

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From your Mountain Views News Family!

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

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## St. Rita School



NORTH ON BALDWIN

## Sierra Madre's Catholic School



- Catholic Fidelity
- 103 Years of Tradition
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025

VOLUME 19 NO. 52

## In 'The Spirit Of The Season

### EDITORIAL:

**Bring in the New Year With The Perfect Resolution.....One You Can Actually Keep!**

No doubt if you are reading this, you have an affinity for the idyllic foothill village of Sierra Madre. It is a town within miles of the country's 2nd largest metropolis that manages to mesmerize residents and visitors alike with its beauty, serenity, opportunities and history. It's a town where you see every single day people living life to the fullest, enjoying nature, walking, hiking, and riding their bikes. You see parents and grandparents strolling through the town with their children, some of whom are still in carriages. You see people enjoying the shops and restaurants in town and having fun while doing so. You don't see red lights, congestion and an overwhelming feeling of a fast paced life. And in 2025, you have also seen the town, along with its neighbors, slowly and bravely recovering from the aftermath of the Eaton Fire.

Personally, as a survivor of the Oakland Hills Fire in 1991 where we literally had to run, drive through black smoke to escape, and where I personally lost everything except the clothes on my back, and including those precious toothless pictures of my kids, and so much more, I can tell you that the path of moving forward is beyond description. In fact, some 34 years later, at times it is still rocky.

That being said, one way of moving forward is reaching out and doing whatever you can to assist others. And even if you haven't suffered a loss, giving of your time and resources makes almost everything better. And what better way to do that than volunteering?

In Sierra Madre almost every single month, there is an event or activity that can use the help of volunteers. Whether it is the Wine Tasting, the Wistaria Festival, the Mount Wilson Trail Race, the Fourth of July Parade, the Halloween Festivities, Art Shows and more....there is always something going on that could use your help.

Without question that Sierra Madre, Sierra Madre, Winner of the 2007 All American City Award, is one of the best -- the best municipal services, the best Police and Fire Departments, the best city staff and the best residents willing to give back to the community.

Without the generosity of time and talent of literally dozens of residents and business owners who support Sierra Madre's civic organizations, this would be a very different place.

Yes, volunteers are the life blood of this town. It is the one thing that we always agree on, all the time!

So, about that New Year's Resolution....make a commitment to become a part of the solution to sustaining this great city! There are lots of ways you can do that and it's actually a resolution you can keep!

Happy New Year  
Susan Henderson, Editor Mountain Views News

**LIST OF SIERRA MADRE CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER - partial listing)**  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)  
CREATIVE ARTS GROUP  
FREE ANIMAL DOCTOR  
FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY  
KIWANIS CLUB OF SIERRA MADRE  
PRESERVE SIERRA MADRE  
ROTARY CLUB OF SIERRA MADRE  
SIERRA MADRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
SIERRA MADRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
SIERRA MADRE EVENTS COMMITTEE  
SIERRA MADRE HISTORICAL  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY TRUSTEES  
SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION  
SIERRA MADRE WOMANS CLUB  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS #3208

## THIS IS DECO WEEK!

*This is Sierra Madre tradition. This is community. This is DECO WEEK!*

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association has received a tremendous amount of support from our community and from our neighbors for our float "Pancake Breakfast". As always the intent of our float is to honor teamwork and our firefighters. We will proudly honoring the teamwork of community and firefighters with a pancake breakfast characterized with our version of Sierra Madre Engine #41, a giant stack of pancakes, an enormous bottle of syrup, an adorable Dalmatian, 3 lovely Sierra Madre Rose Float Princesses and 3 brave active-duty firefighters.

The Association will be open every day from 9 AM to 10 PM, with the final marathon shift starting December 30th—24 hours straight as the fresh flowers go on. It's fun, it's messy, it's exhausting, and it's one of the most rewarding experiences you'll ever have!

Haven't signed up yet? Walk-ins are welcome! Come get your hands on history, or watch the magic from the mezzanine as the float comes to life.

Special Thanks to the many community groups who have taken on the responsibility of feeding the float volunteers dinner during Deco Week. They include: The Mountain Views News, Casa Del Rey and Nano Cafe, The Only Place In Town, Sierra Madre Rotary and Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club.

WHERE CAN YOU SEE THE SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT???

On December 31st, we are planning our Float Departure Ceremony to commence at approximately 5:30-5:45 p.m., then we'll leave the barn at approximately 6:00 p.m., heading towards Kersting Court, arriving at approximately 6:10 p.m. We will remain there about 20 minutes, then continue on to our line-up spot on Orange Grove, where it will remain overnight before the parade. If it's inclement weather, we'll wave as we sail by without stopping.

After the Rose Parade, the float will be at FloatFest, the post parade viewing area near PHS, the remainder of January 1st and all day January 2nd and 3rd.

On the evening of January 3rd we will move the float back to Sierra Madre when we're allowed to leave post parade/FloatFest.

We will be taking the float straight back to the Float Barn at 587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. On the morning of January 4th, approximately 9:30 a.m., we will open the barn for viewing and may have excess flowers available. Around 3:00 p.m., we will be closing up for the day.

Your donations of time, skills and funds have made this float possible. Come and see the wonderful float we've created with your help.

## AN UPHILL DRIVE TO BETTER TRANSPORTATION IN SIERRA MADRE

Story on page 3

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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



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

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

Warmly, Barbara and Eileen



R  
Barbara Rogers  
626.484.8135  
CalRE# 01169115



B  
Eileen Benson  
626.278.0187  
CalRE# 01880650



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## Happy New Years, Sierra Madre!

Here's to new beginnings, fresh possibilities, and a year filled with joy.



Judy Webb-Martin  
626.688.2273  
DRE #00541651

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- 4 spacious bedrooms, 3 full baths, 3,230 sq. ft. including one downstairs ideal for guests or multigenerational living
- Grand two-story foyer, living room with fireplace, formal dining room and family room with fireplace
- Large kitchen with Sub-Zero refrigerator, new oven/microwave combo, walk-in pantry & prep island w/sink
- Expansive primary suite with sitting area, two cedar-lined walk-in closets & ensuite w/spa tub
- Dedicated laundry room with cabinetry, granite counters, utility sink and additional room
- Low-maintenance backyard with drought-tolerant landscaping, pavers, and tranquil water feature
- Paver driveway to a 2-car attached garage with built-in cabinetry and workbench
- Recent upgrades: fresh interior/exterior paint, new recessed lighting, updated fixtures
- Additional features: central vacuum, dual-zone HVAC, alarm system, fire sprinkler system, hardwood/tile/vinyl flooring, Cummins generator



*Janette Ledea*

**CONTACT ME**

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CLASSIC MEET

**CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL**

OPENING WEEKEND TRACKSIDE

DEC 26 - 28



SANTA ANITA CLASSIC MEET

RACING FRIDAY - SUNDAY THROUGH JUNE 14

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	26	27	28

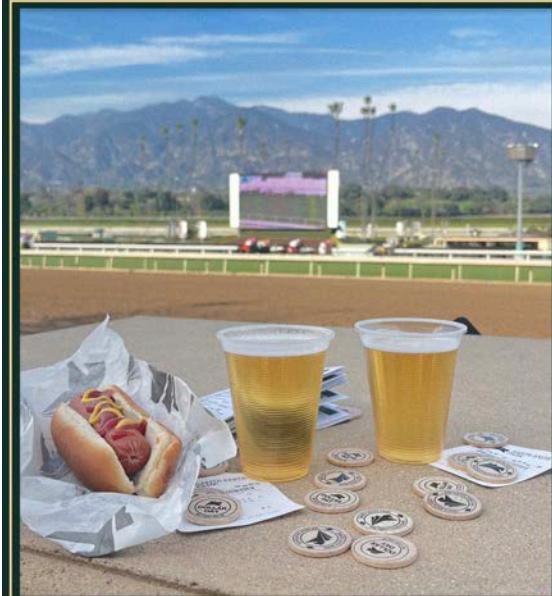
DECEMBER RACING

28	29	30	31	26	27	28
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JANUARY RACING

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.



Sun	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Mon:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 6, 2026 5:30 pm

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

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

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

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

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

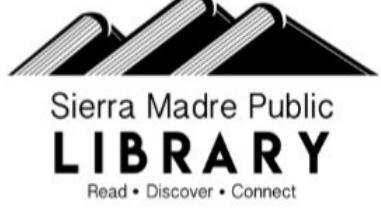
Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

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

Your event must:

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

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).



This week at the  
Sierra Madre  
Public Library

December 22—December 27

**Monday****Baby Rhyme Time — Library at**

9:00am

**Preschool Storytime — Library at**

10:00am

**Wednesday****Modified Holiday Library hours—**

10:00am—2:00pm

**December 25—January 2****Library Closed for Holiday — No****Services**

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

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE: The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

*"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly, it is memories and hopes fulfilled."*

Andy Rooney

*"What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future."* Agnes M. Pahro

*"Love came down at Christmas; love all lovely, love divine.  
Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign."* Christina Rosetti

The picture this week is a Kersting Court snowman from a couple of years ago. Our snowman this year seemed to have had a hard life and I'm sure would not like his picture in the paper. You know, like most of us, we're never seriously in love with our pictures and I expect he wouldn't be, either.

*"Angels sang, shepherds came,  
And joy was born on Christmas,  
Hope was born on Christmas!"*

I'm having trouble believing Christmas has finally come and gone again. It seems to have snuck quietly up on us. Yes, we shopped, decorated, baked, wrapped, spent (Oy! Have we spent!). We did something new this year for food: We got a whole lot of food platters at the market, i.e., cheese, pepperoni and crackers, fruit, veggies and with a little adult eggnog, it was the most pleasant way to keep everybody filled with whatever their little heart desired all day long, before and after the presents were attacked.

