

Mountain Views News

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

VOLUME 20 NO. 7

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A WORD FROM SIERRA MADRE POLICE CHIEF GUS BARRENTOS:

(Editors Note: Recently this publication and most elected officials and civic leaders received an anonymous letter questioning the integrity of the leadership of the Sierra Madre Police Department. After more than a dozen interviews - in person and telephonically, this publication has decided to share with you a message directly from the SMPD Chief.)

"My responsibility as Chief of Police is straightforward: to ensure this department operates at the highest professional standard, holds its members accountable, and delivers the level of service our community expects and deserves. That responsibility requires transparency, consistency, and the willingness to make difficult decisions when conduct or performance falls short of those standards.

Since my arrival, we have intentionally raised expectations related to accountability, professionalism, and customer service. This has included updating policies and procedures to strengthen transparency, formalizing internal accountability processes, and reinforcing ethical and performance standards across all ranks. Change of this nature can be challenging, but it is necessary to build a modern, professional organization rooted in trust and service.

As with any organization undergoing meaningful reform, personnel changes have occurred. Some employees have chosen to resign and pursue employment elsewhere, often citing compensation or benefits that I do not control. Some employees on administrative leave or terminated their employment after determining their conduct violated department policy and professional standards. While personnel matters remain confidential, actions taken were pursuant to established policy, due process, and a clear commitment to integrity, and not retaliation or arbitrary decision-making.

What I can control is the structure, culture, and expectations of this department. To that end, we have shifted our recruitment and hiring strategy significantly. Historically, the department hired averaged officers, and the average tenure of the department was within approximately five years of law enforcement experience, often limited to experience in our small geographic policing environment, 3 square miles. Today, we are deliberately recruiting and hiring tenured, community-engaged officers with broad experience.

Over the past several months alone, we have brought more than 100 years of collective law enforcement experience into this department. These officers bring diverse backgrounds in patrol operations, major incidents, traffic enforcement, narcotics, investigations, community policing, and supervision. Among them are former sergeants, commanders and experienced field training and patrol officers who understand mentorship, accountability, and leadership. This depth of experience strengthens our operational capacity and enhances the quality of service we provide to residents.

My goal has been to put sustainable structure in place with clear expectations, professional supervision, and modern policing practices so the department is not dependent on personalities, but on principles. Raising standards is about professionalism. It is about ensuring every officer understands that service to this community carries responsibility, discipline, and accountability.

Change can be uncomfortable, but change driven by purpose and integrity is progress. The Sierra Madre community deserves a police department that operates transparently, responds professionally, and holds itself to the same standards it enforces. I am deliberately leading this department toward higher standards, stronger accountability, and a culture of professionalism grounded in public service. I set these expectations, I apply them to every decision we make, and I enforce them consistently. When expectations are clear and accountability is applied fairly, officers understand their roles and responsibilities, morale strengthens, and the community gains confidence in its police department.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this context and dialogue grounded in facts and transparency. If you would like to meet to discuss this further, please reach out.

Respectfully,
Gus Barrientos, SMPD Chief of Police

WELCOME BRIAN DICKINSON



Sierra Madre City Manager Mike Bruckner has appointed Brian Dickinson to the position of Public Works Director following a competitive recruitment process. Currently serving Sierra Madre as a contract project manager with Transtech Engineering, Mr. Dickinson has over 34-years of experience leading and managing public works, water, and wastewater utility departments.

"I am excited to serve as the new Public Works Director and value the City's small-town atmosphere and strong sense of community," said Mr. Dickinson. "I look forward to leading the Public Works team in delivering high-quality, dependable services and working collaboratively to maintain and enhance the City's public works infrastructure for current and future needs."

With extensive experience in operating and capital budget administration, water resource planning, public works and utility operations management, and long-range strategic planning, Mr. Dickinson's expertise will support the City as it modernizes the Public Works Department's service delivery model.

"Brian is exceptionally qualified to lead the City's Public Works Department, and I am confident that he will be successful in this role," said City Manager Bruckner. "I know our community expects safe, reliable, and well-maintained infrastructure. Under Brian's leadership, we will continue improving service delivery and ensuring our public assets meet the standards Sierra Madre residents expect."

