



Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

VOLUME 19 NO. 32

CLASS IS BACK IN SESSION

Tips to ease back into the school year.

Re-establish Routines

Prepare for the 1st Day

Visit the School

Communicate and Validate Feelings

Create a Positive Atmosphere

Keep the First Week Simple

HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!



Judy Webb-Martin 626.688.2273
DRE #00541631

COMPASS

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SIERRA MADRE LOSES LONGTIME RESIDENT JILL WAGNER



Jill Hisey Wagner, a Sierra Madre resident for more than 70 years, passed away Aug. 3 at the British Home retirement community in Sierra Madre. She was 91.

Jill was active with her husband, Howard, in the annual Sierra Madre Arts Festival for many years and was active in fund-raising campaigns for the Sierra Madre Public Library when Howard was a member of the library's Board of Trustees.

Jill was born to Jack Edward Zimmerman and Emily Elizabeth Delancey on Feb. 4, 1934 in Alameda, Calif. Her father abandoned the family when she was about 3 years old. While her mother worked as a secretary, her grandparents, John and Emily Delancey, helped raise her.

Her mother met and married Jean Hisey in 1938, and the family soon moved to Pasadena. Jill attended public schools and graduated from Pasadena City College. She worked briefly in a department store before she met Howard Wagner. They married in 1953 and Jill became a homemaker.

Howard passed away in 2006, and a brother, Jack Hisey, died in 2017. She is survived by a sister, Judith Hisey Cutler, of Apple Valley.

She is also survived by one son and two daughters, Rob Wagner of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Susannah Tomlin of Pasadena; and Lisa Reed, also of Pasadena. Daughter-in-law Sabria Jawhar and son-in-law Brad Tomlin also survive her.

In addition, she is survived by nine grandchildren: Nicholas Wagner of Hollywood and Selena Moffett and Danielle Small both of Lodi; Emily and Jude Wagner, of Riyadh; Ian Tomlin (Rayna Snow White-Tomlin) of Pasadena, Cory Macy of Norco, Alexander Reed (Katelyn Reed) of Valencia, and Christopher Reed of Kentucky.

Surviving great-grandchildren are Kayden and Hudson Sigmund of Lodi; and Ray, Ryan, Frederick and Cecilia Small of Modesto.

There will be no services. Burial of her cremated remains will be at the Episcopal Church of Ascension, Sierra Madre.

LOCAL GROUPS CONTINUE THEIR PROTEST AGAINST TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS

On August 2nd, from 10 - 2, Indivisible group, Rooted in Resistance, gathered in Kersting Court in Sierra Madre once again, peacefully, to rise together and show their outrage over the inhumanity and unconstitutional actions of the current authoritarian administration.

The non-violent group brought visuals which articulated their concerns. They also collected non-perishable food items for people unable to go to the market for fear of being swept up by ICE.

Determined to maintain dignity and order in their gathering, participants were encouraged to be mindful not to disrupt pathways to businesses or impair pedestrians ability to walk on Sierra Madre Blvd and/or Baldwin Avenue. Their moto: Together, we DO make a difference!

PHOTOS COURTESY ROOTED IN RESISTANCE SGV



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SUPPORT LOCAL ACCESS COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, August 14th

From 6pm-7pm

City Hall Chambers, 232 W Sierra Madre Blvd



- The Sierra Madre Police Department is hosting a follow-up meeting on the Support Local Access Pilot Program.
- The program aims to improve parking in downtown Sierra Madre.
- Community members are invited to share concerns and hear proposed solutions.
- Community feedback is vital to the success of the initiative.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Wistaria Thrift Shop
A Sierra Madre Woman's Club Fundraiser
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd

Thursday, September 4
10 am – 3 pm



Fri, Sept. 5 10 am – 3 pm
Sat, Sept., 6 10 am – 1 pm

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**CANCER SUPPORT
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FREE OF CHARGE

RETURN TO WELLNESS

Return to Wellness is a survivorship recovery program for women who have recently completed treatment for non-metastatic breast cancer.

Program Components

- Support Group
- Education
- Strength Training
- Yoga



REGISTER HERE:
cancersupport.link/returntowellness



TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

SEPT 30 - NOV 20 | 5:30-7:30 PM
in-person at Cancer Support Community



626-796-1083

CANCERSUPPORTSGV.ORG

331 W. SIERRA MADE BLVD 91024

SUGAR & MOON MARKET

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JUSTIN POOLE
626-277-3195

**NEXT LEVEL
PROPERTIES**

Agent DRE# 02067522 | Brokerage DRE# 01967740

SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

Weather Wise



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Mon:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Council is on Summer Recess Until:

August 26, 2025 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 by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

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

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at foothillsmmedia.org/sier-ramadre 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.

WALKING SIERRA MADRE The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"Leaving any bookstore is hard, especially on a day in August, When the street outside burns and glares, And the books inside are cool and crisp to the touch." Jane Smiley

"August is bittersweet. It feels heavy and light at the same time. August creates A feeling that exists in few other months of the year – one that you Want to bottle up and save until it comes around again next year." Lee Weingus

"If June was the beginning of a hopeful summer, and July the juicy middle, August was suddenly feeling like joyful Fal is on the way!"

This August for me is full of birthdays, anniversaries, and... Oh Joy of Joys...the start of school.

We won't know what school supplies will be required until the children hit the classroom and are given a staggering list of stuff to be purchased immediately. We are ready to give them whatever the Powers That Be deem necessary, just as long as they are out of the house for several hours five days of the week. Yes, there will be dancing in the streets! We all love our children, but summer break seems to be forever. Crissy and I are planning to go to brunch as soon as everyone is off to school. Mimosas beckon! The picture today is one I took several years ago in the front office of a school. Such a good bit of advice.

The full moon this month is best seen on August 9th, tonight. "It's the Sturgeon Moon, which comes from the Algonquin peoples, who observed that sturgeon were abundant and easily caught in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain during this period, according to the Almanac. This highlights the deep connection between nature, seasonal cycles and human culture in the traditions of these tribes. The Sturgeon Moon is associated with themes of strength, perseverance and ancient wisdom. It is seen as a time to connect with one's inner strength and trust one's instincts. Some also interpret it as a call to connect with one's spirituality and awaken to a deeper sense of self." The Old Farmer's Almanac

I love reading about and reporting on each month's full moon and I occasionally even remember it and get a look at it. People who are great photographers with better equipment than their iPhone post fabulous pictures on Facebook so if we forget to go outside, we can catch up in a day or so.

Now that school is starting, that means breakfast will be necessary. I've been making granola muffins as the yogurt and fruit parfaits that Jessie really likes come with a little container of granola to be added just before consuming. As there's always more granola than she wants in her parfait, I've collected a dandy little bag of this stuff and Google gave me this easy, quick recipe. If you want to dazzle your school people with a goodie baked with your own hands, this is perfect.

GRANOLA MUFFINS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 12 piece muffin tin and set aside

1-1/2 cups All Purpose Flour
¾ cup Sugar
1-1/2 cups of Granola
1 tsp. Baking Powder
½ tsp. salt

Mix all the above together in a large bowl. In a smaller bowl or measuring cup, mix together until well combined:

½ cup Vegetable
1 Egg
½ cup of Milk
1 tsp. Vanilla Extract

Pour wet ingredients into dry and mix with a wooden spoon until well mixed but don't overdo the mixing or the muffins will be tough. Pour your mixture into your muffin tin and bake 18 to 20 minutes, or until that good old toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center.

This will make you so proud of yourself when you send your school person off with a freshly baked muffin made just for them. A muffin, a kiss, a hug, an "I love you!" and any kid is good to go.

"Respect your parents. They got through school without Google!"

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
So many fun books, great recipes and stories in
A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter, and
Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope



Sierra Madre Public
LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

August 11—16

All Library events will be napping for the
month of August!



