cover?

Eligible applicants may receive assistance for one of the following housing-related expenses:

- **Mortgage Payment Assistance** – If your primary residence was damaged by the disaster.
- **Rental Assistance** – If you are displaced from your primary residence due to the disaster.
- **Hotel Reimbursement** – If you incurred temporary lodging costs due to displacement from your primary residence.

Please Note: This grant does not cover expenses such as second mortgages (home equity loans), clothing, appliances, equipment, vehicle costs, or other non-housing-related expenses.

How to Apply:

- Complete the application online at car.org/difference/realtorscare
- Submit required documentation to verify wildfire-related displacement or damage.
- Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are allocated.
- **Deadline to apply: April 30, 2025**
- For application inquiries, email: communitygrant@car.org



If you or someone you know has been impacted, don't wait—apply today at car.org/difference/realtorscare.



Help Us Keep Sierra Madre Safe and Clean

Public Works crews have been tirelessly installing K-rails and removing debris to minimize the impacts of recent rains.

Keep Streets Clear
Please do not place yard debris in the street or gutter. Doing so blocks stormwater flow and increases the risk of flooding.

Wind Driven Yard Debris
Continue to place windstorm debris in your green yard waste bins weekly until fully cleared by Athens.

Additional Bins Available
For larger loads of green waste, Public Works and Athens Services have provided additional green waste bins at the City Yard.

Street Sweeping Resumes
Athens will resume street sweeping to further remove debris and "and protect our watersheds" from run-off from streets.



US Army Corps of Engineers®

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT DEBRIS ?

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has established a Debris Call Center to help answer questions regarding Private Property Debris Removal.

Debris Call Center Hours of operation

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6:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday
6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday
6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



877-214-9117

\$100,000 Raised For Arcadia Unified Wildfire Victims

The Long Road to Recovery Made Smoother by United Community

ARCADIA- Described by many as a war zone, the Eaton Fire was one of the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in the history of California. In addition to torching more than 14,000 acres in and around the foothills of Altadena, the fire completely destroyed more than 9,000 structures, mostly residential homes, and killed 17 people. A lifetime of sacrificing, saving, and dedicating everything to finally acquire the American dream, and in an instant, it was a nightmare for thousands of people.

“I always knew people were good, but I never knew how good and how many,” said Karina Herrera, a School Psychologist/Behavior Analyst for Arcadia Unified.

Herrera was just one of nearly 30 Arcadia Unified staff, students, and families who were among the thousands of victims who lost everything. She described the long road to recovery as another full-time job— and then some.

“You’re up first thing in the morning on the phone making calls, talking with your insurance, trying to find housing. There’s so much to do and you’re still on the phone at 10 p.m. You do that same routine day after day, while still trying to keep up with your actual full-time job,” Herrera explained.

While the flames were still burning and the lingering smoke still a constant reminder of the devastation, humanity started to shine a light. GoFundMe pages were created, and donation drives were in full swing. Many at home, watching the heartbreak unfold on their televisions, wondered how they could help. The Downtown Arcadia Improvement Association teamed up with the Arcadia Educational Foundation to promptly raise funds for all the staff and families in Arcadia Unified who lost their homes. The culminating event was the Downtown Arcadia Lunar New Year Festival on Sunday, February 2, in which a check for \$100,000 was presented to Arcadia Unified Superintendent Dr. David Vannas dall.

“The word grateful feels inadequate to describe how we feel. You’ve shown so many, including my son, that even in the darkest times, we are surrounded by a community that cares deeply and acts with extraordinary kindness. Your actions have turned our loss into a powerful lesson about the strength of community and the impact of empathy. This is the very essence of what makes Arcadia so special,” said Dr. Kelsey Brown, the Principal of Baldwin Stocker Elementary School.



Dr. Brown and her son Calder, a fifth-grade student at Longley Way Elementary School, have been sharing a small room at her sister’s home after their house was a total loss in the fire.

“From the clothing that has kept us warm on these cold nights, to the thoughtful cards that lifted our spirits, to the everyday essentials that helped us keep our routines, and the generous financial donations that gave us hope – you wrapped your arms around us when we needed it most,” Dr. Brown shared in an email to friends and colleagues.

Only four other fires in California history have been more deadly than the Eaton Fire and the 17 lives lost. The Camp Fire in Butte County in November of 2018 remains atop the unenviable list with 85 casualties. Second to the Camp Fire, is the Griffith Park tragedy in October of 1933, also in Los Angeles County and just a dozen miles from Altadena, where only 47 acres burned, but 29 people died. All casualties were to firefighters working to extinguish the fire.

Complicating matters and consuming much-needed resources was the Palisades fire, less than 40 miles away, and also in Los Angeles County. The infamous Santa Ana winds fueled both infernos with gusts near 100 miles per hour throughout some locations in Southern California. The Palisades Fire burned nearly 24,000 acres, another 5,000 homes were destroyed in and around the Santa Monica Mountains, and eight people died. The Eaton and Palisades fires rank as the second and third most destructive wildfires in California history with an estimated economic loss of \$250 billion according to the Los Angeles Times.