I think everyone is happy with their loot. Emily decided she did not want driving lessons yet, so that plan was discarded in favor of an incredibly expensive sweatshirt put out by her favorite singing star, Laufey, and an Ulta gift card. Jessie, who loves shirts with pockets got five new ones and another incredibly complicated puzzle. All the adult children and the little children in our family got gift cards in varying denominations and can enjoy them whenever they want to dine out or online shop.. Needless to say, after a really pleasant morning, we were all ready for a nap.

Now, a few days later, we can sit down, take a breath and give ourselves a minute to recuperate before we start planning for the New Year. 2025 passed with what felt like the speed of light and now 2026 is lurking just around the corner. I'm planning to leave Christmas up just a little longer, and not be too quick to de-Christmas-ify.

This beautiful piece, "Directions For Planting," lives at the bottom of my Christmas card basket. I've passed it on to you before but this might be the perfect way to end a year which has had its ups and downs for all of us, and help us look forward to a New Year bright with promise and hope.

"Directions For Planting," was taken from the writings of Margaret Hooper Ineson, a precious saint of God and beloved member of our family. Born November 22, 1904, she entered the gates of heaven November 11, 2000, just a few days short of her 96th birthday. She lived her entire life according to her "Directions For Planting." We hope these seeds take root in your mind and heart.

### Directions For Planting

Plant 5 Rows of Peas: Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness, Prayer

Plant 3 Rows of Squash: Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism, Squash Indifference



Plant 4 Rows of Lettuce: Let Us Be Faithful, Let Us Be Unselfish, Let Us be Truthful, Let Us Love One Another

Plant 4 Rows of Turnips: Turn Up for Where We're Needed, Turn Up with a Smile, Turn Up with New Ideas, Turn Up with Determination

*"What a wonderful story it is, The Christmas Story. Only God could have thought of it!" Norman Vincent Peale*

*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord... Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."* Luke 2:8-13

I know that passage from Luke was in last week's paper, but I just wanted to share it with you one more time. Were we ready for Christmas? I think we were. We kept in mind the Reason for the Season, we smiled at everyone we met, we had fun and laughed a lot and I'm sure you did, too. One last "Merry Christmas" before we start thinking of the word we choose to start our New Year. Will it be Hope, Joy, Peace? Or maybe all of those. Merry Christmas my dear friends. May God bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you and give you peace...and joy...and hope!

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis Christmas is over, but my book:

*"Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"*  
Would be a really nice gift for all the people you forgot to give something to. It's on Amazon.com  
*"Star of Wonder"* a delightful Christmas Kindle story, where four lonely people find love following a strange new star on Christmas Eve, is there, too. If you'd like a little preview, take a look at: <https://youtu.be/Ka1KYrONrd0>

## AN UPHILL DRIVE TO BETTER TRANSPORTATION IN SIERRA MADRE

By Kevin McGuire

In 2023, Mountain Views News first reported on the dwindling transportation options in Sierra Madre and on in-service buses that are ready to be put out to pasture due to reaching their "end of use" status. You may have heard stories of students and other residents hiking up to Foothill Blvd. to catch the closest public transit to school and work.

City Council was approaching the second hour of their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 9th, when they were presented with an update on the direction of Sierra Madre local transportation and some program options.

James Carlson, Senior Management Analyst, gave a presentation to start the discussion. So, what's been happening over the past two years? Has the City made progress? Or has the idea of better transit stalled with a flat tire on the side of the road?

According to Carlson, over the past two years, the Local Transportation Ad Hoc Subcommittee has worked "diligently to improve local transportation." The Subcommittee collaborated with the Public Works Department to redesign Sierra Madre's Local Transportation Program in hopes of restoring regional connectivity and better serving local needs.

As a result of these efforts, Metro Line 268 to Sierra Madre returned to action with a "revised fixed-route concept" connecting to Pasadena, Arcadia, Foothill Transit, and the Metro L Line (formerly the Gold Line). This helped serve area schools, get folks to shopping areas, gyms, and parks.

But it's been an uphill struggle to reach an agreement on new local transportation programs. In July 2024, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation of a new local transportation program and received two submittals. According to the report, a San Jose-based airport shuttle contractor was deemed non-responsive due to a lack of relevant experience. The second proposal from the City's current contractor, Transdev (formerly First Transportation), for consideration was now the only proposal.

But on October 17, 2025, the Public Works Department concluded that Transdev's final offer, which Carlson said, "even more significantly reduced hours and services," and was not financially sustainable beyond an estimated five-year period, and would deplete reserves from Proposition A, which is a half-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation funding. In other words, it was more than the city budget could handle.

As a result, at the December 9th meeting, Public Works recommended that the City Council reject the current Transdev proposal, reconvene the Local Transportation Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and authorize development and release of a new RFP that refines the service model. They hope for a plan that addresses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and cost concerns, preserves Proposition A, reserves funds for long-term program viability, and attracts multiple qualified proposals, according to Carlson's presentation. Carlson also said the Subcommittee will review "lessons learned" from the previous RFP experience, and suggested to Councilmember Edward Garcia that they should cut bait with Transdev.

Currently, the entire local transportation program in Sierra Madre is funded by Prop A. The city receives an estimated \$172,000 annually into Fund 37004 (Local Transportation Prop A), which has a balance of about \$1,128,000 to date.

As many remember, there used to be a limited mid-day fixed-route service, which had a weekday dial-a-ride service for day trips, but annual boardings declined from more than 11,000 in 2012 to roughly 2,450 by 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 added salt to the wound with a greater decline, prompting the City Council to create the Local Transportation Ad Hoc Subcommittee. In addition, one of the "end of use" buses met its final demise in the summer of '24.

The Subcommittee mailed surveys, conducted outreach, and pinpointed community priorities, including stronger connections to regional transit systems, access to Pasadena high schools, and improved service to businesses, grocery stores, and restaurants. People surveyed also wanted connections to trailheads such as Bailey Canyon and Mt. Wilson.

According to Carlson, issuing a new RFP would pave the way to develop a new service design, ensure ADA compliance, and explore alternatives such as vehicle purchase or lease (including potential electric vehicles). Carlson noted that he is currently in discussion with Enterprise Fleet Rentals as a possible option for 100% electric shuttle buses. The downfall Carlson pointed out is the cost and man-power to service these vehicles. Other options include considering internal part-time drivers or turn-key operators, such as Circuit Transportation, which uses its vehicles to service the City of Whittier. The city would also seek ways to secure more funding, work within more precise cost parameters, and, hopefully, attract more than one qualified proposal.

In response to Mayor Robert Parkhurst's question about overall plans moving forward, Director Carlson highlighted working with California Consulting to apply for a grant to fund a comprehensive circulation program with Caltrans. "We feel pretty good about our application. We'll see how it goes," said Carlson. According to the Caltrans website, the circulation programs focus on creating integrated, multimodal transport systems. The grant would be for \$300,000 and would include access to the Citizens Advisory Group. The city will find out in June 2026 if it is approved for the grant.

After a short discussion, which included talk of reaching out to neighboring cities for use of their Dial-A-Ride system, or using Uber, Lyft, or a taxi service as a temporary stopgap solution, the City Council decided to reject the current Transdev proposal unanimously, reconvene the Local Transportation Ad Hoc Subcommittee, authorize development and release of a new RFP, and seek temporary stopgap solutions.

So, with anything in government, projects take time, in some cases, a long time. But if the city can turn around a quick plan to temporarily provide transportation to grocery stores for people in need, and an approved grant and a better long-term strategy are in the works, the wheels may be moving in the right direction.

# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## New Year's Closures & Reminders

Pasadena residents and businesses are reminded that city hall and most city services will be closed for the New Year's holiday Thursday. Specific closures, exceptions and reminders are noted below.

Pasadena residents and businesses with any power emergencies on Thursday should call Pasadena's Water and Power (PWP) Department at (626) 744-4673. For water-related emergencies, call (626) 744-4138. 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 City Service Center (CSC) will also be closed Thursday. You can contact the CSC via the web or mobile app, or by calling (626) 744-7311. Requests submitted over the weekends will be monitored.

City trash collection will have a one-day delay of trash collection during New Year's week. Residents can drop off their Christmas trees through Friday, Jan. 2, for recycling at Eaton Blanche Park (3100 E. Del Mar Blvd.) or Robinson Park (1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave.) between the hours of 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please remove all stands, ornaments and lights prior to drop-off. Curbside Christmas tree pickup will take place Jan. 5 through Jan. 16 on residents' regular pickup day.

Pasadena Transit Route 33 will operate on a Sunday schedule on Thursday. All other routes and Pasadena Dial-A-Ride will not operate on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

All parking meters are free and parking time limits will not be enforced on Thursday. Overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced through Saturday, Jan. 3, and will resume at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 4. Violations for red curb/no parking zones, driveway blocks and blocking fire hydrants will continue to be issued at all times.

Library branches will close on Wednesday at 1 p.m. except Jefferson Branch Library, which closes at 5 p.m. All libraries will close on Jan. 1. On Friday, Jan. 2, the Hastings, Hill Avenue, La Pintoresca and San Rafael Branch Libraries will be open for regular hours, all other Pasadena Public Libraries will resume regular hours Saturday, Jan. 3.

The City's Permit Center will be closed on Thursday, 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.

All recreation and community centers will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday. All recreation and community centers will be closed Thursday.

The Pasadena Public Health Department's (PPHD) Immunization Clinic Services, Cashier Services, and the Vital Records Public Counter will be closed for all in-person services Thursday. Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to be staffed for all patrol, jail, fire, paramedic and other emergency services. Always call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies. For non-emergencies, call (626) 744-4241. Report suspicious activity to at (626) 744-4241.



## Volunteers Put Final Touches on Rose Floats

South Pasadena rose float volunteers were "dry decorating" the city's entry "The Great Picnic Heist," over the Christmas holiday getting it ready for fresh followers -expected to start arriving today.

"We'll cut them sort them and then start putting flowers on the deck," said Decoration Co-Chair Janet Benjamin (pictured top right).