In the Meantime, Check Out:

Kanopy

On-demand streaming video platform, showcasing more than 30,000 titles, including award winning documentaries and acclaimed films, rare and hard to find titles, classic films, and includes collections from The Great Courses, Kino Lorber, and PBS.

Read, Discover, Connect
@ Sierra Madre Public Library



PROTECT YOUR HOME

Residential Burglary Prevention Tips!

These recommendations are made on behalf of the Chief of Police. While they are intended to enhance security, they cannot guarantee that your residence will be completely safeguarded against break-ins.



SECURE YOUR HOME

- Always set the alarm.
- Always lock doors and windows.
- Use high-quality deadbolts.
- Add sliding door stop rods designated for the track.
- Don't hide spare keys outside



IMPROVE LIGHTING

- Light up entries and corners.
- Use motion sensors



USE SECURITY SYSTEMS

- Install surveillance and video doorbells.
- Don't open for strangers.
- Install alarms.
- Install motion and glass break sensors.



MAKE IT LOOK OCCUPIED

- Use timers for lights, TVs, and radios.
- Hold mail and packages or ask a neighbor.
- Notify PD if away.
- Don't post travel plans online.
- Be sure to secure ladders and tools.



KEEP INVENTORY

- Photograph valuables; list serial numbers.
- Store records offsite or securely.



GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

- Stay alert and report suspicious activity.
- Watch out for each other.
- Double check doors to ensure they are locked and secured.

Contact the Sierra Madre Police Department at



(626) 355-1414



In an emergency, call 9-1-1

Wistaria Thrift Shop

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
@ So. Side of Sierra Madre Woman's Club

Opened 1957: 68 Years of Service to Our Community

Shop Closed for Summer

So many thanks for your donations and support this past year!!

Our Charities & Scholarships Thank You, too!

Enjoy your summer! See you when the

Shop Re-Opens

Thur., September 4 - 10-3

Clean, gently used donations again Accepted After 7/4/25

[SierraMadreWomansClub](#)

Barbers 38 West provides exceptional haircuts, styling, straight razor shaves, beard and mustache trims, and hair coloring to suit the needs of our varying clientele.

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BARBERS
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Jazz del Corazon Productions Presents

“Community in Unity”

A benefit for the victims of the Eaton Canyon fire

An evening of iconic music, songs and dance

Featuring

The Songs of the Brill Building



The music of Carole King, Neil Sedaka, the Girl Groups, The music of Bobby Darin, Connie Francis and Brenda Lee

Vocalists

**Jay Asher - Tiffany Bailey - John Ciccolini - Larry Davis
Jackie Gibson - Kelly H. Huff - Bryan Love - Lauren Lundeen
Kimberly Scott Moseley - Edgardo Romero**

Our Special Guests - Eric Ekstrand and Friends

Stave Rawlins piano and music director

Jay Asher piano and music director

Matt Bunsen bass, Craig Copeland guitar, Paul Kreibich drums

Friday August 15th 7:30 til 10:30

Matt Dennys Ale House

145 E Huntington Dr, Arcadia, CA 91006

**Tshirts and Eclectic Design by Sharon for sale
with proceeds going to the fundraiser**

Reservations: (626) 462-0250

Cannot attend? Donations can be sent via Zelle to: gibbyj88@gmail.com

GENUINE EATON CANYON FIRE EXPERIENCE Q & A

Where were you when the Eaton Canyon fire happened? At home in Altadena.

What area did you live in? For how long? I lived for 16 years north of Altadena Drive, next to Christmas Tree Lane.

Were you active in the Altadena community? Extremely. I cannot express enough, how integrated I was within the beautiful Altadena community. I promoted Altadena as a Heaven amidst Hollywood. I raved about how beautiful Altadena was to the world.

I:

- Shopped locally and supported neighborhood businesses.
- Taught after-school programs at Altadena Arts Magnet Elementary, covering French, English grammar, math, arts & crafts, theater, and music.
- Was a County of LA vendor—singing, teaching, performing, and participating in events at Farnsworth Park and Loma Alta Park.
- Face-painted at holiday parks and recreation events.
- Walked the neighborhood daily, engaging with neighbors and businesses.
- I have lived around the world and felt that Alta Dena was my true home. I planned to retire in Altadena and have my ashes spread in the San Gabriel Mountains.
- Performed the first post-COVID concert at the Altadena Main Library.
- Helped local artists get into galleries, all the way to Palm Springs.
- Promoted Altadena as a hidden gem in Southern California.
- Was invited backstage at JPL by a scientist involved with the Mars Curiosity rover.
- Hiked Eaton Canyon my first year during 4th of July celebration and was mesmerized by the fireworks that stretched all the way to Catalina Island.

How long have you been displaced from your home in Altadena? 7 months since the fire on Jan 7th, 2025.

Since the fire, what has come through for you in regards to Assistance? Did any agency provide for you in any way? What did they do for you?

- Disaster Recovery Center helped with paperwork (passport, DMV registration).
- The Red Cross provided one month of hotel stay—a special thank you to them.

Was communication with them easy or difficult? No. Communication with all agencies was difficult.

What type of housing, if any, were you given? No official housing was provided.

Was any temporary housing safe? Not really. Through GoFundMe, I stayed in hotels that were often unsafe due to crime. Many didn't accept dogs, forcing me into mediocre accommodations.

When you tried to contact the agencies, how were you treated? Poorly. I was treated as unimportant—likely because I was a renter, and not a landowner, and without children.

Were you given a timeline for financial assistance? No. I had to call countless times, over and over, only to be told that the agencies had run out of funds.

What are your hopes for yourself at this time? I hope both myself and the Altadena community can recover from this trauma. I fear the charm of Altadena—the goats, ponies, chickens, honey stands—may never return. But I dream of a beautiful future for Altadena, that it can eventually rebuild itself.

Any final thoughts? I'm deeply disappointed by the unfulfilled promises from fundraisers like Fire-Aid and the Grammys. Funds are supposedly being distributed among various nonprofit organizations, but I've been told they haven't been allocated. As a renter, I've witnessed the immense burden on homeowners and business owners. It has been difficult for everyone to rebuild and recover. Many are still struggling. A lot of promises have been made and broken.

I want to thank Jacqueline Gibson and Eric Ekstrand for organizing a fundraiser for me and William Stranger's family. The only real help I've received has come from friends, fans and community members.

God bless Mountain Views News for spotlighting our struggle. Our recovery is far from over but we dream, together, of a better future.

FIRE DEATH TOLL UPDATE

While the official death toll from January's Palisades and Eaton fires stands at 31, a research paper published today suggests the actual number of fire-related fatalities is actually much higher -- in the hundreds.

The research paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded that there were 440 more deaths between Jan. 5 and Feb. 1 in Los Angeles County than would be typically expected. Many of those are likely attributable to the wildfires, which erupted Jan. 7.

The additional deaths are likely attributable to fire-related factors such as lung or heart conditions that were exacerbated by smoke or stress and indirect causes such as disruptions to health systems and mental health impacts, according to the paper.

“Attributing deaths properly to a wildfire is just almost an impossible task,” Andrew Stokes, an associate professor at Boston University and a mortality demographer who co-authored the research, told the Los Angeles Times. “The research highlights the need for these types of modeling efforts to really get at the true burden of these disasters.”

Researchers compared the number of recorded deaths in the county between Jan. 5 and Feb. 1 with figures from other years -- excluding 2020-23, when the COVID-19 pandemic elevated the death totals.

According to the paper, 6,371 deaths were recorded during that period this year, compared to 5,931 that were anticipated based on the numbers from prior years. Officially, 19 deaths have been attributed to the Eaton Fire in Altadena and 12 in the Palisades Fire in Pacific Palisades.