It took a heroic effort by first responders and nearly a month before both fires were fully extinguished. It will now take years before both communities rebuild. In November of 2023, five years after the Camp Fire, only 21 percent of the homes lost in the town of Paradise had been rebuilt according to a report from KCRA Television.

While the road to recovery for the victims will be long, winding, and with inevitable bumps, knowing a community is along for the ride makes all the difference.

“Because of you we are beginning to heal and meet each new day, drawing deeper breaths, with a new resolve; a new focus, and a new level of resilience for this unexpected and long road forward,” Dr. Brown explained. The donation drive for Arcadia Unified staff and families is open until February 28. Once all the donations have been gathered, they will be distributed evenly among Arcadia Unified staff and families. You can donate directly through the Arcadia Educational Foundation’s website at www.aefk12.org.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

<p>Alverno Heights Academy 200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-3463 Head of School: Joanne Harabedian E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org</p> <p>Arcadia Christian School 1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006 Preschool - TK - 8th Grade 626-574-8229/626-574-0805 Email: inquiry@acslions.com Principal: Cindy Harmon website: www.acslions.com</p> <p>Arcadia High School 180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007 Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee bforsee@ausd.net</p> <p>Arroyo Pacific Academy 41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca, (626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org</p> <p>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal 2660 East Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, Ca 91107 626-793-2089 https://school.avmpasadena.org/</p> <p>Barnhart School 240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007 (626) 446-5588 Head of School: Tonya Beilstein Kindergarten - 8th grade website: www.barnhartschool.org</p> <p>Bethany Christian School 93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-3527 Preschool-TK-8th Grade Principal: Jonathon Hawes website: www.bcsllions.org</p> <p>Clairbourn School 8400 Huntington Drive San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172 FAX: 626-286-1528 E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org</p> <p>Foothill Oaks Academy 822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 (626) 301-9809 Principal: Nancy Lopez www.foothilloaksacademy.org office@foothilloaksacademy.org</p> <p>Frostig School 971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 791-1255 Head of School: Jenny Janetzke Email: jenny@frostig.org</p> <p>The Gooden School 192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-2410 Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner website: www.goodenschool.org</p>	<p>High Point Academy 1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107 Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989 website: www.highpointacademy.org</p> <p>La Salle College Preparatory 3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org Interim Principal Ernest Siy</p> <p>Monrovia High School 325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us</p> <p>Odyssey Charter School 725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001 (626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O’Neill website: www.odysseycharterschool.org</p> <p>Pasadena High School 2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba website: http://phs.pusd.us</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Sierra Madre Middle School 160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us</p> <p>Walden School 74 S San Gabriel Blvd Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166 www.waldenschool.net</p> <p>Weizmann Day School 1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 797-0204 Lisa Feldman: Head of School</p> <p>Wilson Middle School 300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us</p> <p>Pasadena Unified School District 351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109 (626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us</p> <p>Arcadia Unified School District 234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007 (626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net</p> <p>Monrovia Unified School District 325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016 (626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviaschools.net</p> <p>Duarte Unified School District 1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010 (626) 599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us</p>
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YMCA LA ANNOUNCES LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR ANGELENOS IMPACTED BY WILDFIRES

Resources to aid with recovery include free mental health services, childcare, academic support for students, and much more

In the wake of last month’s devastating wildfires, the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles today announced comprehensive, personalized support to help individuals and families rebuild and recover. The Y – which operates 28 centers across the L.A. region – is offering a range

of essential resources to help Angelenos through both the immediate aftermath and the long-term recovery process.

“The LA Y is here for the long haul,” said Victor Dominguez, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. “We welcome everyone who needs assistance. No one should feel alone, especially at a time like this.”

For anyone impacted by the fires, the following services are available:

- Well-Being Coordinators at each YMCA center to help navigate care, track progress, and plan for recovery.
 - Distribution centers with supplies, food and essential items.
 - Free mental health services including counseling and support networks.
 - Virtual learning and homework support for children and teens.
 - Case management for resource coordination and recovery planning.
 - Expanded Early Learning Readiness programming to support young learners.
 - Support networks, wraparound services, and referral assistance.
- Based on individual circumstances, residents may be eligible for the following additional services:
- Free or subsidized YMCA membership and access to all facilities and programs, including robotics, dance, sports, and more for the remainder of 2025
 - Free childcare options, including Before & After School, PLAY, Preschool, and expanded services for infants and toddlers at the Burbank YMCA.
 - Priority placement for children in youth programs.
 - Free summer day camp and sleepaway camp for children.