Benjamin said the float depicts a sleeping bear with a group of eight ants stealing his lunch. "It's the teamwork of the ants trying to get the food that goes with the main theme of the parade. 'The Magic in Teamwork'."

Benjamin said one setback

was that Strawflower they need have been stuck in Customs and Border Protection for over a month. Benjamin said this also goes for many of the floats, this year that use Strawflower.

"If we can't get it we have a plan B, plan C and D," she joked.

The base of the float will be covered in recycled Christmas trees.

She said that they also hope to reveal a secret rider on the back of the float, our costume is also stuck in Customs in China."

Benjamin said the cost of this year's float had topped \$200,000. "We have our final fundraiser 'Crunch Party' on Monday at 6 p.m., a diner, raffle live auction."

she said. For more information visit: [spotor.org](http://spotor.org).

## EV Chargers at Victory Park Unavailable During Floatfest

Pasadena Water and Power ("PWP") announced Wednesday that electric vehicle chargers at Victory Park will not be available from today through January 4, 2026. The lot will be reserved for Floatfest, a showcase of Rose Parade floats. During this time, PWP recommends using EV charging locations at:

- Marengo Rooftop Garage - 155 E Green Street
- Shopper's Lane - 410 S Shopper's Lane
- Robinson Park - 1081 N Fair Oaks Avenue

For more information on EV programs, including a list of charging stations, visit [PWPweb.com/EV](http://PWPweb.com/EV).



Float volunteers in Irwindale at Phoenix Decorating Company Friday were also getting 14 floats ready including the Apple TV float "we're getting there. Together." The float (pictured

above) pays tribute to Pasadena's iconic locations including the Colorado Street Bridge. The float is an advertisement for the series SHRINKING, which films in the city.



Phoenix Decorating Company also builds the popular Trader Joe's floats and this year float "You Float Our Boat," (pictured above) was on track with volunteers Friday decoration the Trader Joe's sign. The float will

feature a watermelon boat, soda bottle, swaying fish and a giant ice cream float up-front. The first Trader Joe's store opened in Pasadena, about a mile from the Parade route, in 1967 on Arroyo Parkway.



During the float judging on New Year's Eve, the UPS Store will attempt a Guinness World Record for the "Largest Animatronic Fish" a 34-foot-tall seahorse (pictured above) as part of their float "Sharing Skills for Success." The float is

the tallest in this year's Rose Parade lineup. The animatronic seahorse father teaching his babies synchronized swimming, symbolizing teamwork and mentorship for young entrepreneurs, partnering with Junior Achievement USA.

## Pre New Year's Eve Celebration at the Senior Center

Get a headstart on waving 2025 goodbye! Our Pre-New Year's Eve party is Sunday, Dec. 28, at 3 p.m. at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St.

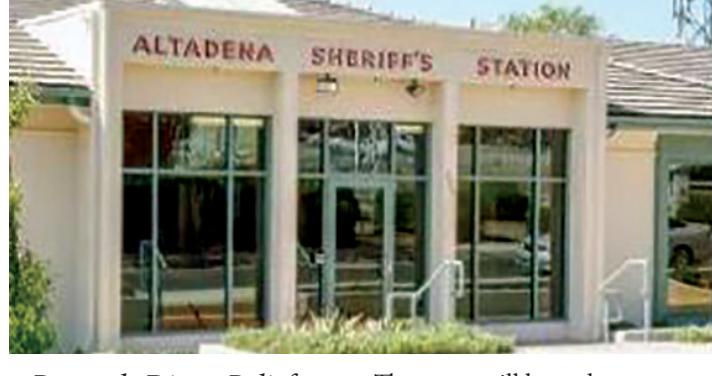
The Great American Swing Band will provide the music for a lively dance party to welcome in the new year. Party hats, noisemakers, and light snacks will be provided, as well as champagne for everyone to make a toast for 2026. Festive attire is encouraged.

The cost for the celebration is only \$12 for members and \$16 for non-members of all ages. To register, visit:

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

As a donor-supported nonprofit, the center operates without any local, state or federal funding and provides more services to older adults than any other organization in the San Gabriel Valley. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. To learn more visit: [pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorcenter.org) or call 626-795-4331.

## Altadena Forever Run



Proceeds Direct Relief to Altadena Eaton Fire Survivors and Funding for Sheriff's Support Group of Altadena

The event will have three course according length and difficulty.

- 10K Run (6.2 miles):

The full 10K follows the 5K route, offering spectacular views of the San Gabriel Mountains before returning toward the historic Mariposa business district. The course then turns west, guiding participants past neighborhoods in various stages of rebuilding, a moving portrait of perseverance, where homes under construction stand as symbols of endurance and hope. The run passes Charles White Park before finishing triumphantly back on Mariposa Street.

- 5K Walk/Run (3.1 miles): Extending into the lower foothill neighborhoods east of Lake Avenue, this course will bring runners and walkers through streets lined with volunteers and cheering residents.

- 1K Family Walk/Run (0.62 mile): Starting at El Molino Avenue and heading west past the Altadena Library before looping back to Mariposa Street, this short course is for families and children to share in the spirit of the day.

At the Mariposa Junction Finish Line, music, local food, and community booths await—celebrating every participant and every mile completed. Your participation, your sponsorship, your presence, each is an act of solidarity and hope."

According to organizers runners will begin on Mariposa Street, from there, the course climbs gently toward the foothills along Altadena Drive, winding through tree-lined neighborhoods, where century-old Craftsman homes once stood. The route touches the very edges of the burn zone, where chaparral is already reclaiming the hillsides.

The course has a two-hour time limit. The Run is a rain or shine event, if it rains, the event will go on as scheduled. No refunds will be issued due to weather.

For more information visit: [altadenaforeverun.com](http://altadenaforeverun.com).

## Meeting set for PWP Utility Undergrounding Project

General Manager of Water and Power, David Reyes announced Wednesday that they are inviting community members to attend a public meeting for information on the Raymond Avenue Utility Undergrounding Project. The meeting is set for Wednesday, January 14, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jackie Robinson Community Center.

The project will convert overhead electrical utility lines to underground infrastructure on Raymond Avenue between Maple Street and the northern City boundary. Construction is expected to begin in February. During the meeting, Pasadena

Water and Power ("PWP") staff will provide an overview of the project and answer questions from attendees. Spanish-speaking staff will be available for questions during the meeting. For community members who cannot attend in-person, a virtual option will be available. A recording of the meeting will be posted to the PWP website.

The Jackie Robinson Community Center is located 1020 N. Fair Oaks Avenue. The meeting will be held in Room 200.

To learn more visit: [PWPweb.com/Underground](http://PWPweb.com/Underground).

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**Season's Greetings**

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**Happy New Year**



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# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## APPEALS COURT AFFIRMS ORDER FOR VETERAN HOUSING ON VA WEST LA CAMPUS

LOS ANGELES (CNS) - A federal appeals court has upheld a court order requiring the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to construct 1,800 permanent housing units and 750 temporary housing units for disabled veterans on VA property in West Los Angeles, according to court papers obtained last week.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena on Tuesday also affirmed that the VA's leases with Brentwood School and Bridgeland Resources violate the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 and are therefore void. However, the panel allowed UCLA's lease for a portion of the VA grounds for its Jackie Robinson Stadium, used for baseball games.

"This class action lawsuit, and its numerous appeals, demonstrates just how far the VA has strayed from its mission," Circuit Judge Ana de Alba wrote in the Ninth Circuit opinion. "There are now scores of unhouse veterans trying to survive in and around the greater Los Angeles area despite the acres of land deeded to the VA for their care. Rather than use the West Los Angeles VA Grounds as President Lincoln intended, the VA has leased the land to third party commercial interests that do little to benefit the veterans."

The VA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Ninth Circuit heard oral arguments in April in the federal government's appeal of U.S. District Judge David O. Carter's landmark ruling regarding the VA's obligations to provide housing and care for disabled,unhoused veterans. On Nov. 25, 2024, appeals panel granted a stay of Carter's ruling pending the government's appeal.

Carter submitted his final judgment, reaffirming earlier findings and delivering a decisive victory for disabled veterans in October 2024. Following multiple hearings in Los Angeles federal court, the judge issued several key orders, including locking down UCLA's baseball complex until its activities on the VA campus focus on serving veterans, capping an oil well on the campus, and expediting the construction of temporary housing.

The judge's final decision followed an earlier ruling requiring the VA to build 750 temporary housing units and 1,800 permanent units within six years on the 388-acre campus. The ruling came after a four-week non-jury trial in which the district court found that the land-use leases the VA had with UCLA, the private Brentwood School, and oil company Bridgeland Resources, were unlawful.

During the trial, the VA argued it was out of space on its campus, and that the lack of available acreage precludes any increase to the 1,200 housing units the agency had promised to open by 2030. VA attorneys alleged that any relief ordered by the court would burden the department financially and deprive it of the flexibility needed to solve veteran homelessness.

The Ninth Circuit decision requires the VA to build 750 units of temporary supportive housing within 18 months, construct 1,800 units of permanent supportive housing within six years, and end the use of what was found to be discriminatory income restrictions for affordable housing by ensuring that veterans' disability payments do not count against their eligibility for supportive housing.

In a virtual news conference Wednesday, plaintiffs commended the Ninth Circuit opinion.

"These veterans have served the country, now it's time for the country to serve the veterans," said Mark Rosenbaum, attorney with the law firm Public Counsel and lead counsel in the case. "This has been going on for far too many years."

Rosenbaum said the case paves the way for disabled veterans across the country to demand the housing and care they may have been denied.

Rob Reynolds, an Iraq war veteran and advocate for veterans seeking housing at the VA campus, said the ruling is "long overdue. The veterans are very thankful. There shouldn't have been a situation where veterans returning from war didn't have access to the housing and services that they need."