Stokes told The Times that the actual number of fire-related deaths could continue to go higher due to lingering health effects such as poor air quality and exposure to smoke and ash.

“What we've done here is what we call a rapid assessment of the L.A. wildfire mortality,” Stokes said. “And as such, we only focus on the acute period in which the wildfires were burning in Los Angeles. But we hope that there will be further research to evaluate the long tail of these wildfires.” (CNS)

FEMA SUPPORT ENDS AS DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUES AT REBUILDING CENTER

LOS ANGELES – As the demand for in-person services has decreased over time, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) in-person presence will end at 5 p.m. July 31, 2025, at the One Stop Rebuilding Center. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) continue to provide support and remain available at the center, located at:

One Stop Rebuilding Center – LA City
1828 Sawtelle Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90025

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed weekends.

Services from Cal OES, FEMA and SBA will maintain in-person support for survivors at the Altadena Community Center, located at:

Altadena Community Center – LA County
730 E. Altadena Dr.

Altadena, CA 91001

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed weekends.

To contact FEMA and stay in touch, visit DisasterAssistance.gov.

To speak with a FEMA specialist directly call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. If you use a video relay service, captioned telephone service, or other communication services, please provide FEMA the specific number assigned for that service. Lines are open daily from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

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

After **Eaton Fire**
What Can I Do to Help?



FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Get Involved, contact Gavin Lee at
gavinsmfsc@icloud.com

and Make Sierra Madre a ***FIREWISE** Community
for more information, please visit <https://cafiresafecouncil.org>

JOIN NOW

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UNTIL THE TRAILS CAN BE INSPECTED AND MADE SAFE



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	High Point Academy 1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107 Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989 website: 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@acsclions.com Principal: Cindy Harmon website: www.acsclions.com	La Salle College Preparatory 3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org Principal Ernest Siy
Arcadia High School 180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007 Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee bforsee@ausd.net	Monrovia High School 325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us
Arroyo Pacific Academy 41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca, (626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org	Odyssey Charter School 725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001 (626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill website: www.odysseycharterschool.org
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal 2660 East Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, Ca 91107 626-793-2089 https://school.abvmpasadena.org/	Pasadena High School 2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. (626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba website: http://phs.pusd.us
Barnhart School 240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007 (626) 446-5588 Head of School: Tonya Beilstein Kindergarten - 8th grade website: www.barnhartschool.org	St. Rita Catholic School 322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 Principal: Jon McMaster (626) 355-6114 mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org Website: www.st-ritaschool.org
Bethany Christian School 93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-3527 Preschool-TK-8th Grade Principal: Jonathon Hawes website: www.bcsclions.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
Clairbourn School 8400 Huntington Drive San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172 FAX: 626-286-1528 E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org	Sierra Madre Middle School 160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us
Foothill Oaks Academy 822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 (626) 301-9809 Principal: Nancy Lopez www.foothilloaksacademy.org office@foothilloaksacademy.org	Walden School 74 S San Gabriel Blvd Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166 www.waldenschool.net
Frostig School 971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 791-1255 Head of School: Jenny Janetzke Email: jenny@frostig.org	Weizmann Day School 1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 797-0204 Lisa Feldman: Head of School
The Gooden School 192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 (626) 355-2410 Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner website: www.goodenschool.org	Wilson Middle School 300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107 (626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us
	Pasadena Unified School District 351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109 (626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us
	Arcadia Unified School District 234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007 (626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net
	Monrovia Unified School District 325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016 (626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviaschools.net
	Duarte Unified School District 1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010 (626) 599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us

WHO KNOWS MORE:
Parents versus kids challenge: Who knows more about protecting personal information?

Back to school is a great time to start having conversations with your family about creating good online habits. Rather than telling kids what they should or shouldn't do online, consider making it a parent versus kids challenge. Find out who in your house knows more about protecting their personal information online — and bring in a little healthy competition.

Parental controls help you protect your kids online by restricting who they're allowed to chat with in video games or which apps they can download to their devices. But there's no substitute for talking with your kids about your rules and expectations. To craft your challenge's questions and tasks, start with ftc.gov/kidsonline. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Setting your family's cell phone rules. Start an ongoing list of personal information that should not be shared in group chats or posted online (and why). Keep the list in a high traffic area and add to it. Set a timer to see who can share a screenshot of a phishing text message the fastest. Bonus points if you can spot at least two signs of a scam.
- Protecting online accounts. Start a lightning round of questions at dinner: "How long should your passwords be?", "What, besides a password, does multi-factor authentication require?", "What makes a good security question?", or "When is it okay to share your online account usernames and passwords?"
- Learning from mistakes. Show your kids that it's okay to make mistakes, as long as you learn from them. Tell three stories about mistakes you might have made online — maybe you paid a scammer, ordered from a fake site, or posted something you shouldn't have. Let your kids decide which stories really happened, then have them give advice on how to make better choices in the future.

Order free copies of Heads Up: Stop. Think. Connect. to keep the conversation going and share them with other parents in your community so you can all stay on the same page.



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Back to School!

People of all ages are going back to school! Yes, all ages! Some are getting a basic education, some are preparing for kindergarten or college, and others are interested in learning skills and trades to help them land a better job or build a career. It doesn't matter how old we are – we all can learn something new to help ourselves.

zoom!

Some of the words on this page are hard! Don't let it bug you.

Take good notes!

Free Stuff

Print out this week's free puzzle set **Get Hooked on a Good Book** @ www.readingclubfun.com Reading, library visits and **A Perfect Summer Day** maze!

It's our **20th Anniversary**, but you get the presents!

Yeah, yeah.

People have different needs, dreams and goals. There are many kinds of schools and programs to help people achieve what they want to do.

Can you match each school in the apple above to its purpose below? Write the number (1, 2, 3,...) of each purpose in the correct box.

1. teaches a skill or trade to help you on a job or career path

2. teaches how to get along with others and other pre-kindergarten skills

3. for people who work or take care of children during the day

4. prepares people for service and leadership in the armed forces

5. lets people keep on learning and trying new things

6. lessons taught and completed on a computer

7. business, recording arts, how to set up live events

8. safety, vehicle care, skid control, driving awareness

watching

traveling

reading

doing

talking

using

playing

asking

expressing

listening

writing

following

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

Schools are busy places. What is everyone doing? **Read the clues below to fill in the crossword.**

1. _____ about feelings

2. _____ on field trips

3. _____ ideas through art and music

4. _____ books

5. _____ games

6. _____ to teachers and classmates

7. _____ rules

8. _____ experiments

9. _____ films

10. _____ stories

11. _____ questions

12. _____ software and computers



THE MORNING REPORT:
Three Breakfast Spots Worth Waking Up For

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day. I say, depends who’s cooking—and who’s pouring the coffee. This past week, I revisited three breakfast joints that cater to the early risers, the weekend wanderers, and folks like me who usually skip lunch if the morning meal is any good. One’s tucked beside a golf course, the other sits in the heart of Sierra Madre and the other is famous for their generous martinis. Both passed the Peter Dills Breakfast Test—fewer frills, more flavor, and, above all, service with a smile.

Brookside Golf Course – A Tee Time with Toast
Brookside Golf Course isn’t just for golfers who still think they can drive the ball 250 yards. Nope, it’s become a quiet favorite for those who just want a hearty breakfast with a side of green views. The “Glory Days Gang”—that’s what I call my breakfast crew, led by the always-hungry Hans, aka Hansalicious—decided Brookside was our spot last week-end. The man must’ve woken up dreaming of hash browns. I, on the other hand, went all California on them and ordered the avocado toast. Topped with two perfectly sunny-side-up eggs, the dish was what the British call “proper.” In my words? Darn good. Becky was our server and here’s the twist—she took five different orders without writing down a thing. No errors. Not even a missed coffee refill. Speaking of coffee, while I’m not much of a java guy, I noticed not a single dry cup the whole meal. That’s worth applause. And if you’re lucky enough to score a seat on the patio, you get a bonus show: critiquing golfers trying to survive the Par 4 on the first tee. Spoiler alert: most of them need a mulligan.