The Y will evaluate eligibility and support services on a case-by-case basis, depending on specific needs and address verification. Those seeking assistance can start the process today by contacting

PASADENA-SIERRA MADRE YMCA
626 355 5261
611 E Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre CA 91024

About the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles: The LA Y is the Center for Community Well-Being in Los Angeles, committed to building stronger communities by providing equitable programs and services to empower all. We are focused on fighting food insecurity, providing equity in education, making sure every child has the opportunity to experience the joy of sports, ensuring kids and teens have a safe place to grow, learn and live a healthy lifestyle. The LA Y’s health and wellness initiatives offer medical and mental health resources to ensure everyone has access to basic life needs. Our mission is to provide services and resources that contribute to the well-being of our community. Visit ymcaLA.org for more informatio

PUZZLES FOR YOU

THE OSCARS

ACROSS

1. 1/10
6. European tourist tax, acr.
9. "Germinal" author Émile
13. Bye, in Paris
14. Bigheadedness
15. Relating to wine, arch.
16. Tabletop mountains
17. H+, e.g.
18. Large key on the right
19. *"Boys"
21. *"Emilia Pérez" leading actress
23. H in HMS, sometimes
24. Kids' get-away
25. Like certain Four
28. Queen of Carthage
30. Razzed
35. Scary fairytale creature
37. Soft drink
39. Like certain egg order
40. Sir Mix-____
41. *Sean Baker's original screenplay
43. Loyal, arch.
44. Caldecott award
46. Ascus, pl.
47. AI's learning material
48. Harry _____, once of One Direction
50. Wearing footwear
52. *At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang "I'm Just _____"
53. Sushi restaurant libation
55. Unit of length of yarn
57. *This year's Academy Awards host
60. *Elphaba and Galinda story
63. Antique shop item
64. Metal-bearing rock
66. Mountain nymph
68. Southeast Asian org.
69. Lavatory, abbr.
70. *_____ Theatre
71. Whimper
72. Sodium hydroxide
73. Follow

DOWN

1. Scottish cap
2. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
3. Not yet final, at law
4. Mold a mind
5. Like ear of corn that is ready to cook
6. Bride's cover
7. Opposite of hence
8. Polynesian kingdom
9. Zn
10. "I'm _____ you!"
11. Property right
12. Acronym, abbr.
15. Evening worship
20. "All My Children" vixen
22. Invoice qty.
24. Colossus, pl.
25. Fizzes
26. End of a shoelace
27. *"The Brutalist" leading actor
29. Spanish lady
31. Old, in Scottish
32. Go stealthily
33. Related on mother's side
34. *Chalامت's role
36. Et alibi, abbr.
38. St. Louis' Gateway
42. Garlicky mayonnaise
45. Acne, technically
49. Famous frat house
51. Crack
54. Grassy mound
56. Ohio metropolis
57. Yorkshire river
58. Tea or beer
59. Iranian money
60. We have
61. Mature elvers
62. Dabu-____, chili pepper condiment
63. Operator's equip.
65. *Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic
67. Yellow #5, e.g.

CROSSWORD

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71						72					73			



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		9		5	1			

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- 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.

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Dining Decisions: Are We Overwhelmed or Living in a Foodie Paradise? Part 2

Now that Valentine's Day is in the rearview mirror, I've been thinking about a topic that came up on my radio show last Sunday night: Do we have too many choices when it comes to restaurants, wine, and even tequila?

On one hand, variety breeds competition, which keeps the culinary world vibrant and ever-evolving. On the other, walk into any modern-day restaurant district, and you might find yourself overwhelmed by options—steakhouses, sushi bars, taco joints, plant-based eateries, and fusion spots that serve everything from Korean BBQ tacos to pastrami egg rolls.

Take tequila, for instance. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that tequila prices are dropping due to an oversupply. The market is flooded with new brands, some backed by celebrities, others by master distillers with generations of experience. Is this a bad thing? Not according to my guest that night, author Michael Higgins, who argued that competition forces producers to step up their game, ensuring better quality and pricing for consumers. The same holds true for restaurants. Imagine if every eatery served only pizza or steak—where's the fun in that? Instead, we get to choose from a near-endless variety of cuisines and dining styles. Take Panda Inn, for example, a longtime favorite of mine that now features a sushi bar. Some might say that's an odd pivot for a Chinese restaurant, but guess what? The sushi is pretty darn good.

Even coffeehouses have expanded their offerings to cater to diverse tastes. Starbucks, for example, has made a name for itself not just with coffee but with drinks like its Chai Tea Latte, a smooth and flavorful alternative that some swear by. Yet, many argue that a mom-and-pop coffee shop can offer a more authentic version with a personal touch. Again, choice is everything.

Of course, there's a balance to be struck. Not every new concept succeeds. Entrepreneurs are constantly rolling the dice, hoping their vision resonates with diners. My friend Bruce Taylor, owner of Taylor's Steakhouse in La Cañada, once told me, "My steaks might not be the best, but they're pretty darn good at a reasonable price." And that's really the key—finding the right combination of quality and value that keeps customers coming back.

At the end of the day, the real decision lies with us, the consumers. Whether it's picking a bottle of wine (Tuesday is National Wine Day, by the way), deciding where to grab dinner, or debating whether we need another tequila brand on the market, choice is a privilege. So, are we overwhelmed by options? Maybe. But are we also living in a foodie paradise? Absolutely.