Although UCLA was permitted to continue using VA grounds for Bruins baseball, Rosenbaum indicated he would file further litigation to reverse that part of the decision.

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Erin Stone/LAist

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WHERE RESILIENCE MEETS THE ROAD  
Inaugural Eaton Fire Anniversary Run

A Run For and Through Altadena  
Sunday, January 4, 2026  
Race Start: 8:00 AM  
Mariposa Junction  
849 E. Mariposa Street  
Altadena, CA



RUN FOR RECOVERY.  
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One year after the Eaton Fire, the people of Altadena are running forward stronger and more united than ever.

Join us for the Altadena Forever Run, a powerful day of remembrance, community, and renewal. Every step supports Eaton Fire survivors and Altadena's first responders as they rebuild homes, restore hope, and strengthen what endures.

This isn't just a race, it's a chance to run for good.

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10K RUN - Scenic foothill route through restored neighborhoods and mountain views.

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## IDENTIFYING THE MOST AFFORDABLE COLLEGES FOR REAL-WORLD STUDENTS

College rankings headlines are often dominated by the same names: Ivy Leagues, elite research universities and schools that admit only a fraction of applicants. But that leaves out most students, say experts.

"The average GPA across all U.S. high schools is 3.0, according to the College Board. For these everyday students, and for families earning an average income between \$50,000-\$150,000 – the journey to higher education should be about finding a college they can both attend and afford with confidence," says William Staib, co-founder and president of College Raptor, Citizens college planning platform.

That's why this year, College Raptor is reframing the conversation with its 2026 list of the 25 Most Affordable Great Colleges for "B" Students. Prioritizing possibility over prestige, the list highlights institutions that provide both quality and affordability for the students and families who represent the national average, giving a real, unbiased look at the accessible pathways to higher education often left out of traditional rankings.

To draw up the list, Raptor leveraged insights from hundreds of colleges, millions of machine learning models and other publicly available data to evaluate academics, student success, faculty quality, campus resources and financial health. Every institution on the list is considered a match or safety for "B" students, with an average acceptance rate of 74%. Graduates of these institutions with B academics and \$50,000-150,000 financial profiles would pay on average less than 9% of their income towards student debt. That's more than 20% less than other four-year colleges that are most likely to accept "B" students. Plus, each school ranks in the top half of accredited four-year institutions nationwide, demonstrating that affordability doesn't mean sacrificing excellence.

To truly assess the value a school provides, parents and college-bound students should not only think about the next four years ahead, but well into the future. They can use the list to calculate their return on investment, as schools are ranked by loan payment as a percentage of typical starting salary, tying affordability directly to earning potential. This metric represents the estimated percentage of a student's expected starting monthly income that would be required to repay their projected student loans within 10 years. It communicates the proportion of monthly income taken up by loan repayment.

This resource can be accessed online by visiting [collegeraptor.com](http://collegeraptor.com). There you can also find lists for the 2026 Overall Best Colleges, Top Division II Schools, Top Division III Schools and Best HBCUs.

"For students with a solid 'B' grade average and families in middle-income brackets, expanding the definition of 'dream school' to include attainable options that align with family income, grades and additional factors can help more students arrive at college with confidence," says Staib.

Statepoint 2025

## BE A STUDENT COMMISSIONER

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## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Monrovia Unified School District**  
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**Duarte Unified School District**  
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### SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES TO THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ESSAY AND VISUAL ARTS CONTESTS AND WIN PRIZES!!

2026 Contest Theme Is: "Resilience and Renewal: Social Justice, Equality, and Community Empowerment"

As we enter 2026, we reflect on the vision conveyed by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his "I Have a Dream" speech given August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington. More importantly, we should analyze that vision, while thinking about the current state of our society. Giving emphasis to racial integration, war, poverty, and economic and employment inequalities, we must ask ourselves, "Are we living the dream and what are we doing to help bring it to fruition?

In his book *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. states, "In any social revolution, there are times when the tailwinds of triumph and fulfillment favor us, and other times when strong headwinds of disappointment and setbacks beat against us relentlessly. We must not permit adverse winds to overwhelm us as we journey across life, mighty Atlantic; we must be sustained by our entrance of courage in spite of the

winds. This refusal to be stopped, this 'courage to be,' this determination to go on 'in spite of' is the hallmark of any great movement."

"Resilience and Renewal: Social Justice, Equality, and Community Empowerment"

This theme recognizes Dr. King's commitment to nonviolent action in pursuit of justice and equality. It's a call to action to protect the values that elevate humanity, and to work together to ensure freedom, justice, and democracy are safeguarded.

Your submission should reflect ways to recover quickly from difficulties, trials and tribulations and respond to the challenges facing the country today, e.g. wildfire, immigration, threats to democracy, in line with the writing of Martin Luther King.

All in Grades 4th through 12th may Enter All submissions are due to the Pasadena MLK by: Friday, December 8, 2025

The event will take place Monday, January 19, 2026 at

John Muir High School Auditorium  
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Peter A. Dills  
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## THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF 2026 FOR PETER DILLS (update)

The List that you've been waiting for

1. I resolve to drink more water when I drink. Translation – add more ice to my drinks
2. I resolve to send back cold food, even if I'm starving. Translation – No Mr. Nice Guy
3. I resolve to ask to be moved if there are screaming kids next to me. Translation – "Two things I can't stand crying women and crying babies."
4. I resolve to send back my meat if it's not cooked to my liking. Translation – I want more perfection in 2024
5. I resolve to order a Grande at Starbucks instead of a Venti to save money. Translation – Watch out Starbucks a big dip in the stock in 2026
6. I resolve to smoke more cigars this year. Translation – I always smoke with my friends.
7. I resolve to ask the dumb question, is it really a Champagne Brunch or a Sparkling Wine Brunch? Translation – It is always a Sparkling Wine Brunch
8. I resolve to ask, is it really World Famous? Translation – Never World Famous, often people in the neighborhood don't know the place.
9. I resolve to tip 10% if the service warrants it. Translation – Yeah right - I know I am a coward when it comes to stiffing these waiters, even when they deserve it.
10. I resolve to cook one meal a week at home. Translation – One more than I am now!

Bonus When ordering to-go food I will have my order ready before getting on the phone!

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**WHEN ILLNESS RUINS CHRISTMAS**

For many families, Christmas is a season of anticipation—bright lights, shared meals, and long-kept traditions. But when illness strikes, the holiday can change suddenly, replacing celebration with worry and quiet resilience.

Every year, hospitals see a rise in admissions during December, from winter viruses to flare-ups of chronic conditions. A child's fever, a parent's unexpected diagnosis, or a grandparent's frailty can bring plans to a halt. Trees go undecorated, travel is cancelled, and festive tables remain empty. The disruption is not only practical but emotional, as expectations built over weeks collapse in a matter of hours.

Illness often isolates families at the very moment they expect togetherness. Those who are sick may feel guilt for "spoiling" Christmas, while relatives struggle with helplessness. For healthcare workers, the holiday is frequently spent on long shifts, caring for patients who would rather be home. Wards are decorated with tinsel and paper snowflakes, but they cannot replace familiar voices and routines.

Yet, amid disappointment, many discover a quieter meaning to the season. A pared-back Christmas can shift focus from gifts to care: checking in by phone, dropping off meals, or simply sitting together. Small kindnesses—a nurse's reassurance, a neighbor's errand—take on greater weight when health is uncertain.

Mental health professionals note that acknowledging grief is important. It is acceptable to feel sad when illness interrupts cherished traditions. At the same time, adapting expectations can ease the strain. Celebrations can be postponed, simplified, or reimaged. A January gathering or a shared video call may not be ideal, but they preserve connection.

When illness ruins Christmas, it reminds us that the holiday's heart is not perfection, but compassion. In choosing patience, empathy, and care, families often find that—even in a difficult year—the spirit of Christmas endures.

**HOW TO FIND A QUALIFIED NURSING HOME FOR A LOVED ONE**

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you give me some tips on picking a good nursing home for my father? Since his stroke, I've been taking care of him at home, but he's gotten to the point where it's too much for me to handle. Exhausted Daughter

Dear Exhausted,

Choosing a nursing home for a loved one that provides quality is a very important decision that requires careful evaluation and some homework. Here are some steps you can take that can help you find a good facility and avoid a bad one.

Make a list: There are several sources you can turn to for referrals to top nursing homes in your area including the Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 or visit Eldercare.acl.gov for contact information); your dad's doctor or nearby hospital discharge planner; friends or neighbors who may have had a loved one in a nursing home; and online at Medicare's nursing home compare tool at Medicare.gov/care-compare. This tool will not only help you locate nursing homes in your area, but it also provides a 5-star rating system on recent health inspections, staffing, quality of care, and overall rating.

Also, keep in mind that it's always best to choose a nursing home that's close to family members and friends who can visit often, because residents with frequent visitors usually get better care.

Call your long-term care ombudsman: This is a government official who investigates nursing home complaints and advocates for residents and their families. This person can tell you which nursing homes have had complaints or problems in the past and can help you locate a good facility. Visit LTCombsman.org for local contact information.

Contact the nursing homes: Once you've narrowed your search, call the nursing homes you're interested in to verify that they can facilitate your dad's needs. Also, find out if they have any vacancies, what they charge, and if they accept Medicaid.

Tour your top choices: During your nursing home visit, notice the cleanliness and smell of the facility. Is it homey and inviting? Does the staff seem responsive and kind to its residents? Additionally, be sure to taste the food, and talk to the residents and their family members, if available. It's also a good idea to visit several times at different times of the day and different days of the week to get a broader perspective.

And be sure to find out about their staff screening and training procedures, staff-to-patient ratio, and the staff turnover rate.

To help you rate your visit, Medicare offers a helpful checklist of questions to ask at Medicare.gov/media/document/12130nursing-home-checklist508.pdf that you can print and take with you on your visit.