Nano Cafe – Where Old School Meets Sunrise Service
Just a few days later, I had a breakfast meeting at Nano Cafe on Sierra Madre Blvd., locat-ed in what locals still remember as the old Sunset Nightclub. Word around town is that it becomes a nightclub again after dark—kind of like a cruise ship for the Sierra Madre set. Just kidding... sort of. It’s been a few years since I’ve visited Nano, but I’m glad I returned. The place has that neighborhood vibe you can’t manufacture—it just happens over time, with the right people running the show. Ask for Sabrina. She’s the kind of server you want at every meal—attentive, upbeat, and seamless in her service. My water with lemon never hit empty, and my two coffee-loving guests nearly had to wave the white flag on the refills. I kept it simple: sunnyside eggs and a side of applewood sausage. Throw in their house-made salsa and boom—you’ve got a perfect plate. No overthinking, no fluff. Just real food, done right.

Plate 38 – Early Bird Special
Wake up for 9.99 eggs & bacon early bird special, available daily 9 AM to 10 AM, comes with a side of toast and fresh fruit, add a bloody mary and you are set !!

IN SUMMARY:
I’m not the “let’s have breakfast at the Langham” kind of guy. I like it casual, welcoming, and tasty. Brookside, Plate 38 and Nano Cafe deliver all of that and more. From servers who get it right the first time to food that doesn’t need a second chance, these two break-fast spots prove that sometimes the best way to start your day is the simplest. Now pass the salsa and maybe, just maybe, I’ll skip lunch again.

Email me your thoughts thechefknows@yahoo.com and tune into my podcast if you love food that is

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	11	
12						13					14				
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BACK TO SCHOOL

ACROSS

1. *Report ____

5. One on the beat

8. Put on the payroll

12. Fan sound

13. Buckeye State

14. Indy entrant

15. Table mountain

16. 2021 movie "The Harder They ____"

17. Carry away, in a way

18. * ____ Readers

20. Weary walk

21. Basketry stick

22. * ____ time for preschoolers

23. Plums and cherries genus

26. Allegiance

30. Crew propeller

31. Rh in Rh disease

34. Your majesty

35. Miss of the Muppets

37. Band event

38. Ascii, sing.

39. Olympic castaway

40. *Didn't fail

42. Frozen H2O

43. Took a penny-farthing, e.g.

45. *Punctuation marks for famous words

47. Maltese or Havanese, e.g.

48. *Use Play-Doh

50. Cheap trinket

52. *3+x=10, e.g.

55. Soviet place of exile

56. Curtis, to friends

57. Beehive state

59. *Olden-day notebook

60. Honey-producing facility

61. Sushi restaurant soup

62. Location of altar

63. Type of poem

64. Sing like Ella Fitzgerald

DOWN

1. Mountain basin

2. Attention grabber

3. Reduced Instruction Set Computer

4. Hiccup's Toothless, e.g.,

5. Irritate by rubbing

6. Persian Gulf ship

7. Multi-

8. *"Get out of classroom" permit (2 words)

9. International Civil Aviation Organization

10. Retired, shortened

11. Bard's before

13. Lacking cordiality

14. Settle a debt

19. Unethical loaner's practice

22. Us, in Mexico

23. Temporary store

24. Reason to strike

25. Prodded

26. Totes or tugs

27. Permissible

28. Cease-fire

29. Many affirmatives

32. "Good grief!"

33. Bro's counterpart

36. *School alum

38. Next step for juvenile

40. Margaret, for short

41. Describe as similar

44. Elks' hangout

46. Poppy derivative, pl.

48. Marine cephalopod

49. *Grading arch

50. Big one at 7-Eleven

51. Regrettably, exclamation

52. Sound reflection

53. Auditory

54. U.S. space agency, acr.

55. Geological Society of America

58. *Van Halen's " ____ for Teacher"

ALL THINGS by Jeff Brown

There are approximately 1,350 potentially active volcanoes on Earth outside of the mid-ocean ridges, which are mostly underwater and harder to monitor. These are volcanoes that could erupt again, based on their past activity and current monitoring data.

Quick Breakdown: Hundreds more under the oceans (like mid-ocean ridges), but these are less well studied. Around 40–60 volcanoes erupt each year on average. These potentially active volcanoes are monitored by organizations like the USGS, Smithsonian Global Volcanism Program, and others worldwide.

TOP 10 MOST DANGEROUS VOLCANOES ON EARTH


Volcano	Location	Why It's Dangerous
Vesuvius	Italy	Close to Naples (3+ million people); deadly history (Pompeii, 79 AD)
Popocatepetl	Mexico	Highly active, near Mexico City (21+ million people)
Mount Rainier	USA (WA)	Glacial volcano; risk of deadly lahars (volcanic mudflows)
Mt. Nyiragongo	DR Congo	Extremely fast lava flows; threatens Goma (2+ million)
Taal Volcano	Philippines	Surrounded by lake; potential for base surge and tsunamis
Mount Merapi	Indonesia	Frequent eruptions, densely populated area
Mount Fuji	Japan	Dormant but active; near Tokyo (37+ million metro area)
Mount Etna	Italy	Very active; potential ash and lava threat to Sicilian cities
Sakurajima	Japan	Daily eruptions; close to Kagoshima (600,000+)
Yellowstone Caldera	USA	Supervolcano; rare but catastrophic if it erupts

TOP 5 DEADLIEST VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS IN HISTORY

Volcano	Location	Year	#Deaths	#Notable Impact
Tambora	Indonesia	1815	71,000+	Largest eruption in history; caused "Year Without a Summer" in 1816 due to global cooling
Krakatoa	Indonesia	1883	36,000+	Massive explosion & tsunamis; shock waves circled the Earth 7 times
Mt. Pelée	Martinique	1902	30,000	Entire city of Saint-Pierre destroyed in minutes by pyroclastic flow
Nevado del Ruiz	Colombia	1985	23,000	Eruption melted glacier, causing deadly lahars (volcanic mudflows) that buried the town of Armero
Mt.Vesuvius	Italy	79 AD	16,000	Famous for destroying Pompeii and Herculaneum; preserved under ash

MOST NOTABLE IMPACI

Volcano	Year	Why It's Famous
Mount St. Helens (USA)	1980	Largest eruption in U.S. history; 57 deaths, massive landslide
Eyjafjallajökull (Iceland)	2010	Grounded flights across Europe for days due to ash cloud
Laki (Iceland)	1783	Caused a global famine, tens of thousands died across Europe



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FUN LEARNING

Back-to-School Isn't Just for Kids: Fall Learning Opportunities for Seniors

As children and teens head back to school this fall, many seniors are also getting ready to learn something new. Across the country, a growing number of older adults are embracing lifelong learning, taking advantage of the many educational opportunities offered in their communities.



Fall is the perfect time to explore new interests or revisit old passions. Community colleges, libraries, senior centers, and local universities are offering classes designed specifically for seniors. These range from art, history, and writing workshops to technology tutorials and fitness programs like yoga or tai chi.

For many seniors, learning is about more than gaining knowledge—it's about staying mentally active, socially engaged, and emotionally fulfilled. Studies show that continuous learning can improve memory, reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and enhance overall well-being.

Many programs are free or low-cost, and with more virtual options available than ever before, it's easier to participate from the comfort of home. Online platforms now host everything from book clubs to foreign language classes, allowing seniors to stay connected and curious no matter where they are.