Listen in Sunday at 5 PM ON KRLA 870 AM for more delightful dishes Peter Dills

ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown

FINDING A MATE HERE ARE 11 WEB IDEAS



1. **Online Dating:** Use platforms like Tinder, OkCupid, Bumble, or Hinge, where you can meet people with similar goals and values. It's a quick way to cast a wide net.
2. **Social Events and Gatherings:** Attend parties, meetups, or networking events related to your hobbies. These settings are great for organically meeting people with similar interests.
3. **Classes or Workshops:** Taking a class in something you're passionate about (e.g., cooking, art, yoga, etc.) is a great way to meet people with shared hobbies.
4. **Friends and Family:** Let people in your inner circle know you're open to meeting someone. They may know someone who's a good match.
5. **Volunteering:** Choose a cause you care about and meet people who share your values and passions. Helping others can create a strong foundation for a connection.
6. **Work or School:** If appropriate, colleagues or classmates can become friends and possibly something more over time.
7. **Exercise and Fitness Groups:** Join a gym, take fitness classes, or participate in group sports like tennis, hiking, or cycling. It's a fun way to bond with someone who values health and wellness.
8. **Speed Dating:** If you're looking for something structured, speed dating offers a fast-paced way to meet potential partners in person.
9. **Interest-Based Communities or Clubs:** Join clubs or online communities around specific hobbies or interests (e.g., book clubs, gaming groups, hiking clubs). Finding someone with shared interests is a great foundation for a relationship.
10. **Traveling:** Traveling allows you to meet people from different walks of life. Whether it's a solo trip or group tour, meeting others who enjoy adventure can lead to meaningful connections.
11. **Use your Imagination & Believe That The Universe Will Support Your Intentions**

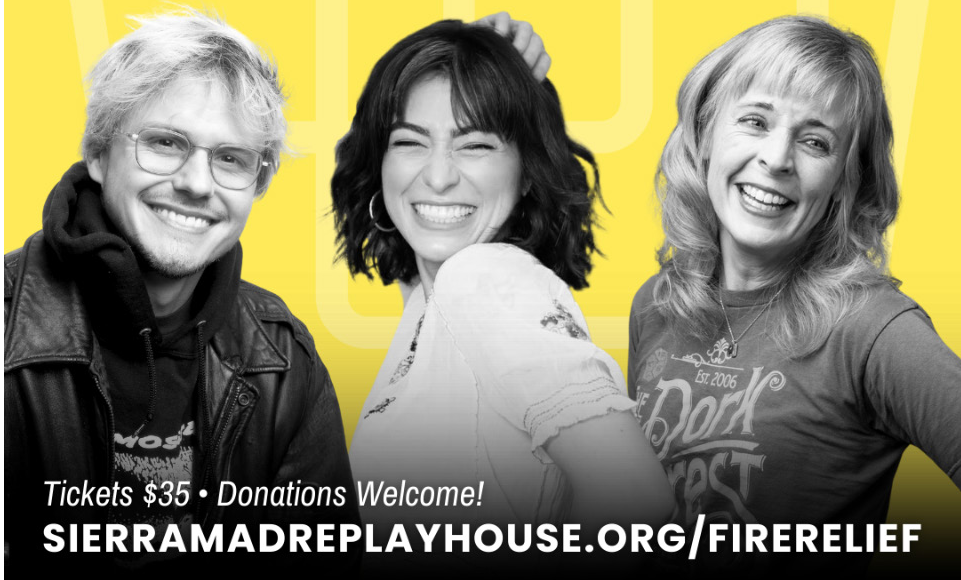


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PDA PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF ALTADENA Benefit Comedy Show!

February 18, 2025 @ 8PM

with Whitmer Thomas, Melissa Villaseñor, and Maria Bamford
Hosted by Frank Sriracha



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-This extraordinary evening will feature Maria Bamford (Lady Dynamite, BoJack Horseman), Melissa Villaseñor (Saturday Night Live), and Whitmer Thomas (Whitmer Thomas: The Golden One, Stone Quackers), with comedian Frank Sriracha as your host. These fearless, innovative performers embody the spirit of PDA—where risk, truth, and laugh-ter collide to create unforgettable moments.

All proceeds from the evening will go directly toward rebuilding PDA, a space that was more than just a venue—it was a vibrant home for artists pushing boundaries and creating new forms of theater. This is your chance to be a part of the movement to restore PDA and keep its spirit alive!

Tickets are just \$35, and we'd love for you to join us for this one-night-only event! Your laughter can help rebuild PDA and support the creative community that made it so special. Thank you for your support! The Sierra Madre Playhouse team



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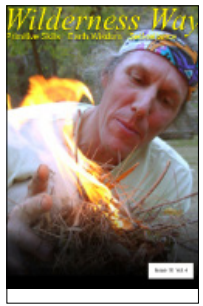


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CHRISTOPHER Nyerges

[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]

OLD HUSBANDS TALES

Some are false, some have truth buried inside

Every aspect of life is filled with axioms and truisms. Some are worth living your life by, and others are less reliable. And the thing is, the less-reliable axioms usually have a kernel of truth buried inside. Here are some of the outdoor-related sayings that we hear all the time. We hear some of these so often that we tend to think they must be true. But, most of these are not true, despite the kernel of truth often buried inside. Let's separate myth from fact.

All rivers lead to civilizations.