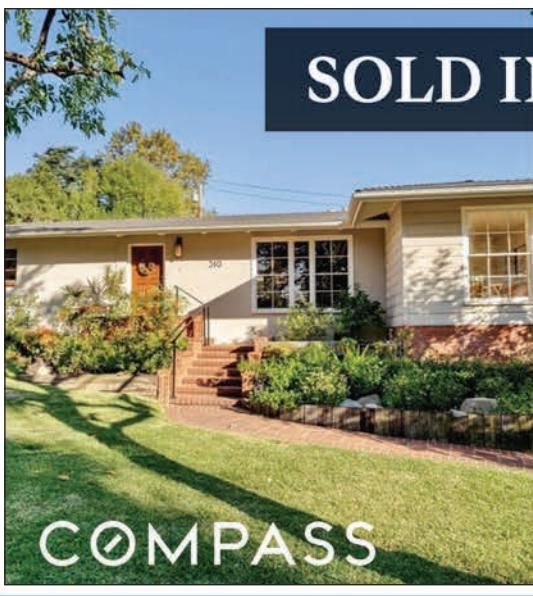
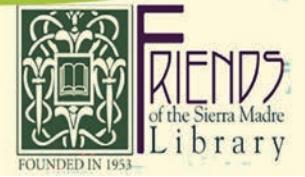
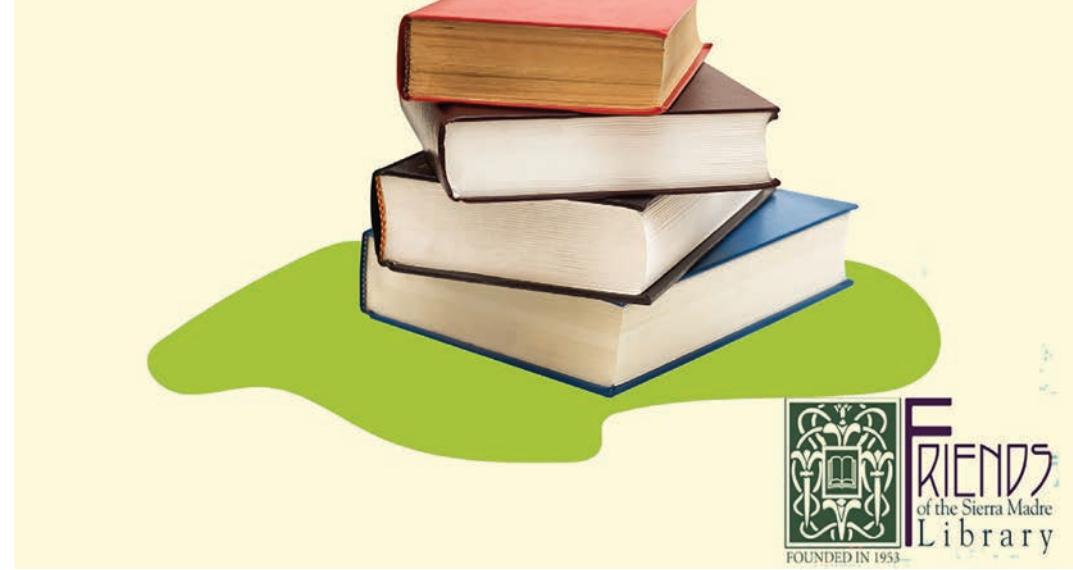
Holding a bachelor's degree from the University of La Verne in Public Administration, Mr. Dickinson has also earned some of the highest certifications available in the water-systems field, including Water Distribution Operator Grade 5, Water Treatment Operator Grade 5, and Collection System Maintenance Grade 4. These credentials reflect extensive training, advanced coursework, and years of hands-on experience in operating and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure to the most rigorous state standards. Mr. Dickinson officially began his role on February 23, 2026.



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FRED THOMAS



BLACK HISTORY MONTH - WHY?

Yesterday I was asked by a friend if I thought it was necessary to celebrate Black History Month (must be a really good friend to be comfortable to ask me that question). My response was simple. Yes! Now I do fully appreciate the need to celebrate the accomplishments of all of the cultures that have labored, sacrificed, and contributed to making the US the best place on earth (I still whole-heartedly believe that and I've almost been everywhere).

The absence of formalized recognition of other cultures and contributors, should not create a climate of anti-celebrations for groups that are represented.

Maybe one day there won't be a need to specifically celebrate the accomplishments of minorities and women. Maybe one day, there will no longer be the "first" of a specific group of people to accomplish great things.

Maybe one day, equality and fairness (I'm not talking about handouts, I'm referring to systems that truly allow everyone to work to create the future they desire) will become so normal that the conversations will become moot.

Maybe one day...But that is not today. So this month I celebrate the accomplishments of the Black men and women that came before us, the "firsts" if you will. I celebrate the future "Firsts" and the Last "firsts". I will also, as I always have, continue to learn about every culture, race, and nationality that has significantly contributed to the great experiment of America and abroad.

Love to all, respect to some, and prayers for everyone! Fred Thomas

HONORING ALTADENA'S LEGACY AND SUPPORTING ITS FUTURE
== EXPRESSING OUR ENDURING SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY IN ITS RECOVERY AND REBUILDING EFFORTS.