In-person programs are also making a strong return, offering opportunities to meet new people, share stories, and build community. These classes often foster intergenerational connections, as seniors join younger students in collaborative projects or mentorship programs.

Whether it's learning how to use a new device, painting a landscape, or diving into local history, there's no shortage of enriching experiences available this fall. The back-to-school season isn't just for kids anymore—it's a season of growth and exploration for everyone, at every age.

Lifelong learning proves that it's never too late to try something new. This fall, why not take the leap?

HOW TO FIND A GREAT HANDYMAN

Dear Savvy Senior,
What's the best way to find a good handyman or tradesman that can help with small jobs around the house?
Almost 75



Dear Almost,

It's a great question. Finding a good home repair/handyman can be a bit of a crapshoot. How do you find someone who will return your calls or texts, show up on time, do the job right and finish it, all at a fair price? Here are a few tips and resources that can help you search.

What Kind of Help

While it may seem obvious, whom you call on for help will depend on what you need done. If, for example, you have an odd job or small home repair project that doesn't require a lot of technical expertise, a handyperson may be all you need. But if you have a job that involves electricity, plumbing, or heating or cooling systems, you're better off going with a licensed tradesman. Bigger jobs like home renovations or remodeling may require a general contractor.

Where to Find a Pro

Whatever type of work you need, the best way to find it is through referrals from people you trust. If your friends or family don't have any recommendations turn to professionals in the field like local hardware or home improvement stores, or even real estate agents.

If you don't have any luck here, there are a number of online resources you can turn to that can quickly connect you to a wide variety of skilled workers in your area.

If you need someone for a home chore or small job, a popular option is Taskrabbit (taskrabbit.com), which lists thousands of freelance workers (called Taskers) that have undergone background checks. Here you can get help with things like furniture assembly; lifting or moving heavy items; mounting or hanging TVs, shelves or pictures; minor home repairs; cleaning services; yard work and more. Taskers set their own hourly rates, which are displayed on their website before you book.

Some other good options for locating handy people are fix-it franchises like Ace Handyman (ace-handymanservices.com) and Mr. Handyman (mrhandyman.com). These companies vet and insure their staff, but they may be more expensive than Taskrabbit. Or, if you use social networking sites, you could also post a request for a handyperson in your Facebook group or on Nextdoor (nextdoor.com).

If, however, you're in the market for specialist like a plumber, electrician, painter, roofer or carpenter as well as a handyperson, try Angi (angi.com). They too, vet their independent contractors, and will let you request quotes from several candidates.

Thumbtack (thumbtack.com) is another good resource that's similar to Angi, but they offer more details like average response time, specifics about the work they do, and photos of past projects.

Things to Know

Once you've located a few candidates, here are some steps you can take to protect your money and ensure you're satisfied with the results. First, get a handwritten estimate or digital contract that list the tasks and the hourly rate or project fee.

Also, ask to see their proof of insurance, which covers any damages they may cause while working on your home, and ask for several references from past jobs.

You should also pay after the work is done, not before. But it's not unusual to be asked for a small deposit for material costs upfront.

And if possible, you should pay with a credit card, because you can dispute the payment if something goes wrong with the job. Checks and electronic payments like PayPal, Venmo and Zelle don't offer the same level of protection.

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

WHEN IT WAS, WAS A COOKIE



At least once a month The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her daughter will spend a day visiting thrift stores in our community. I'm not sure, so don't quote me, but I think there's a 100-mile radius where they do their shopping.

This past week was one of those days. As she was backing out of the driveway, I watched her and smiled as I waved goodbye. As she was going, something was bothering me, and I just couldn't figure out what it was.

I closed the door, walked over to my easy chair and sat down for a few moments to finish drinking my coffee. I was trying to figure out what was bothering me, but nothing came to mind at the time. Finally, I just shrugged it off and got back to my day at hand.

I had to go to the grocery store to pick up a few things for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. As I got into the store, I walked past the bakery section. I wasn't thinking about what I was doing, I was just focused on getting what I came to the store to get. Walking past the bakery store, it suddenly came to mind what was bothering me. What it was, was a cookie.

The last time I had a cookie is beyond my memory because cookies are The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's no-no for our house. She is obsessed by sugar and works very hard to remove it from our culinary experience. According to her, sugar is not allowed in our home. Since I have to live here I had to comply with her desires.

As I walked by the bakery section, I happened to notice it right in front of me. There were at least a dozen cookies wrapped up in front of me. I couldn't help but go over and look at them, and the more I looked at them, the more appealing they seemed to be.

I didn't know which one to take, but all of a sudden there it was, a chocolate chip cookie. Who in the world doesn't like chocolate chip cookies? In that cookie box were six wonderful chocolate chip cookies. I picked it up, and then got what I came for, went to the checkout and got ready to go home.

Driving home, the aroma of those chocolate chip cookies made the drive so enjoyable.

I wasn't sure what I would do with all six of those chocolate chip cookies, but I needed to work out a plan so The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wouldn't catch me with them. That would be a disaster for me. When I got home, I went to my office and opened the bottom drawer of my desk,

where I put them. Of course, I had to take one out before I closed the drawer.

As I munched on that chocolate chip cookie, my head was filled with the amazing aroma that just wouldn't go away. Before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got home, I had delighted myself with three of those chocolate chip cookies. It's been a long time since I had cookies like that.

I got to work on my latest project and was still working on it when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got home and walked in the front door.

As she walked in, I heard her mumbling, "What is that smell?" She came into my office, looked at me, and said, "What is that smell throughout the house? You didn't buy any cookies today while I was away, did you?"

I sat there somewhat stunned. How in the world did she know about those cookies? I was very careful in hiding them in my desk. How would she know that there were any such things in the house?

I looked at her and shook my head and said, "I don't smell anything. I don't know what you're talking about."

"There is a smell in this house that wasn't here when I left this morning." She just looked at me and was waiting for me to make a confession.

I tried to hide my secret as long as I could. I wasn't going to rat out on myself because I knew some of the consequences. She then walked over to my desk and began sniffing. "That smell is here in your desk. What are you hiding in your desk?"

"I don't know what you're talking about," I said, "I've been working here at my desk all day and I haven't smell the thing."

I knew that in the bottom drawer of my desk were my last two cookies. I did not want her to know about it because my plans were to enjoy both of those cookies.

Looking at me, she said with one of her smiles, "You do know I will find out what you're hiding."

With that, she walked out of my office leaving me thinking on this. As I was thinking, I remembered a verse in the Bible. "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known," (Luke 12:2).

My thoughts got me evaluating my situation. One thing that came to my mind was, if I can't hide anything from the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, how do I think I can hide anything from God?

BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT IMPERSONATORS GO AFTER OLDER ADULTS' LIFE SAVINGS

Scammers posing as government agencies or well-known businesses are increasingly going after retirees' life savings. They weave a web of lies about some bogus crisis. Then they trick older adults into giving them tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. The scams start with lies designed to create a sense of urgency and fear.

- Lie #1: Someone is using your accounts. Scammers pretend to be a bank employee with a warning about suspicious account activity. Or claim to be an Amazon rep following up on potentially fraudulent purchases.
- Lie #2: Your information is being used to commit crimes. Scammers might say they're with the government and tell their target that their Social Security number is linked to serious crimes.
- Lie #3: There's a security problem with your computer. This lie might start with a computer security alert that warns of a hacked computer with a phone number to call for help.

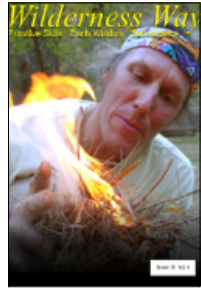
Once they've convinced their mark that this crisis is real, they make empty promises and offer fake "help." They say the only way to get out of the situation is to follow their very specific instructions — which always involve moving money. They tell their target that doing so will protect the money in their accounts or clear their name. Some say they're helping catch the "real" criminals.