If you're lost, follow the river downstream. We've heard it so often and we've seen it in movies. However, it's simply not so! The reason you hear it repeated so often is that sometimes the river will get you to a village or a town.

The north star is the brightest star in the sky.

If you're lost, you can find the north if you can find the north star, which is the brightest star in the sky, right? If you find the brightest star in the sky, you've found Sirius, not the North Star. The north star is actually the 48th brightest star in the sky, and if you don't know how to find it, you should consult a star chart.

Moss always grows on the north sides of trees.

When I was first studying survival in high school, one of my teachers was Abbie Keith, who was head of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue team at the time. He would ask us if moss grows on the north side of trees, and most of us said yes. He'd laugh and say, yes it does, but it also grows on the east side, the west side, and the south sides of trees. Moss needs shade and moisture and it will grow there the shade and moisture is greatest. Often, this is the north side of a tree, or a rock, or a barn, but not often and precise enough for this to be a good tool for navigation.

A compass points to the north pole.

When people say this, they are referring to the magnetic compass needle, and they assume it points to the north pole, or true north. In fact, the compass needle points to magnetic north, which is not the same as true north. Every topographical map tells you the difference between true north and magnetic north so you can compensate – this compensation is known as the declination. However, if you happen to be in the line where true north and magnetic north coincide, your compass needle will indeed coincidentally point to the true north.

All water can be purified by boiling.

When you boil water, the temperature of boiling (212 f.) kills everything alive in the water that can make you sick. It's true that all biological contaminants in the water that can get you sick are killed off by the time the water reaches about 170 f. However, boiling will generally have no effect on salt water, nor unwanted chemicals or solvents that have gotten into the water.

Water that is clear, cold, and flowing is safe to drink without treatment.

Though we'd like this to be so, it just isn't always true. Water that is moving, and moving over sands, has an ability to self-purify, but this depends on what all might be present in the water. In fact, stagnant waters can be very safe in some cases, so the flow of water is only one of many factors that makes the water safe or not.

You can always dig for water.

This is true! You can always dig... But you won't always reach water. I've dug small wells many times and many times had all the water we needed for several days. However, water is either underground, or it isn't. And when it isn't, you'll just need to find your water elsewhere.

You can make a fire by hitting two rocks together.

I have heard this many times from people who remember something like this from childhood but they can't remember any details. You cannot get a fire by hitting two pieces of flint, or chert, or quartzite together. However, if one of the rocks is marcasite, and the other is flint, you actually might get enough of a spark to ignite some charcloth.

All blue and black berries are edible.

In general, this is accurate, but it's not worth memorizing because there are exceptions. You still need to learn to recognize the identity of berries (and other plants) before you eat them.

All white berries are poisonous.

This is a correct general statement, but again, there are many exceptions, such as mulberries, white strawberries, and others. Only eat those edible wild plants that you have positively identified.

Any mushroom growing in your lawn is poisonous.

False! Both edible and toxic mushrooms could grow on your lawn if the conditions are right. Just because it's on your lawn doesn't make it toxic. (This one should be classified as an old wive's tale, because my mother believed this was true.)

People go crazy and commit more crimes during a full moon.

Well, is that an old wive's tale, or an old husband's tale? We've heard it a lot. Some studies debunk this idea, saying that there is no clear correlation between the full moon and crimes, except that there is more light to commit crimes during that time.

These are just a few Old Husbands' tales. Can you think of more?

Katnip News!**Meet Kimba – Your Biscuit-Making Bestie!**

It's not too late for a special Valentine's Day treat, and much better than candy!

Kimba is a 6-year-old sweetheart with a heart as pure as his gorgeous all-white fur. With his big, sunny eyes and chill purr-sonality, he's the perfect companion for anyone looking for a loving, easygoing cat.



Kimba

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Kimba adores being with his human, kneading biscuits like a little baker, and soaking up all the cozy moments life has to offer. He's a playful guy who loves his toys and enjoys making new feline friends.

Fully vetted, neutered, and in perfect health, Kimba is ready to find his forever home. Could it be with you?

See more of him and please fill out the application at <https://www.lifelineforpets.org/kimba.html>.

Pet of the Week

Adorable and friendly Travis is ready to fill your home with laughter and fun!

Travis is a fun-loving, affectionate two-year-old Lab/Pit mix who is ready to find his forever home. Weighing around 65 pounds, Travis is the perfect blend of playful energy and cuddly sweetness. He loves nothing more than spending time with his people, whether it's going on long walks, playing with his favorite squeaky toys, or curling up on the couch for some well-deserved belly rubs.

Travis is a smart and eager-to-please guy who enjoys learning new tricks and exploring the world around him. He will thrive in a home with an active individual or family who can match his playful spirit. Older children would be a great fit for his enthusiastic and loving nature.

Travis is patiently waiting for someone to give him the love he deserves. If you're looking for a loyal companion to bring joy and excitement into your life, come meet Travis—you just might find your new best friend.