Paying for Care

With nursing home costs now averaging \$324 per day nationally for a semi-private room and nearly \$371 for a private room, paying for care is another area you may have questions about or need assistance with. Medicare only helps pay up to 100 days of rehabilitative nursing home care, which must occur after a hospital stay of at least three days.

Most nursing home residents pay for care from either personal savings, a long-term care insurance policy, or through Medicaid once their savings are depleted. Or, if your dad is a veteran, he may be able to get funds through the VA's Aid and Attendance benefit (see VA.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound).

To learn more about the payment options, ask the nursing home director. You can also get help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free counseling on all Medicare and Medicaid issues. To find a local SHIP counselor visit ShipHelp.org or call 877-839-2675.

And for more information, see Medicare's booklet "Your Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home" (product # 02174). You can view it online at Medicare.gov/Publications.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

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**OUT TO PASTOR**  
A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder  
**CAN YOU EAT TOO MANY COOKIES AT CHRISTMAS?**

Christmas was over, and the house began to quiet down in a good way. Don't get me wrong, I love the noise when all the family is together. It is a good feeling to be with your family during this wonderful holiday season. I love the energy!

I enjoy the presents and watching the family opening theirs, but I especially love the holiday feasts prepared by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. There was only one time when she really messed up. That was when she had broccoli at the holiday feast. Nothing is more disgusting to me than seeing broccoli on the table. She only did it once, for which I am most grateful.

Someone might ask what my favorite item on the table was. I would reply by saying, the item that is in my mouth at the time. This Christmas season, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage baked a truckload of cookies and shared them with friends and neighbors, who greatly appreciated them.

The only problem with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage baking cookies is that I'm in the same house, and the smell infiltrates every room. I can be in my office, busy on a project, when suddenly the most fascinating aroma fills the room: cookies baking in the kitchen.

There is a very strict rule in our house about cookies: I can have only one, and only if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage gives it to me. Otherwise, it is a forbidden fruit. Every so often, she will slip me a second cookie, and I'm so appreciative of that small gesture.

The great thing about our family coming together for Christmas dinner is that there are so many of us. With the little ones always very noisy, I try to stir up that noise as much as possible—after all, isn't that a grandfather's job?

Amid all the holiday noise, I sneak a cookie. If The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage doesn't catch me, it's okay—or so I think. I must confess that eating these cookies is not my fault. After all, if the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage did not make so many delicious cookies, I wouldn't be tempted. In short, my eating cookies is not my fault but hers.

I've tried several times to explain this to her, but she still doesn't buy it. Her idea is that I can only have a cookie if she hands it to me.

During the holiday festivities, with all the noise, I can sneak cookies whenever I want. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is so focused on the family, especially the great-grandchildren, that I can get away with it. So, if I get away with it, it's all right. Right?

As our family festivities began, I noticed the stash of cookies the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had baked. The grandchildren love her cookies. As the festivities begin, I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if I could give some cookies to the grandchildren. After all, I explained, she was too busy to do this. I must say I caught her by surprise, and because she was busy with something else, she just said, "Okay, but remember, no cookies for you."

With a big smile on my face, I picked up a plate of cookies and took them around to the grandchildren. There was so much activity that I began eating a cookie now and then. I made sure the plate was in front of one of the grandchildren before I picked up a cookie. I think I covered my tracks pretty well.

The first grandchild I took the cookie plate to looked at me and said, "Papaw, do you want one of my cookies?" Now, how can you refuse your grandchild? I thought it was my grandparental duty to respond to my grandchild by saying, "Oh, my dear, thank you so much I appreciate that." And the cookie disappeared from the plate into my adoring mouth.

I was very cautious because when I went to one of my grandchildren, I often made sure to check where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was and whether she was looking and in my direction. When she wasn't, it was a signal for me to get another cookie.

My only question during this festive time was: How many cookies are too many? After the family activities were over, I relaxed with some coffee and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came in and sat down. She looked at me and asked, "So, how many cookies did you eat today?"

To answer that question would get me in deep trouble. Instead, I replied, "Wasn't our great-granddaughter so cute?" That was enough to distract her and get her talking about our great-granddaughter. I ducked an arrow with that.

While The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went on and on about our great-granddaughter, I remembered a Bible verse I read in my devotions.

"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord" (1 Chronicles 16:8-10).

No amount of trouble can rob me of rejoicing in the Lord. Everything I have is a gift from the Lord, and I'm going to appreciate it the rest of my life.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.james-snyderministries.com](http://www.james-snyderministries.com).



## CHRISTOPHER Nyerges

[Nyerges is an educator and author. His many books can be seen at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com).]

### PROFILES FROM THE FIRE: CHIP JOHNSON

Chip Johnson grew up not far from John Muir High School in Northwest Pasadena. He graduated from St. Francis High School in La Canada, and went on to teach business law and social studies for 12 years at St. Francis. He then went on to teach 7th and 8th graders in the El Monte School District. He moved into his home in the northwest section of Altadena in 1986, and lived there with his wife and 5 children. He was enjoying his retirement with his wife and one child still residing with him in his picturesque corner of his Altadena neighborhood. Until January 7.

During the day of January 7, there were high winds, and Johnson heard about the fire and saw the glow of the fire to the east. As he watched the fire progress, he packed items in his car "just in case." "But we really didn't think we'd need to evacuate," he explained. "We've been through fires many times before and it never got to us. It always stayed in the hills."

Though friends called Johnson about the fire and the possibility of evacuating, he received no official notices on his phone. He began to water down his house just in case, to prevent an ember from burning his home.

As darkness proceeded, the winds continued to get stronger, and trees and wires came down. Johnson sent his wife and daughter to the daughter's parent's home, and he and his son went to other relatives' homes in Altadena to help water down their homes. Johnson pointed out that there are several little water companies that serve Altadena, and while the Las Flores Water Company had good pressure, there was low pressure where he lived, serviced by Lincoln Avenue Water Company. "I went with my son to several other houses and some had good water pressure for us to wet down the houses, and some didn't." (Johnson has six relatives who reside in or near Altadena). "We saw whole blocks of houses burning," he explains, and with a bit of angst, he adds that he figured his house was lost. In fact, even though everywhere around his neighborhood was on fire, he got a phone call while he was helping relatives saying, "Your house is still there."



He went home, and worked with a neighbor to gain access to another neighbor's pool, and used a sump pump to spray the pool water on the neighbor's house. (The neighbor's house survived the fire.) But because of the dense smoke, and high winds and blowing embers, Johnson thought he might get trapped in the neighborhood. He and his son collected the dogs, some basic clothing, important papers and laptop, and went to a cousin's house by the Rose Bowl. But it was too crowded there since many relatives had also gone there, so Johnson and family went to his son's house, away from the fire in Pasadena, closer to Arcadia, and stayed there for a few weeks.

When he was able to get around the National Guard barricades and get back to see if his house survived, he felt a certain shock to see his house and a few surrounding neighbor's homes, still standing. However, nearly all of the surrounding homes for blocks around had been reduced to rubble, burned to the ground with just fireplaces standing.

As soon as he could go back regularly, he went back to clean up the burned vegetation and general clean up, though now there was no electricity, and no gas, and no water.

Why did his home and handful of his neighbors' homes survive? Johnson really doesn't know, but speculated that the coating of Tex-cote on his house might have been part of the reason. (Tex-cote is a product that is sprayed on the exterior walls, like stucco, and it is designed to reflect the sun's heat and reduce the exterior wall surface temperatures by as much as 40 degrees f.) "When the workers sprayed it on, they were a little sloppy around some the attic vents and somewhat covered the openings. But that might have actually helped to keep embers out of the attic." He also had recently installed a new roof. Additionally, his home sits in a small valley with a small ridge line to the north and east. It's possible that the lay of the land in that little cul de sac kept the fire away from his house. "Still," he exclaims, "my neighbor's homes to my south, and north, and west, all burned to the ground!"

Johnson and family eventually rented a two bedroom place where they stayed with their dogs. They only managed to return to their home in July, a full six months after the fire.

In the meantime, they did a full remediation on the house, including removing all the insulation, and discarding most of the furniture. Johnson noted that the fire was so close to his house that the hinges on the wrought iron gate were melted.

In all, six of his relatives lost their homes due to the Eaton fire -- his brother and five cousins. After the fire, Johnson noted that he would see possible looters "dozens of times," driving up and down the streets, presumably looking for scrap metal or something to steal. "They had no reason to drive up my street because it's a cul de sac. If I saw them only once, I figured they might be lost, but if I saw them twice, I was suspicious." Johnson would put on lights, and music, and use cameras, and often go outside when he believed would-be looters were driving though.

He shares that he used to walk in the neighborhood at night, but now it's pitch black and eerily quiet, so he doesn't do so much. Plus, the emptiness has resulted in seeing a bear more regularly in the neighborhood. He still sees regular coyotes, but they were around before the fire. The most irritating thing to him is the real estate agents who constantly call, wanting to know if he will sell his place.

Even though the old neighborhood barely exists anymore, and will not likely look like it did before the fire, Johnson and family are staying. "I've lived there for 40 years," he says smiling. "Altadena's my home. I don't want to move somewhere else and be a 72 year old rookie."

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### Pet of the Week

Achilles is a 4-year-old black German Shepherd whose calm confidence and gentle nature make him the perfect companion for both winter adventures and cozy days at home! Whether he's hiking, riding calmly in the car, or soaking up attention from admirers, Achilles brings a steady, comforting energy wherever he goes. On a recent field trip, he handled a very busy trail like a pro — calmly walking alongside another dog, ignoring bikes, kids, crowds, and even a horse, all while happily taking treats and responding to verbal cues. He's affectionate and gentle, leaning in for pets and chest scratches, and truly lives up to his reputation as a big cuddly bear. This holiday season, Achilles would love nothing more than a family to call his own. If you're hoping to celebrate the holiday season with a loyal, loving best friend by your side, consider adopting Achilles and giving him the forever home he deserves. There's no better time to adopt: during the Home for the Holidays campaign (Dec. 14-31), adoption fees for large dogs, like Achilles, will be waived. 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 10:00 – 5:00. View photos of adoptable pets at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org).