A new FTC data spotlight report, False alarm, real scam: how scammers are stealing older adults' life savings, shows that reports of losses to business and government imposters filed by older adults (60+) are soaring. Many reported losing tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars. In fact, reported losses of over \$100,000 increased nearly sevenfold from 2020 to 2024.

How can you protect yourself from a business or government imposter scam?

- Never transfer or send money to anyone in response to an unexpected call or message. Even if they claim you're moving your money to "protect it."
- Talk about it with someone you trust. Especially if the stranger on the phone says it's serious, involves a crime, or claims to be from the government.
- If you think the message could be real, verify the story. Contact the organization in question using a phone number, website, or email address you know is real. Don't use the contact information in the unexpected message.

Government agencies will never threaten you, and they'll never tell you to transfer your money to "protect it" deposit cash into Bitcoin ATMs, or hand off stacks of cash or gold to a courier. That's a scam. Report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.



CHRISTOPHER Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of "How to Survive Anywhere," "Extreme Simplicity," "Til Death Do Us Part?" and other books. He can be reached at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY

"The Character of a Nation is determined by how its animals are treated"
Ghandi

Every August 26 is International Dog Day. This is that special time for all of us to remember how close we are to our canine pals.

On International Dog Day, I reflect upon my 17 year relationship with Cassius Clay, a purple ribbon pit bull who I obtained from a pet rescue service.

I have many fond memories of Cassie, but I remember the end the most right now. I thought that I was taking care of Cassie and helping and saving Cassie – I had to carry him in and out, and was al-ways concerned about his welfare. In the end, I realize that Cassie was helping and saving me. He in-stilled in me a sense of responsibility and caring that maybe I never had before.

I thought about his role in my life. I thought about how I tried to see his dog pictures of the world, how he processes the many smells that he takes so long each day to smell. When I attempted to go into his mind, like Beatrice Lydecker described in her What the Animals Tell Me book, I "saw" a color-ful, very dynamic image of flowing geometric shapes that all moved like the wind in varying patterns, in a three-dimensional complexity. To me, it was the complexity of odors that meant so much to Cassie, and very little to me.

Shortly after he died, I asked him to show me his picture, and I "saw" in front of me his big face licking mine. He was telling me that he was happy, in peace, no pain and that I was OK.

On the day Cassie died – an Easter Sunday – he seemed OK in the morning, though he had had trouble walking for weeks. When I came home in the early evening, it was dark and Cassie was warm. But I could not rouse him from his house, and when I pulled him out, I knew it was over, even though I tried to bring him back. There was no music, no singing of birds, just the quiet of the night and the final sounds of his dying body.

As I thought about Cassie, I realized that Cassie's gift was his unconditional love. And now that he was gone, I tried to sort out the meaning of that love. I have heard it said that Eternal Life is synony-mous with Eternal Love. That Eternal Love is also impersonal. It is universal loving without concern for prejudice or opinion or preferences. It is doing what is right, and not being concerned about my group, or my party, or my race, or my gender, or my family. It is finding those ways of thinking, and of living, that exemplify the Golden Rule, and Jesus' command to "Love ye one another as your self." Which means we must love our spiritual self, and see that every single one of us is the same.

Cassie taught me to be a better person. He taught me to see that only through impersonal love can we ever find real meaning and harmony. Of course, I feel a personal love for Cassie, and for other close people in my life. But now again, Cassie has made me realize that death is inevitable, and person-al love is full of pain and heartache and disappointment. Impersonal loving is not focused exclusively towards one person or animal but is a way of thinking about all life, including all animals. This was Cassie's gift to me.

I hope each of you with a close dog companion spends special time with your pal on Interna-tional Dog Day!

Katnip News!



Follow Up on SUNNY RAY!

Two weeks ago we featured beautiful but very shut down Sunny Ray. We thought you'd like to know how he's doing: Isn't he



gorgeous?

SUNNY RAY! Sunny Ray, age 1 yr., is a gorgeous light apricot and cream longhair boy. We don't know what this beautiful young boy endured before rescue, but now he is safe, neutered, and vetted. He was pretty shut down at first, but thanks to his fosters, he's starting to open up. He now likes to be petted, and play with his toy mouse. There was a kitten here for awhile and it was adorable to see both of them reach out to each other, which makes us think Sunny would love to be with another cat about his age or a little younger.



Could you be the one to help bring the sunshine back to Sunny Ray? Please apply to meet him either with the qr code or at <https://www.lifelineforpets.org/sunny-ray.html>.

Pet of the Week

Meet Apollo, a striking 4-year-old black German Shepherd at Pasadena Humane with a gentle soul and a heart of gold. Calm, mellow, and deeply affectionate, Apollo quickly charms everyone he meets with soft eyes and his sweet personality. According to his foster family, he's great on leash, knows his basic commands, and loves showing off his skills for a treat – especially if that treat is chicken! While he can be a bit selective with other dogs, Apollo settles well with distance and patience. His favorite things include belly rubs, playful zoomies, fetch, and cuddling near your feet.



Apollo would thrive in a calm, loving home with people who understand his need for slow introductions and a bit of space from other dogs. He bonds quickly with humans, offering endless loyalty and affection in return. If you're looking for a well-mannered, smart, and incredibly sweet companion, Apollo might just be for you. Come meet this amazing pup at Pasadena Humane – he's ready to find his forever home!

Pasadena Humane is participating in NBCUniversal's Clear the Shelters campaign; on Saturday, August 16 from 10am to 2pm, adoption fees will be waived for all available dogs, cats, and critters.

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.

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

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

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PUBLISHER/ EDITOR
Susan Henderson

PASADENA CITY EDITOR

Dean Lee

SALES

Patricia Colonello
626-355-2737
626-818-2698

WEBMASTER

John Avery

DISTRIBUTION

Peter Lamendola

CONTRIBUTORS

Lori A. Harris
Michele Kidd
Stuart Tolchin
Harvey Hyde
Audrey Swanson
Meghan Malooley
Mary Lou Caldwell
Kevin McGuire
Chris Leclerc
Dinah Chong Watkins
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LaQuetta Shamblee

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Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

Mountain Views News
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl.
#327
Sierra Madre, Ca.
91024
Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email:
mtnviewsnews@aol.com



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

STUART TOLCHIN



PUT THE LIGHTS ON WHY BE GOOD

I think for a lot of people the answer to that question is that God wants us to be good. That answer doesn't do it for me. For one thing I am a lifelong atheist and for another I believe that even for true believers they must know in their heart that that God of theirs probably wants a lot of things they know about but choose to ignore. Things like not overeating for example or other more basic things like being honest and truthful and caring for others. How do I know or pretend to know what believers in God believe?

I think most people strive to be the kind of person that they admire themselves. Maybe I'm wrong? Perhaps most people in order to have any opinion about themselves require that other people have such an opinion. Maybe that explains why other people are so concerned about the opinion of others even though they generally discount the overall worth of those others.

So, let me ask the question. Is it very important to be concerned with how you are seen by to people? Certainly, there are practical advantages to being respected or well-liked or admired. Other people probably will take you more seriously, perhaps recommend you for, or even offer you, jobs. If you are highly thought of, others may listen more closely to your positions about things and then act in a way that in your opinion is more beneficial.

It's been so long for me that I have forgotten about the importance of securing a mate, or any sexual connection with another person. Some things you just can't do by yourself. I always wanted to be a part of a family. I don't think anyone told me that this was important, but I always wanted to be a father and have a loving spouse and be involved with people who cared about me. As almost all of you must know this need is not easily met. Strangely, the only long-term successful relationships I know of involve people who knew each other from the time they were in high School and had very little experience with other sexual connections.