By Rueben Smith

Wildfires and the Risk to Black Cultural Heritage
Recent wildfires have threatened the identity, charm, and preservation of Altadena's historic core.

A Safe Haven Amid Discrimination - The unincorporated community of Altadena, located in Southern California, has a unique history as a predominantly Black community, standing in contrast to its neighboring cities. While surrounding areas enforced discriminatory practices like redlining—which prevented Black individuals from purchasing homes in many neighborhoods—Altadena became a refuge for Black residents during the mid-20th century.

The Rise of a Thriving Black Middle Class In the early 1900s, Altadena was mostly rural, but by the 1960s and 1970s, it attracted a significant Black population, partly due to restrictive housing policies nearby. Altadena Meadows was one of the few areas exempt from redlining, ultimately becoming

support recovery efforts and preserve the unique and rich cultural identity of the area.

Amid race-based discrimination in surrounding cities, Black families found a sense of community and ownership in Altadena, even as they faced segregation in other aspects of life. Over time, Altadena developed a strong Black middle-class community, with businesses, schools, and social organizations serving the community's needs.

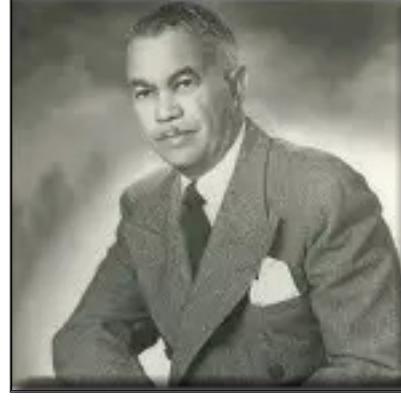
The Lasting Impact of Redlining and Discrimination The legacy of redlining in the region prevented many Black families from accessing housing opportunities, pushing them toward Altadena, which remained more accessible and welcoming. Despite these challenges, Altadena became home to notable Black residents and has maintained a rich cultural history shaped by these social and political dynamics.

A PASADENA TREASURE DESIGNED BY

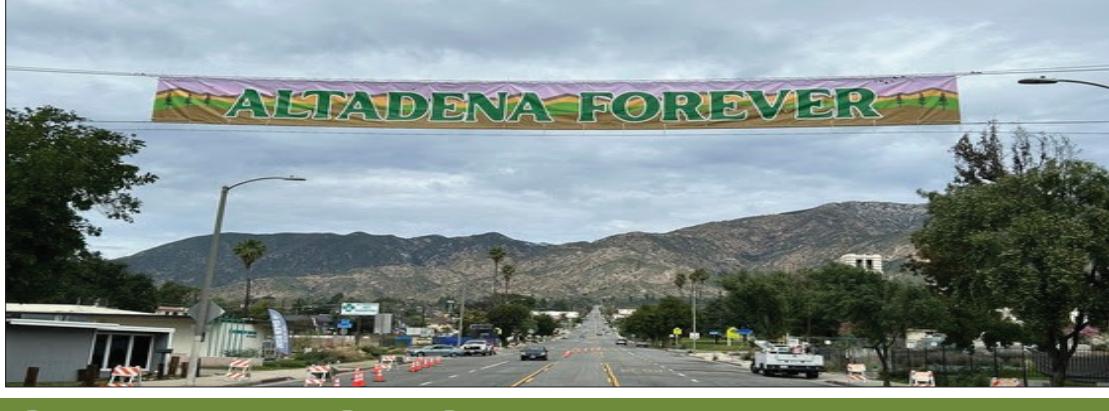
AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHITECT PAUL R. WILLIAMS



Though he passed away over four decades ago, with his brief obituary unceremoniously buried in a Los Angeles newspaper beneath a weather report and an investigation into a regional planning commissioner, noted architect Paul R. Williams nonetheless left a vaunted legacy that continues to live on throughout Southern California. Not only did he work on iconic structures like The Beverly Hills Hotel, where its sign still bears the iconic cursive lettering based on his handwriting, but he also created numerous residences for celebs like Frank Sinatra and Lucille Ball. Now one of the historic gems crafted by the first African-American architect to be admitted into the ranks of the American Institute of Architects.



In 2018, the city of Pasadena named the structure a designated monument for its "exceptional representation of the architectural style in addition to possibly featuring regional, state or national significance."



THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

DISASTER-AFFECTED HOMEOWNERS NOW QUALIFY FOR ONE YEAR OF MORTGAGE RELIEF UNDER EXPANDED STATE PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES — The CalAssist Mortgage Fund announced today a major expansion of mortgage relief for homeowners who were affected by a qualified disaster, including Los Angeles homeowners impacted by last year's wildfires, offering eligible households a full year of mortgage assistance that does not need to be repaid. The expansion also increases income limits to allow more families to access this assistance.