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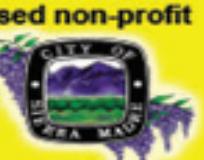


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## HAVE YOU GIVEN UP ON EXERCISE?

Every January, the same pattern repeats for many people who want to exercise. They start the year hopeful, motivated, and ready to make a change. Gyms get busy, walking paths fill up, and fitness classes overflow. Many people truly believe this will be the year they finally stick with exercise. But by February or March, motivation fades, routines fall apart, and exercise slips away again. This cycle leaves people frustrated, discouraged, and wondering what is wrong with them. The truth is simple and important: the problem is not the person. The problem is the way exercise is often taught and expected to work.

One major reason people give up on exercise is unrealistic expectations. Many people expect fast results. They want weight loss, strength, energy, and confidence to appear quickly. When progress feels slow, disappointment follows. Exercise does not work on a short timeline. Real improvement happens gradually over weeks and months. Small efforts done consistently matter far more than intense workouts done for a short time. When people understand this, they are less likely to quit.

Another reason people stop exercising is the lack of a clear plan. Saying "I will work out more" sounds good, but it is not specific. Without deciding when, where, and how exercise will happen, it becomes optional. Busy days make skipping easy. A simple plan creates structure. Scheduling exercise like an appointment helps it become part of daily life instead of something that disappears.

Many people rely on motivation, but motivation is unreliable. Some days you feel inspired, and other days you do not. Waiting to feel motivated often leads to missed workouts. Habits work better than motivation. Doing the same activity at the same time builds consistency. Once exercise becomes a habit, it requires less effort and less negotiation.

Past experiences also shape current behavior. People who have tried and failed before may believe exercise is not for them. Maybe they joined a gym and stopped going. Maybe a program was too hard or too strict. These experiences create negative feelings around movement. Failure does not mean you cannot succeed. It provides information about what did not work.

Exercise is as much mental as physical. Thoughts like "I am too old" or "I am not athletic" quietly interfere. Fear of failure and self-doubt often stop people before they begin. Learning to notice these thoughts and replace them with realistic expectations can remove a major barrier. Exercise should support your life, not punish it.

Another common mistake is believing exercise must be long or intense to count. Many people think if they cannot exercise for an hour, it is pointless. This creates all or nothing thinking. Ten minutes matters. Walking matters. Gentle movement matters. Consistency builds progress, not perfection. Starting small makes success possible.

The best exercise program is one that fits your real life. Enjoyment matters more than intensity. If you dislike an activity, it will be hard to continue. Choose movement you enjoy or can tolerate. Track what you do so progress feels visible. Celebrate showing up. These strategies are often missing from fitness advice.

These ideas are the foundation of my new book, "Given Up On Exercise? Your Foolproof Path to Lasting Fitness". It is written for anyone who feels discouraged, deconditioned, or tired of starting over. The book focuses on understanding past struggles and creating a realistic plan that lasts.

If you have given up on exercise before, you are not alone. Many people struggle for years before finding an approach that works. This year does not need to be perfect. It needs to be different. Start small, be patient, and focus on consistency. Fitness grows when it fits your life and is doable.

January is a powerful moment because people are thinking about change, health, and the future. Instead of chasing extreme goals, use this time to reset your relationship with movement. Ask what feels manageable, supportive, and realistic. Plan for setbacks instead of pretending they will not happen. Missing a workout is not failure; quitting completely is. Progress comes from returning, again and again, without judgment. Exercise should help you feel capable in your body and confident in your choices. When movement fits your values and your schedule, it becomes something you do, not something you dread. That shift is what finally allows fitness to last.

Long term success is built through patience, self-awareness, and kindness. There is no perfect program, only one that works for you. Give yourself permission to learn as you go. When exercise supports your life instead of controlling it, staying active becomes possible, sustainable, and empowering.

## ALL THINGS by Jeff Brown NEW YEARS JAN. 1ST?

January 1st is considered the beginning of the New Year largely because of ancient Roman traditions, later strengthened by calendar reforms and global standardization. The choice is not based on astronomy or seasonal change, but on historical, political, and cultural developments that began over two thousand years ago.



In early Roman history, the calendar year originally began in March, which aligned with the start of spring and the agricultural season. This is why several month names—September (seventh), October (eighth), November (ninth), and December (tenth)—no longer match their numerical positions in the modern calendar. March was also dedicated to Mars, the Roman god of war, making it a practical time for military campaigns and civic activities to begin.

When Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar in 45 BCE, he officially established January 1st as the first day of the year throughout the Roman Empire. This reform created a more consistent calendar system based on the solar year and helped standardize civil administration.

However, traditions varied, and many regions continued to celebrate the new year on different dates.

The important shift to January 1st occurred in 153 BCE. The Roman Senate decided that newly elected consuls, the highest officials in Rome, should take office earlier in the year so they could respond promptly to military and political challenges. January was named after Janus, the Roman god of doorways, beginnings, and transitions. Janus was often depicted with two faces—one looking to the past and the other to the future—making January a symbolic and appropriate starting point for a new year.

During the Middle Ages, New Year's Day was observed on various dates across Europe, including March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation), Easter, and December 25 (Christmas). These differences caused confusion in legal documents, taxation, and historical records, as the same date could belong to different years depending on the location.

The issue was resolved in 1582 with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar by Pope Gregory XIII. This reform corrected inaccuracies in the Julian calendar and reaffirmed January 1st as the official start of the year. Catholic countries adopted the change first, while Protestant and Orthodox regions followed gradually.

As global trade, science, and diplomacy expanded, the Gregorian calendar became the international standard. Consequently, January 1st emerged as the universally recognized beginning of the New Year—a date shaped by history, governance, and tradition rather than by natural cycles.

Happy New Year!!!

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**  
**Call Patricia 626-818-2698**

## UNLOCK YOUR LIFE



When you hear "self-care," what comes to mind? Bubble baths with candles and wine? Mani-pedis and massages?

Let me upgrade your thinking. What if we thought of self-care as stewardship instead?

### The Science of Kind Self-Talk

Real self-care is being deeply aware of and in touch with your own desires. Not just what you want, but more importantly, how do you want to feel?

Research by Dr. Kristin Neff at the University of Texas shows that self-compassion is one of the most powerful sources of resilience we have, and people who are compassionate toward their own failings experience greater well-being than those who are harshly self-critical. How you talk to yourself matters profoundly. Is your self-talk kind and encouraging? Or mean and self-deprecating?

Studies reveal that self-compassion provides greater emotional resilience and stability than self-esteem alone, with fewer downsides like ego-defensiveness. When you stumble, do you speak to yourself as you would a dear friend? That's not weakness, that's sustainable strength.

**Stewardship: Your Life as Sacred Resource**  
According to Merriam-Webster, stewardship is "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

What if you viewed yourself, your body, your time, and your energy as sacred resources entrusted to your care?

Psychology research on resource stewardship emphasizes that sustainable behavior requires intrinsic motivation—we're more likely to engage in practices when they align with our personal values and when we feel a sense of autonomy and competence.

Self-care as stewardship means:

- Proper nutrition that fuels your body
- Adequate rest that restores your nervous system
- Healthy relationships that energize rather than deplete you
- Essential movement that honors your body's design
- Environments that reflect how you want to feel

How do you want to feel in your home? Comfortable? Expressed and expressive?

### REDEFINING SELF-CARE AS SACRED STEWARDSHIP

Surrounded by plants and greenery? Art that moves you? These aren't luxuries—they're expressions of responsible self-stewardship.

#### *The Mental Clarity of Letting Go*

Here's what the research tells us about decluttering: A study in the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin found that people with cluttered homes have higher levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, than those with tidy spaces. Research shows that home clutter accounts for substantial variance in wellbeing, particularly affecting negative emotions, life satisfaction, and mental health.

But decluttering isn't just about your physical space. It's also about:

- Thought clutter: Recurring negative thought patterns that no longer serve you
- Relationship clutter: Connections that drain rather than sustain you
- Commitment clutter: Obligations that don't align with your values
- Digital clutter: The constant noise competing for your attention

As you review and prepare for the new year, what are you carrying forward? What are you leaving behind?

#### *A Stewardship Reflection for the New Year*

Take a moment with these questions:

1. What am I eliminating? (physically, mentally, relationally)
2. What do I want to feel more of in 2025? (peace, creativity, connection, vitality)
3. What does my body/mind/spirit need that I've been ignoring?
4. What's one small act of stewardship I can practice daily?
5. If I treated myself as a sacred resource, what would change?

As a good steward of your life and body as a sacred resource, these aren't just nice questions. They're essential ones.

Self-care doesn't have to be about doing, acquiring, or achieving. It can be as simple, and as meaningful, as speaking kindly to yourself. Clearing space. Choosing rest. Honoring what you need.

Ready to step into 2026 as the sacred steward of your own life? Join me for a complimentary Vision Session where we'll clarify what you're carrying forward, what you're leaving behind, and what you're truly called to create. We'll explore your four-quadrant framework (health, relationships, vocation, and time/money freedom) and identify your next aligned step.