Alas, this was not true for me. I had several short-term relationships prior to a marriage that lasted less than five years and then a period of over twenty years when I had several connections and short-term relationships prior to being lucky enough to meet my present wife a little over thirty years ago. I really was lucky that for some reason my wife and I hit it off right from the beginning; but my point is that I did little to attempt to impress her and cause her to think I was anything else but what I am.

My wife likes to recount the story, that for all I know is factual (I don't remember much these days) that when she first came to my house the couch was upside down in the living room and there were papers and books in complete disorder throughout the place. She has been spending the last thirty years (happily I hope) attempting to organize and straighten things out for me. In fact, she will proofread this attempt at an article and transfer it from the computer to my iPhone so that I can email it to the editor of this paper and thirty or so friends independent of the article's publication. I still cannot manage this seemingly simple technological task. This goes back to my original point about being good. One should be good. I believe, just for the sake of goodness. It is the best way to be. One should notice who one is and not condemn oneself for not being someone else." I yam what I yam" says Popeye and that is the simple truth. I do not think it is wrong to try to improve or to set goals for oneself provided that these goals are your own and not intended to influence the way other people see you.

This is what I meant by being good. Doing the best you can and what is best for yourself and for those you love without trying to impress or fool or compete with anyone else. Sure, I would like it if any of you imaginary readers approved or gained something from this article. But it is not your approval I seek and probably given my articles weaknesses that is undoubtedly a good thing. I just try to do my best and hope that is enough!



HOWARD Hays As I See It

"Of course, we believe that everyone should be very, very careful with nuclear rhetoric." – Krem-lin spokesman Dimitry Peskov, responding to President Trump's announcement on repositioning nuclear missile submarines

Interviewed by Joe Kernan on CNBC, Trump further demonstrated his separation from reality. Discussing the latest numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, showing a less-than-expected 73,000 jobs added in June (110,000 being forecast) and a downward revision of numbers from April and May, Trump's response was not to reassess policies but to fire the BLS commissioner - claiming the numbers had been "rigged".

Trump claimed the BLS had skewed numbers in the past to benefit President Biden; waiting until after the last election for downward revisions. Kernan pointed out those prior revisions were in fact made before, not after, that election. Matt Gertz of Media Matters observed, "Impossible to tell if Trump is lying, dumb or sundowning."

Bill Beach, BLS commissioner during Trump's first term, explained to Politico that the "numbers are constructed by hundreds of people." As for a commissioner changing them, "There's no way for that to happen." The NY Times commented, "Mr. Trump's allegations against (former BLS commissioner) Erika McEntarfer, the longtime public servant whom he summarily fired, have no foundation in reality".

Rep. Jake Auchincloss (D-MA) said on CNN, "China, Argentina, Greece, these are countries that in the last 30 to 40 years did two things: They undermined the soundness of their currency by bullying their central bankers (as is happening to Fed Chairman Jerome Powell) and two, they lied about their government statistics to the degree that other countries and the international monetary system stopped believing their statistics. This is exactly what Donald Trump is doing."

In that CNBC interview, Trump said gas prices had fallen to \$2.20 a gallon. Bradley Moss commented on Bluesky, "The rest of the country is suffering from higher prices on everything, and this senile old man is living in a fantasy world in which it's simply not happening." Trump claimed the trade deal with the European Union provided " \$600 billion to invest in anything I want." Steve Peers, professor at Royal Holloway University in London, posted, "Well no, it's a vague, nonbinding, unwritten nonstatement about companies' future investment plans, not cash for him to personally control. But enjoy your weird, demented fantasy, I guess."

Trump explained we'll make allowances for farmworkers who are immigrants because they "do it naturally". He recalled a conversation with a farmer who told him, "They don't get a bad back, sir, because if they get a bad back, they die." Trump continued, "I said, that's interesting, isn't it? . . . in many ways, they're very, very special people." Whenever Trump includes the word "sir" in an anecdote, it's a sure sign he's again separated from reality in that special "fantasy world" of his own.

Trump said he was enjoying a more than 70% approval rating. The latest figure from Gallup is 37% approval. Brian Tyler Cohen commented, "For Trump, it's not about working to move public opinion. He doesn't care about reality; he just wants to be told that he's the best."

Trump rejects the reality of mathematics, as when he remarked last week that as far as drug prices, we'll "get them down 1,000%, 600%, 500%, 1,500%". Presumably, you pick up a \$100 prescription at your pharmacy and not only do you get it for free but, with the 1,500% discount, you get \$1,400 back for taking it off their hands. Trump had made the same remark twelve days earlier - with apparently nobody daring to tell him he's nonsensical.

Charles Leershen, co-author of Trump's 1990 book "Survival at the Top", warns about those feelings that since "nobody could be as dumb as (Trump) seems, they arrive at the conclusion that he is actually smarter than they are." But the problem could well be that he is in fact that dumb - and the danger of having someone that dumb in such a position cannot be overstated.

Aside from the routine dumb stuff last week, there was also his threatening Russia to come to an agreement on a ceasefire in Ukraine in ten days, or face the threat of "debilitating secondary tariffs" on its trading partners. Dimitry Medvedev, deputy chair of Russia's security council, warned that "each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war." Apparently, what really got under Trump's skin was Medvedev's trolling, "Don't go down the Sleepy Joe road."

Trump responded that Medvedev was "entering very dangerous territory", and later "ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions".

Former Naval War College professor Tom Nichols explained in the Atlantic that Trump had had "a terrible week: he's dug a deeper hole for himself on the Jeffrey Epstein issue, the economy is headed in the wrong direction, and his approval rating is cratering". But while "an implied threat of nuclear war" can be an "instant" and "convenient" distraction, there's also risking a "nuclear crisis" - and it's important to appreciate that "Nuclear-missile submarines are not toys".

I'm writing this after having just watched on Japanese TV commemorations on the eightieth anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima - aware of the consequences of having a president too dumb and too separated from reality to appreciate the potentially cataclysmic risks in not being "very, very careful with nuclear rhetoric".

RICH JOHNSON



RAPIER WIT

Thank you in advance for reading my column. This week's contribution is a peek at rapier wit: Never mean spirited but rather, clever wordplay designed to entertain and engage. And with the goal of equipping you with clever conversation starters. May it be said that with a quick quip and a touch of rapier wit, he (she) turned an awkward situation into a hilarious moment.

I give special thanks to the inspiration of Bill and Kit for contributing "rapier wit" to our language. Bill, you know professionally as William Shakespeare, and Kit's birth certificate calls him Christopher Marlowe. Both noted 16th Century British playwrights.

Speaking of masters of the English language, George Bernard Shaw and Winston Churchill engaged in what is my favorite rhetorical joust using the English language. Shaw, before the opening of his new play "Pygmalion" in 1913, sent Churchill a telegram that read:

"Reserving two tickets for you for my premiere. Come and bring a friend...if you have one." Churchill quickly responded with a telegram of his own to Shaw: "Impossible to be present for first performance. Will attend the second...if there is one."

Winston Churchill is the author of many unforgettable examples of a rapier wit. At a posh dinner party hosted by Lady Astor, a drunk Churchill started pontificating on and on. Finally, having heard enough Lady Astor blurted out, "Winston, if you were my husband, I'd put poison in your coffee." To which Churchill replied, "Nancy, if you were my wife, I'd drink it."

In 1931, Mohandas Gandhi was named Time Magazine's "Man of the Year". Arriving in England a British reporter yelled out to Gandhi, "What do you think of Western civilization?" In his heavy Indian accent, Gandhi answered: "I think it would be a good idea."

On Groucho Marx's 71st birthday in 1961 he received a cable from good friend Irving Berlin. The birthday greeting said: "The world would not be in such a snarl had Marx been Groucho instead of Karl." One of my favorite people on the planet is Dolly Parton. Dolly is classy, intelligent and funny. Her homespun brilliance comes through in her quotes.