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

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

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

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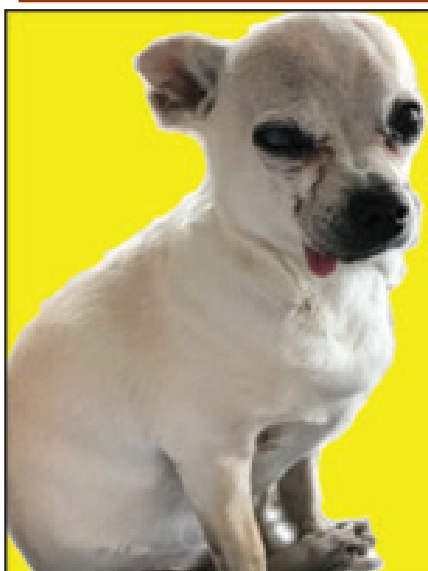
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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

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

GETTING THROUGH THE RAINY DAYS AND BEING A SENIOR

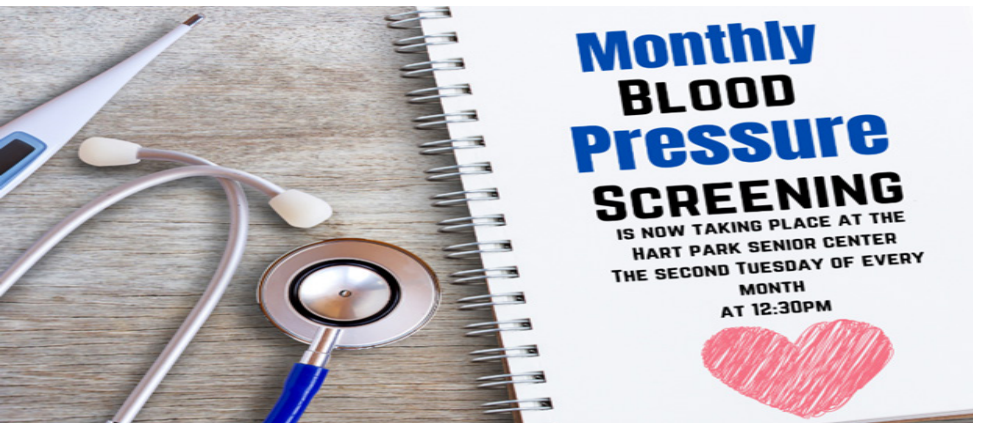
Rainy days present unique hazards for seniors, requiring careful attention to safety. Seniors are more vulnerable due to age-related changes such as reduced mobility, balance issues, and health conditions. Common risks during rainy weather include slips and falls on wet surfaces, reduced visibility while walking or driving, and exposure to cold temperatures leading to hypothermia.

To stay safe, seniors can take proactive measures. At home, it's important to ensure clear, well-lit pathways, use non-slip mats, and install grab bars in bathrooms. Wearing proper footwear, such as shoes with non-slip soles and waterproof options, can reduce the risk of falls. For outdoor safety, reflective clothing and accessories improve visibility, and walking with a companion can help avoid dangerous situations. It's also wise to check the forecast and stock up on essentials ahead of time, ensuring that any medications or supplies are on hand during storms.

The psychological impact of gloomy weather can also affect seniors, with some experiencing Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Staying socially connected, engaging in hobbies, and maintaining a routine can help mitigate these effects.

Medical conditions like arthritis or heart issues can worsen in damp or cold weather, making it essential to monitor health closely. Seniors should work with their healthcare providers to manage chronic conditions and consult them if symptoms worsen during bad weather.

Community support is also vital, with local senior centers and emergency services available to offer assistance in times of need. By preparing homes, staying physically active, and maintaining strong social networks, seniors can significantly reduce the risks posed by rainy weather and continue to live safely and independently.



HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE TO FILE TAXES IN 2025



Dear Savvy Senior,
What can you tell me about the IRS income tax filing requirements for retirees this tax season? My earned income stopped when I retired last March, so I'm wondering if I need to file a tax return this year.
Retired in 2024

Dear Retired,
Whether or not you are required to file a federal income tax return this year will depend on how much you earned last year, as well as the source of the income, your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's IRS tax filing requirement thresholds.
For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2024 gross income – which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits unless you are married and filing separately – was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

- Single: \$14,600 (\$16,550 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2024).
- Married filing jointly: \$29,200 (\$30,750 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$32,300 if you're both over 65).
- Married filing separately: \$5 at any age.
- Head of household: \$21,900 (\$23,850 if 65 or older).
- Qualifying surviving spouse: \$29,200 (\$30,750 if 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "1040 and 1040-SR Instructions for Tax Year 2024," or you can see it online at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf).

Check Here Too
Be aware that there are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirements. For example, if you earned more than \$400 from self-employment in 2024, owe any taxes on an IRA, Health Savings Account or an alternative minimum tax, or get premium tax credits because you, your spouse or a dependent is enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace plan, you'll need to file.

You'll also need to file if you're receiving Social Security benefits, and one-half of your benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest exceeds \$25,000, or \$32,000 if you're married and filing jointly.
To figure all this out, the IRS offers an online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at [IRS.gov/Help/ITA](https://www.irs.gov/Help/ITA) – click on "Filing Requirements – Do I need to file a tax return?" Or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.
Check Your State
Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see [Taxadmin.org/fta-members](https://www.taxadmin.org/fta-members).