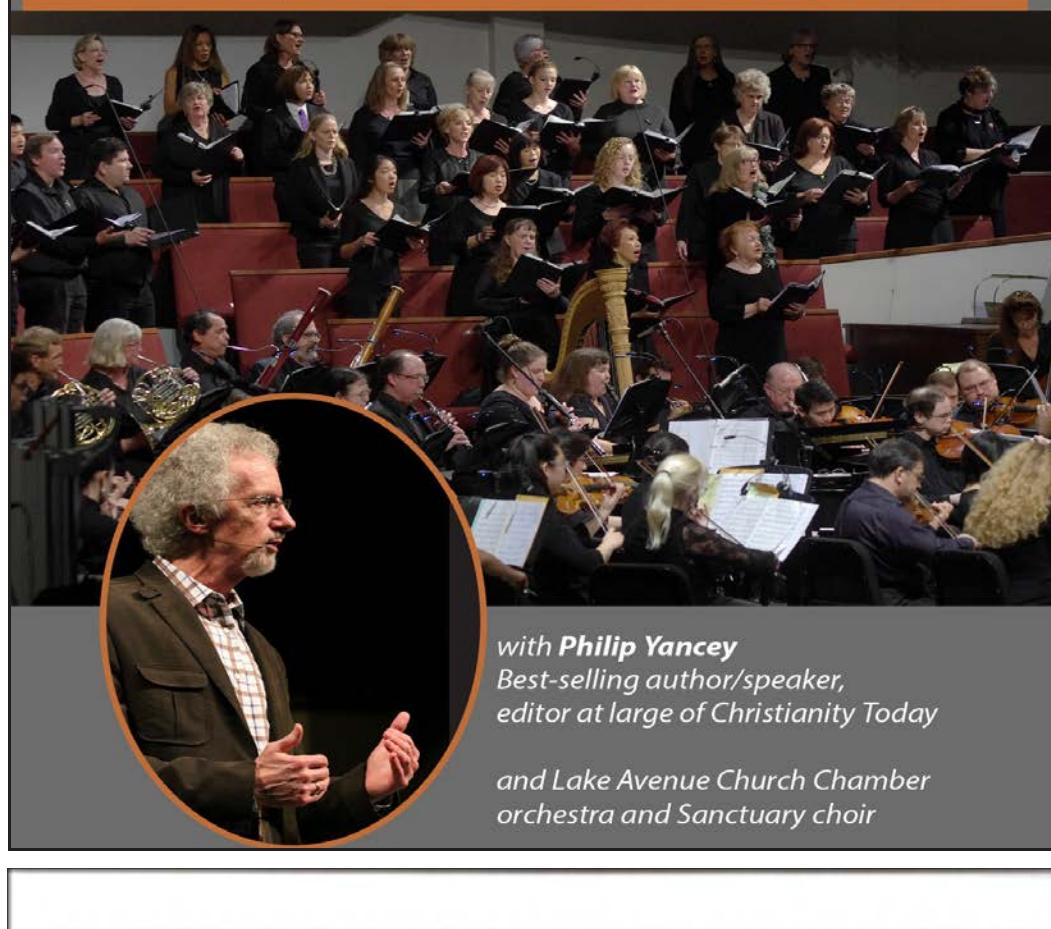
Visit [LoriAHarris.com](http://LoriAHarris.com) to schedule, or email me at [email protected]. Your most aligned, well-stewarded life is waiting, let's unlock it together.

*Lori A. Harris is an Integrative Change Coach, Life Mastery Consultant, and host of the "Unlock Your Life" podcast. She helps high-achieving women move from successful but unfulfilled to aligned and alive.*

## Songs of REMEMBRANCE

*A service to commemorate the first anniversary of the Altadena fire*

**Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 • 7:30 pm • Worship Center**



**with Philip Yancey**  
Best-selling author/speaker,  
editor at large of Christianity Today

and Lake Avenue Church Chamber  
orchestra and Sanctuary choir

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**Mountain Views News  
Mission Statement**

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

**STUART TOLCHIN      PUT THE LIGHTS ON  
WHAT MORE THERE IS TO KNOW**


Last night after a couple of hours of sleep I awoke, imagining I had been talking on the phone with my mother. At the end of the conversation, I told her to "shut up", and she hung up on me. My mother died almost fifteen years ago but as I awoke, I had forgotten that and spent a couple of minutes trying to figure out how to call her back wanting to apologize. Finally, I realized it had all been a dream, but I am still thinking about it.

This whole past week has been strange. My wife, a born Catholic, and I a born Jew spent eight consecutive days lighting Hanukkah candles. Right after lighting the candle lighting, we said a prayer from a flyer handed out at the Chanukkah lighting ceremony in the center of Sierra Madre which occurred last Saturday. What were we doing there? A neighbor invited us to attend reminding us that he had constructed the giant menorah which would be displayed. Okay, so we went and after the lighting we invited him to dinner with us at a newly-opened restaurant across the street. Unexpectedly, he insisted upon paying for all three of us---a very surprising connection!

Anyway, after lighting each candle at home my wife and I pronounced the words phonetically that were written on the paper she had kept. It was important to me not to even read the English translations that also appeared on the page. This leads me to discuss the three books I have recently read which I think are connected to my dream last night and other unusual things I have done in the past pre-Christmas week. The first of the books is entitled *ONE LAST THING BEFORE YOU GO* -Why You Should Interview Your Parents. Reading that book made me very aware of how much more there is and was to know about my parents, who are both long-deceased, and myself.

The last book I read was entitled *THE FINAL SOLUTION* by Michael Chabon. What fascinated me was the book cover picture of a giant parrot. Remarkably I failed to take notice of the title of the book which many of you must know was a plan orchestrated by Nazis. The book begins as the boy and the parrot are observed by a feeble 89-year-old man who has lost all interest in talking with other human beings.

I read the book almost to the end before I realized that the old man was probably Sherlock Holmes and that the boy was Jewish and had somehow escaped to England from a Nazi Concentration Camp. Somehow it hit me that "THE FINAL SOLUTION" referred to the plan orchestrated by Nazi Germany during World War II for the genocide of individuals they described as Jews. I reread the book a couple of times each time, becoming more aware of my own arrogance and ignorance.

The other book which has had an influence on me is entitled *ISHMAEL* authored by Daniel Quinn. It also involves conversations between a man and an animal. This time the animal is a gorilla, and the conversations are about the arrogance and ignorance of "civilized" man who seems on the road to bringing about the destruction of the entire human species. I think that book and the other two have something to do with my dream about an interrupted conversation with my mother in addition to my Chanukkah lighting and attendance. On Sunday, I also marched up and down the Sierra Madre hills doing my best to join in singing Christmas Carols.

What is going on, I think, is that I am becoming aware of my own superficiality and ignorance and am trying to do something about it. There is so much more to experience as a part of our existence than I have ever appreciated. Sadly, I have remained out of touch with the appreciation of fellowship, friendship, community, and shared experiences. For that, I blame my mother. That's what I wanted to talk to her about. Perhaps it wasn't her fault, but I wanted to talk about it.

Sometimes language gets in the way of understanding thus the need for parrots, gorillas and reading phonetically. Now I can worry about the coming rainstorm and the potential need to evacuate as that is easier to understand and possibly still to ignore.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**HOWARD HAYS AS I SEE IT**

*Mr. Trump's America will be increasingly blind and blundering, feeble and friendless." Hillary Clinton*



Ms. Clinton made that prediction last May in the wake of the "Signal-Gate" scandal - Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other top officials discussing details of a military attack over an off-the-shelf app. National security professionals were concerned this risked the lives of our service-members. The Trump administration was concerned that people were making a big deal about it.

Trump said about Venezuela, "They took all of our oil and we want it back. They illegally took it." Weighn posted in response, "The oil that's... in their country???"

Following Trump's comments on the murder of Rob Reiner, Sam Alberti notes, "If you said something like this about Charlie Kirk three months ago they would have gotten you fired from your job."

Responding to reports of a "mysterious giant structure" hidden in the waters off Bermuda, I Dissent posts, "The Epstein files are so bad they are bringing the Bermuda Triangle back".

Trump responded to the shootings at Brown University, "Things can happen". Nick responded to Trump, "Man just said womp womp to a mass shooting".

In a public interview, Elon Musk says that with mRNA you could turn someone into a butterfly. Brandy Bryant posted in response, "Guy who says you can't change your gender: You can change your species".

Gramps observes: "Uneducated voters pose a greater risk to this nation than undocumented immigrants ever will."

Vice President Vance states, "Every affordability crisis that's confronting the American people today, is traceable directly to a problem caused by Joe Biden." Andy Ostroy responds, "The 'We'll fix it on day one' losers are still blaming Joe Biden on day 328".

Again, from Gramps - "Monday: Mass shooting. Tuesday: Mass shooting. Wednesday: Mass shooting. Thursday: Mass shooting. Friday: Mass shooting. Saturday: Mass shooting. Sunday: Mass shooting. Republicans: 'We gotta do something about trans people playing sports.'

VP Vance states, "If you have fewer people, fewer illegal aliens trying to buy homes, that means American citizens are finally going to be able to afford a home again. It's very, very simple economics". Covie responds, "So illegals don't want to work and are relying on welfare but are also buying all the houses???"

Jamie Bonkiewicz recalls: "Remember when we had no idea who Erika Kirk was? That was awesome". This past year, we found out what "Mr. Trump's America" is all about. 2026 is the year we take our country back.

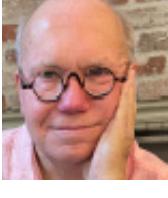
And regardless of one's feelings about "Russia, Russia, Russia" and the "stolen" 2020 election, few are willing to take Trump's word anymore when he assures that whatever the concern about affordability - housing, utilities, groceries - it's all just another "hoax".

It'll be interesting to follow and see how many are still choosing to stick with "Mr. Trump's America" next year as we head into the midterms.

For all I tried to follow and write about this

**RICH JOHNSON  
NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS**

(Reprint)



Time to give up on "Resolutions". My past track record on adopting lasting resolutions is dismal. What about yours? Let's try "Revolutions". Experts have told me the failure rate for New Year's resolutions is about 80%. We don't even make it through February. I have an idea! We should all collectively reject the following resolutions:

1. Live healthier
2. Lose weight

And as if I don't feel guilty enough the fitness industry has statistics. Their study shows four out of five people who join a gym in January will quit by May.