"Our house had running water, if you were willing to run and get it."

"I often say I don't lose my temper, but sometimes I have to use my temper."

"I believe that without God I'm nobody, but with God I can do anything."

"Don't get so busy making a living, that you forget to make a life."

"I know some of the best Dolly Parton jokes. I made them up myself"

"Storms make trees take deeper roots."

"Find out who you are. And do it on purpose."

"You'll never do a whole lot unless you're brave enough to try."

"I'm not offended by all of the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb...and I also know that I'm not blonde."

Rich here. Thank you, Dolly, and others for your quotes. I admire Dolly for being so wonderfully centered and genuine. Tremendous talent, enduring faith, love for God, and character that shines through. And she plays the guitar. In closing, as many of you may know, I am also a person of faith. My faith is a big part of my life. I walk the walk daily (sometimes I stumble) hoping to be genuine and if lucky, funny. Possibly this confession of my faith is meant to impact one person out there. If that's you, consider trying this. When you go to bed tonight, lights out and you're staring at the ceiling, ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you in some meaningful way. However He chooses to do so, the ball is now in His court. Let's see what happens. In any event, have a great week.

OUR PASSIVITY by Marcielle Brandler



Marcielle at Caltech's Solar Eclipse event 2017 (Pronouns she/her)

Yesterday, while speaking to a male low-information friend about the current state of the country he gave his take on it and said, "It will work itself out."

I was aghast saying, "It will not work itself out. That's like saying that slavery will work itself out or that women's rights will work itself out."

So today, I just spoke to

a Czech girlfriend in Prague on Face Time, and she said, "That passive comment comes from someone who is watching from a safe distance and not from where the action is. Your friend does not see all the struggle and hard work people have endured to accomplish things. He comes from the passive side and not the active side."

I agree with my friend in Prague. I remember that in 2011, I was empathizing with the Palestinians' plight of genocide. My boyfriend said, "Well, they can't get along."

I was horrified. The Israelis have been maligning and killing Palestinians in order to raze their ancestral homes and steal their lands. I believe that was a common attitude at the time.

Again, this person was not politically active. He voted and read the news, but believed the hype that the Palestinians were equal in power to the Israelis who say that anyone who criticizes their behavior wants Israel to disappear and that critics are anti-Semites.

What about the Palestinian Semites and the Palestinian Christians?

The arguments above bring up a larger point- that we must be active in our own ways in order to see change. We cannot wait for it to "work itself out," because it won't. We must be the change. What can people do?

- Call or email your senator.

- Join a group like Swing Left, Progressive Democrats of America, your local League of Women (and men) Voters,

- Many of these groups have phone banking, postcarding, and informational in-person and zoom meetings. They have parties like Oktober Fests, Ice Cream Socials, Silent Auctions, and more.

You will have fun, learn, and make great, high-quality friends. You will be the solution and feel more powerful. You will meet your senators, mayors, and other people in a social environment.

I highly recommend taking action, which can change you from passive to an active person who contributes to your community.

Sierra Madre resident, Professor Marcielle Brandler is the author of five books, an award-winning poet, film and tv producer and host. Featured in Who's Who in the World for several years. Her articles and poems have appeared in journals since 1976. Her poems have been translated into Czech, French, Arabic, and Spanish, and published internationally.

Her websites are: Marcielle Presents! and English with Marcielle, and Happiness Gig. Abe's Question | Marciel-lepresents09's Blog (wpcomstaging.com)

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One Time Events

August 1

Twilight Garden Stroll at The Huntington

Explore the gardens as day turns to dusk. 4:30 pm – 8 pm

August 1

Twilight Garden Estate Tours at The Huntington

See the Huntington gardens in a new light with this 90-minute walking tour. 5 pm – 6:30 pm

August 2

Family Night Hike: Bumpy, Fuzzy, Smelly at The Arboretum

Step into the world of sensory exploration on a family friendly night hike. 5:30 pm – 7pm Adult-Only Hike 7:30 pm – 9 pm

August 2

"A Feast from the East" at The Sierra Madre Playhouse

We Tell Stories presents a lively, interactive performance of Asian folktales for the whole family. 11am

August 5

National Night Out at the Arcadia City Hall Lawn

Celebrate the city's birthday and the 10th Anniversary of the National Night Out - an evening of family fun 6 pm – 9 pm

August 14

Descanso Gardens Summer Music and Dance Series

Travel across the world through a performance by Pacifico Dance Company. 5 pm – 6:30 pm

August 17

Cruising Colorado: Route 66 & Pasadena's Car Scene

Learn about the car culture of the "Mother Road" as you walk a section of Route 66 along Colorado Boulevard. 5:30 pm

August 30

Old Pasadena Twilight Walking Tour

Explore the northern section of Old Pasadena, including hidden courtyards and storied alleyways. 6:30 pm – 8 pm

Ongoing Events

August 1, 15, 29, September 12

Summer Nights Concert Series at the Arboretum

Enjoy the sounds of local artists, food trucks, vendors, crafts, and specialty drinks at the Peacock Cafe. 5 pm – 8 pm

August 2, 3

Cat Con at The Pasadena Convention Center

Join this annual event celebrating cats and pop culture with giveaways, workshops, over 150 exhibitors, an adoption village and more. 10 am – 5 pm



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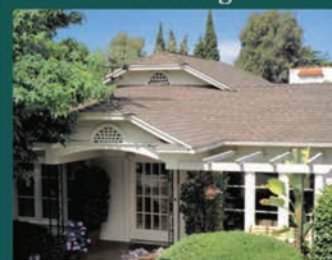
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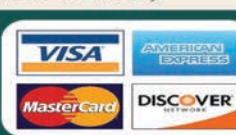
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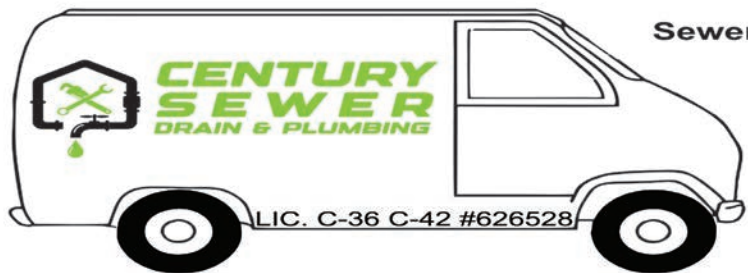
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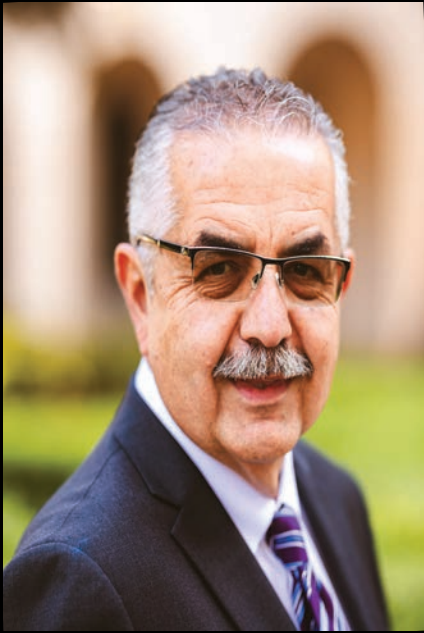
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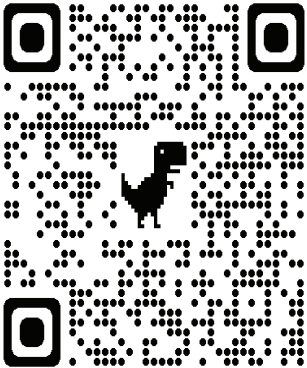
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