Tax Preparation Help
If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can Free File at [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile), which is a partnership program between the IRS and tax software companies. Your 2024 adjusted gross income must be below \$84,000 to qualify. Or, if you have a simple tax situation and your income is below \$200,000, or \$250,000 if you're married and filing jointly, you can now file your taxes for free through the new IRS Direct File program in 24 states at [DirectFile.IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov/directfile).
If you need some help, contact the IRS sponsored Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program, which provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit [IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep](https://www.irs.gov/treasurygov/freetaxprep) to locate services near you.

You can also get tax preparation assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service at [AARP.org/findtaxhelp](https://www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp) or call 888-227-7669.
Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.savvysenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

OUT TO PASTOR
A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder
MY TOK DOESN'T ALWAYS TIK



Throughout my life, I have always lived on a schedule. Every day is devoted to certain tasks, and it has worked for me so far. I know what day it is by what I am doing that day.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I cannot multitask. I have to do one thing at a time, which has to be on my schedule. I am often impressed by my wife's ability to multitask. She can do a dozen things at once and get them accomplished the way they are supposed to be, but I have a hard time knowing what she is doing at any given time.

I plan my week in a very precise routine. I can only do one thing at a time, which must be on my schedule.

I schedule each week by assigning a particular project to each day. I spend one day doing my radio ministry, another doing my weekly column, and then several days working on my sermon for Sunday. I follow my routine very precisely each week. Unfortunately, my schedule has been interrupted. I spent five days in the hospital and then over two weeks in bed recuperating from my health problem.

Being in the hospital is a very boring time. There is not much I can do because I have medical personnel coming in and out poking me with needles and all sorts of things. Just when I think I'm asleep someone comes.

Some even came in around 3 a.m., and unfortunately, I was not sleeping because how in the world can you sleep in a hospital with such a routine?

I never knew what day it was and was so very confused. One day was just like the other, and I was not getting anything done.

Now, I'm trying to get back on schedule. Boy, is this difficult. I guess it's because of my age I can't begin to pull everything back together again as quickly as I need to. Every day of the week is identified by the project I'm working on. Now, I'm so confused that I have no idea what day it is or what I should be doing. I remember asking The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage one day, "What day is it today?" Looking at me with one of her grimaces, she said, "What day would you like it to be?" Then she laughed and walked away. If I had my way, today would be the day before I went into the hospital.

I had to spend some time searching my journal to figure out what I had been doing before I went into the hospital. The good thing is that I keep notes or I would be completely lost.

I spent one whole day going through four years of journals to figure out what I was doing each day. I carefully made notes and began understanding what I was doing Monday through Friday.

Going through these journals enabled me to figure out my schedule for the week. I usually don't spend much time figuring out what I'm doing; I just do it. I was getting close to the end of my re-search and was happy to work these out.

One morning, I got up and walked out to the kitchen, where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was preparing breakfast. She looked at me and said, "So, what day is it for you?"

Looking at her I said, "Today is National Apple Fritter Day."

I laughed and went to sit down in my chair, and then realized I didn't know what day it was. Now, what do I do? If I don't know what day it is, how will I know what I'm supposed to be doing today?

It could be my old age, but I'm terrible at remembering the day. If I don't know what day it is, how am I going to spend the day productively and what project I am going to be working on.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought my breakfast and a nice hot cup of coffee. Be-fore walking away, she said, "Today is Wednesday, and it's the day you do your radio work." Then she went back into the kitchen.

Aha. That will solve my problem for today. I'll spend the morning doing my radio programs for the week. I was kind of happy to hear that. Now I know how I will spend the day. Nothing is more satisfying than knowing what you're doing. Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I'm not multitasking because if I was, I would never get back to my schedule like I had it before. I cannot handle 100 tasks like my wife can. I can only handle one task at a time.

I often think about what it would be like to multitask and juggle hundreds of tasks simultaneously. I wonder how much I could get done if I could do that. My Tok needs to Tik on time everyday. Getting back to my regular schedule is a very relaxing thing for me.

I thought of a verse of scripture along this line. Ephesians 5:15-16, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Although the days are evil, each day I need to walk exactly in a way that honors God.

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February Events Around Town!

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One Time Events

February 1

Lunar New Year @ PAM USC Pacific Asia Museum hosts a celebration for the Year of the Snake - live performances and activities for the whole family. 11am - 5 pm

February 1

Year of the Snake Family Workshop at the Arboretum Celebrate Chinese New Year and create a Year of the Snake craft. 2 - 3 pm

February 2

Lunar New Year Festival in Downtown Arcadia Celebrate Lunar New Year with music, dances and traditional benefiting Arcadia teachers, staff, and families who lost their homes in the recent fires. 11 am - 4 pm

February 8

Lunar New Year One Colorado Dance along to live traditional music, then enjoy performances of the lion and snake dances. 1 - 4 pm

February 8

Pasadena Heritage's Art Deco Day: Exploring Timeless Elegance Experience Art Deco charm with guided tours and engaging lectures celebrating this timeless design. 10 am - 6 pm

February 15

Black History Festival Providing a bit of joy in the community in the wake of the Eaton Fire. Held at Robinson Park in Pasadena, the festival features entertainment, family friendly activities, community resources, and more. 10 am - 3 pm

February 15

Dvůrák Cello Concerto - Pasadena Symphony at Ambassador Auditorium Indulge in the romance of Wagner's thrilling "Magic Fire Music" & Dvůrák's rapturous Cello Concerto. 2 - 8 pm

Ongoing Events

January 24 - February 7

Dine LA Restaurant Week Enjoy diverse culinary experiences offered by restaurants in Pasadena and L.A. A portion of the proceeds goes to Red Cross for fire relief.