Might as well ask me to resolve growing hair! Toss resolutions on the trash heap. And forget your body. Let's shift away from selfishly focusing on improving the body and try working on improving society. Micro to macro. Why not? My suggestion is volunteer for something.

I think it just might be easier to succeed taking on the much easier task of improving society. DeAnn Hollis said: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart." (Who is DeAnn Hollis?)

Here are some mind altering quotes on volunteering:

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." Sherry Anderson

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." Booker T. Washington

"Volunteers are love in motion." Unknown

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Ghandi

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Leo Buscaglia

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss

"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock, If you want to touch the present, touch a flower, If you want to touch the future, touch a life." Unknown

If you are reading this column on Saturday, December 30th there is still time to come hear my band, JJ Jukebox perform a New Year's Eve Eve concert. Tonight, 6:30 at Nano Café in Sierra Madre. (626) 325-3334. Please pardon the shameless plug!

Speaking of music, let's see here...music quotes!

"Bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise".

"I have an accordion and I'm not afraid to use it." On a bumper sticker.

"The only winner in the war of 1812 was Tchaikovsky." Solomon Short

"Anything that is too stupid to be spoken is sung." Voltaire

"Music played at weddings always reminds me of the music played for soldiers before they go into battle." Heinrich Heine

"Without music, life would be a mistake." Nietzsche

Finally, to close off this column is a profound (to me) quote by George Bernard Shaw: "When a thing is funny, search it carefully for a hidden truth."

To my dear friends who read my columns (even sporadically) thank you. I am humbled and blessed knowing a few of you out there enjoy my efforts. If I can equip you with a funny line or meaningful quote that you pass on at a party, I've achieved my goal.



## LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PASADENA COURTHOUSE  
300 E. Walnut St.  
Pasadena, Ca. 91101

## SUMMONS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:  
CARLI CARNEY, ETC. ET AL

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:  
JACK O. BALSWICK AND JUDITH K. BALSWICK, ETC.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below:

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al de mandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quedó más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso):  
25NNCV07464

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PASADENA COURTHOUSE  
300 E. Walnut St.  
Pasadena, Ca. 91101

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

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IRVINE, CA. 92618  
(949) 535-2124

Published: Mountain Views News  
December 27, 2025, January 3, 10, 17, 2026

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 202526429  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GEZABOO MUSIC, 318 W. MONTECITO AVE SIERRA MADRE, CA. 91024. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) A BEARLIKE ANGEL LLC, 1146 N. CENTRAL AVE., #390 GLENDALE, CA. 91202. This Business is conducted by: AN. Signed: A BEARLIKE ANGEL LLC, GLENDALE, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on N/A. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: ES Mountain Views News

Dates Pub: DEC. 27, 2025, JAN 3, 10, 17, 2026

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2025265282  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FAIRIES CREATIONS ISA 1343 CAMRAN AVE LANCASTER, CA. 93535. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) FAIRIES CREATIONS ISA 1343 CAMRAN AVE LANCASTER, CA. 93535. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: FAIRIES CREATIONS ISA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/26/2024. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/20/25. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

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File No. 2025283522  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PRO ROOMS & ASYLUM 6829 ENCINO AVE VAN NUYS, CA. 91406. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) NICHOLAS ANDREW YENIS 6829 ENCINO AVE VAN NUYS, CA. 91406. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: NICHOLAS ANDREW YENIS OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/23/2025. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/25. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

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## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2025253946  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MAFARINA CO. 2660 E. 101ST ST. SEPULVEDA, CA. 91344. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) GOHAR ARAHAMYAN 13955 TAHITI ST. GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344, has/have abandoned the use of fictitious business name: KAYNSHA CHOCOLATES 12661 BYRON AVE. GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 07/15/2022, in the county of Los Angeles. The original filer number is 2023242057. The business was conducted by: A GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344. The business was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 11/12/2025. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime) KAYLA KATRINA MAPA GENERAL PARTNER

Publish: ES Mountain Views News

Dates Pub: DEC. 27, 2025, JAN 3, 10, 17, 2026

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2025265283  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LA POST BUILD CLEANERS 269 MARINA DEL REY, CA. 90292. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MAYA SHAHNOVICH 13955 TAHITI WAY 269 MARINA DEL REY, CA. 90292. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MAYA SHAHNOVICH OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/26/2025. The registrant(s)

Dates Pub: DEC. 20, 27, 2025, JAN 3, 10, 2026

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2025257302

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: XPTIR TRANSPORTATION 4335 VAN NUYS BLVD UNIT 412 SHERMAN OAKS, CA. 91403. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) SADEGH JAVID 4335 VAN NUYS BLVD UNIT 412 SHERMAN OAKS, CA. 91403. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SADEGH JAVID/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/14/2025. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: ES Mountain Views News

Dates Pub: DEC. 20, 27, 2025, JAN 3, 10, 2026

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2025258422

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: YOVANA ALLEY CLOTHING 1010 SANTA FE AVE 1510 LOS ANGELES, CA. 90013. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) YOVANA ALLEY GUTIERREZ MEJIA, 525 S. SANTA FE AVE 1510 LOS ANGELES, CA. 90013. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: YOVANA ALLEY GUTIERREZ MEJIA/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/17/2025. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: ES Mountain Views News

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Publish: ES Mountain Views News

Dates Pub: DEC. 20, 27, 2025, JAN 3, 10, 2026

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2025275138

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: YOVANA ALLEY CLOTHING 1010 SANTA FE AVE 1510 LOS ANGELES, CA. 90013. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) YOVANA ALLEY GUTIERREZ MEJIA, 525 S. SANTA FE AVE 1510 LOS ANGELES, CA. 90013. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: YOVANA ALLEY GUTIERREZ MEJIA/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/17/2025. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

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## January Events Around Town!

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### ONE TIME EVENTS

**January 1**  
Tournament of Roses 2026 "The Magic in Teamwork"

The iconic New Year's parade. Parade begins at 8 am at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Green Street in Pasadena

**January 1**  
Rose Bowl Game

The Indiana Hoosiers will take on the Alabama Crimson Tide in the College Football Quarterfinal. The game begins at 1pm

**January 7**  
A Concert for Altadena at Pasadena Civic Auditorium

On the one-year anniversary of the Eaton Fire, this benefit concert honors the resilience of the community and raises funds for rebuilding. An amazing lineup of artists will perform. 6:30 pm

**January 10**  
Flower Arranging: Orchids and Camellias at The Huntington

Create stunning arrangements in this wintry workshop. 10 am – 12 pm; 1pm – 3 pm

**January 17**  
Guided Nature Meditations at Descanso Gardens

Experience a peaceful 15-minute meditation in a beautiful natural setting. 9 am; 9:30 am; 10 am

**January 17**  
Guided Walk: Camellia Connections to Asian and Western History at The Huntington

Explore the Camellia Garden and discover the history of the beloved camellia. 9 am – 11 am

**January 18**  
Rose Bowl Half Marathon and 5K Tenth Anniversary

Kick off the new year with a run through picturesque Pasadena and support the mission to cure neurological diseases.

**January 24**  
Pasadena Symphony and Pops at Ambassador Auditorium Performs Mendelssohn and Meyer

A rich musical journey featuring Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony and Meyer's genre-bending Violin Concerto. 2 pm and 8 pm

**January 24**  
Southern California Camellia Society Show and Sale at the Arboretum

The Southern California Camellia Society presents hundreds of camellia blooms 9 am – 4 pm

**January 24**  
Nature Hike with Arcadia Community Center

Enjoy a staff-guided hike to Wisdom Tree. Includes transportation and boxed lunch. 7:30 am

### Ongoing Events

**January 1 – 3**  
Floatfest: A Rose Parade Showcase

View a two-mile showcase of stunning Rose Parade Floats on Sierra Madre and Washington Boulevards in Pasadena.

**Now – January 11**

Winter Frolic at KidSpace Museum

Your little ones can share in the magic of the season with sock-skating, "ice-fishing", and more.

**January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
Historic Downtown LA Walking Tour with LA Conservancy

Get a great overview of LA's history and architecture on this walking tour. 9:45 am

**January 15, 16**  
Rooted Workshop: Terrariums at Descanso Gardens

Learn the basics of design, planting, and care as you create your own terrarium. 10 am – 11 am

**January 26 – 31**  
Cheeseburger Week 2026 in Pasadena

Celebrate the invention of the cheeseburger in Pasadena. Local restaurants will compete for various titles, special menu items and deals.

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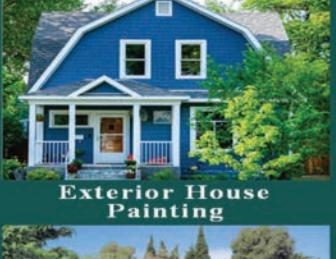
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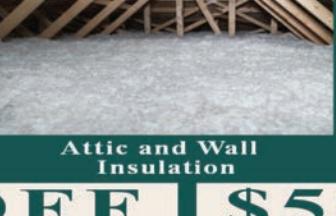
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## 'Tis The Season!

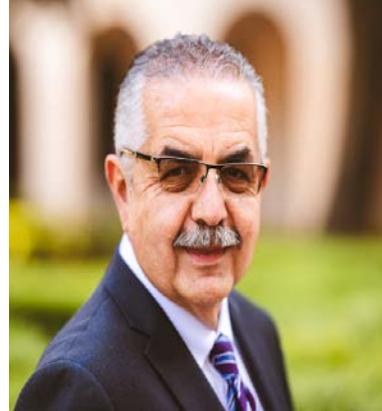


Happy  
New Year!

May this new year bring you endless joy, success, and the fulfillment of all your aspirations. Here's to new beginnings, unforgettable memories, and the strength to make your dreams a reality.

Wishing you and your loved ones a year full of peace, love, and prosperity.

*Sincerely,  
Luther & Georgina*



Luther  
Tsinoglou

626.695.8650

[luther@tsinoglou.com](mailto:luther@tsinoglou.com)

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