February 1 - August 1

Wired for Wonder: A Multisensory Maze at Kidspace Navigate a physical structure that harnesses color, light, movement, texture, vibration, and smell. For all ages.

February 1, 2

San Gabriel Lunar Lantern Festival In the San Gabriel Mission District featuring amazing lantern displays, live performances, street foods, and more. 10 am - 7 pm

February 1, 2

Lunar New Year Festival at The Huntington Enjoy lion dances, a mask-changing artist, floral arts, music, and more. 10 am - 5 pm

February 1, 2

Lunar New Year Celebration at Santa Anita Park Enjoy Chinese cultural shows, activities, food, and live horse racing. 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

February 8, 9

Botanic Boutique at Descanso Gardens Enjoy a no-host-bar and meet local artisans. Shop an assortment of beautiful jewelry, ceramics, scarves, and more. 10 am - 4 pm

February 9 - March 9

Macbeth at A Noise Within This twist on Shakespeare's compelling tragedy is set in New Orleans.

February 11, 25

Camerata Pacifica Performs at The Huntington February 11 - "Pierrot Lunaire" Features pieces by Gershwin, Debussy, and more. February 25 - "Baroque" Features pieces by Sancho and Handel. 7:30 - 9 pm

February 15, 16

Bawdy Botany at the Arboretum Discover the fascinating botany of love and lust on this evening jaunt that's a bit naughty, very nerdy, and a lot of fun. 7:30 - 9 pm

February 23 - March 1

Cheeseburger Week in Pasadena This event, originally scheduled to begin on January 26, celebrates the invention of the cheeseburger in Pasadena. Participating local restaurants will feature special menu items and deals for patrons.

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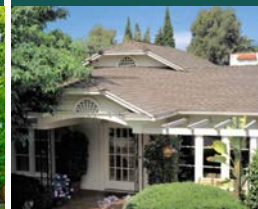
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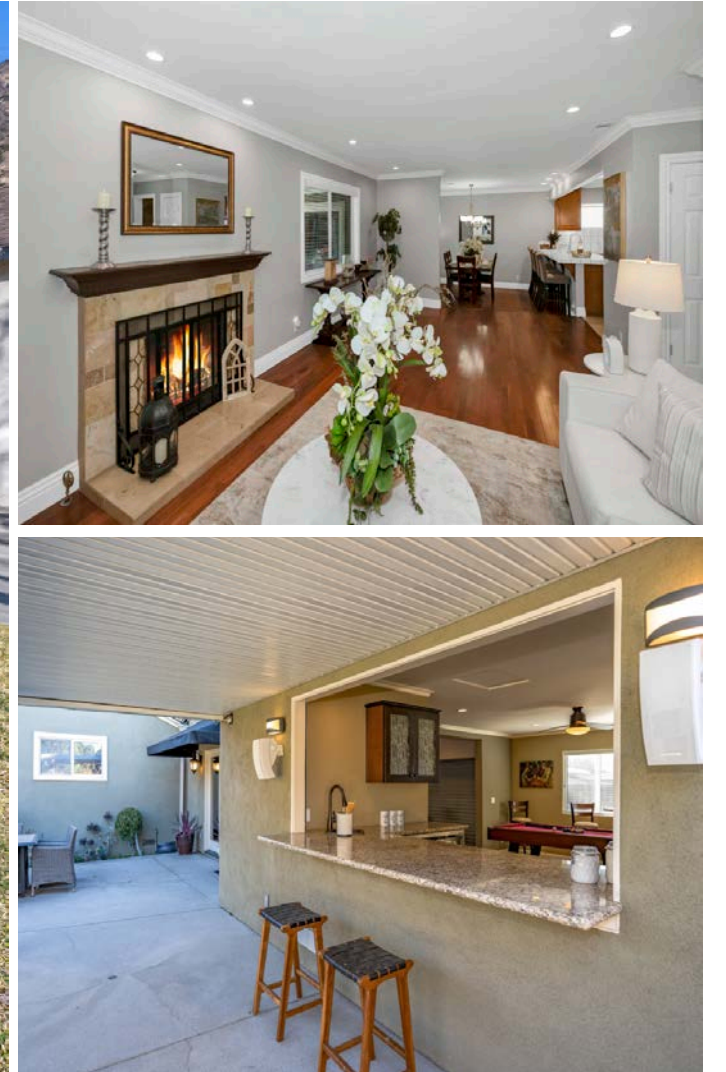
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