Under the expanded program,

eligible homeowners may receive twelve months of mortgage payments, paid directly to their mortgage servicers. Assistance is available to homeowners who are current on their mortgage, in forbearance, or behind on payments. Families who previously received three months of assistance will be offered additional support, bringing total assistance to a full year.

"This expansion is about lifting weight off families who have lost so much," said Rebecca Franklin,

CalHFA Chief Deputy Director. "The timing here is critical. Many families affected by the LA fires have been on forbearance for a year now and haven't made a mortgage payment since the fires started. By offering a full year of mortgage assistance and expanding income eligibility, we're making it clear that this support is real, available, and intended for families who are still recovering."

More families may now qualify for the program through an in-

crease in the income limit, which vary by county. In Los Angeles County, households with a combined annual income of up to \$281,400 now qualify. This reflects a \$70,000 increase from the previous limit. In places like Butte County, income limits are now \$255,000. A list of income eligibility by county can be found on the CalAssist website. The CalAssist Mortgage Fund, administered by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA), was launched to provide

direct mortgage relief to homeowners whose primary residences were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by qualifying disasters. Since its launch in June of 2025, the program has helped disaster-impacted homeowners across California stabilize their housing while navigating insurance claims and rising construction costs.

For Aurora Barboza Flores, an Altadena resident who lost her home during the 2025 fires, the program provided critical relief

during an overwhelming period, and the expansion offers renewed hope.

"Twelve months is huge," said Barboza Flores. "I was happy even thinking I could get three months, but a full year of assistance — that's big. I'm so grateful. I'm so happy."

Homeowners are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. For eligibility details and application information, visit CalAssistMortgageFund.Org or call 800-501-0019.



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- ✓ Attic Cleanup & Insulation Replacement
- ✓ Contents Cleaning & Professional Pack-Out
- ✓ Detailed Inventory of Total Loss Items
- ✓ Full Guidance Through the Restoration Process

When the smoke clears, the recovery can be overwhelming. Whether it's soot or water

damage, we manage the headache so you don't have to. We work directly with your insurance company, handling the documentation and details so you can focus on getting back to normal. From initial damage to rebuilding, we provide expert guidance every step of the way.

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Mountain Views News Saturday, February 14, 2026

Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.



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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 24, 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 by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

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



Sierra Madre Public Library

Saturday, February 28

Last day to return books via outdoor bookdrop

February 2—May 31, 2026

Library is closed for relocation

June 6, 2026

Grand Re-opening at 440 W Sierra Madre Blvd

In the Meantime

Kanopy

Try our free 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
350 W Sierra Madre Blvd.
(626) 355-7186

WALKING SIERRA MADRE: The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"Lent is the perfect time to pull up weeds and plant good seeds."
Lent = Love...for God so loved the world that He gave...

What a weekend we have! Valentine's Day is today, Saturday; President's Day is Monday, the 16th and the beginning of Lent is Wednesday, the 18th. If you've been planning to buy something big, like a refrigerator or a TV, this is the weekend! Everywhere you look is an ad for appliances, cars, and, according to Google, this weekend is the absolute best time to buy a mattress, a bicycle and tax software.

Ok, if you're not looking for a refrigerator, let's talk about Love! Valentine's Day is all about Love...Elizabeth Barrett Browning pretty much covered it with her Sonnet #43,

"How Do I Love Thee?"
"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death."

You probably won't find that on a Valentine card, but even simple sentiments such as:

Roses are red, violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet, and so are you!

Are nice when delivered with a hug and a kiss, and maybe an invitation to have a Margarita and some guacamole and chips at Casa Del Rey. Don't buy that big heart-shaped box of candy. Nobody needs that. Honest!

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and, just like that, we're in Lent with Easter arriving on Sunday, April 5th. Just to refresh your memory, Lent is a 40-day period when a lot of people think of self-denial, i.e., giving up something; like coffee. Giving up coffee is a very bad idea as here's what happens: headache, fatigue, low energy, irritability, anxiety, poor concentration, depressed moods and tremors which can last anywhere from two to nine days. Enough time to make everybody in your life wish you'd given up almost anything else, including being anywhere near them.

"Lent is about becoming, doing and changing whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now."
Sister Joan Chittister

Instead of thinking about Lent as a time to suffer, to give up our favorite things, maybe we could concentrate on doing something positive in our world. Instead of giving up something, think about adding something, like new practices to our day, maybe saying something nice to everyone we encounter; like "that color blue looks really great on you." We can consider adding more "thank-yous" into our day. They fit practically anywhere.

Maybe instead of fasting from cookie dough ice cream or a caramel macchiato latte, we could concentrate on the fact that God loves us and will never stop loving us. That no matter what we do, we can't make Him love us more or less. I think He would go ahead and have the ice cream with us...just saying.

This Lenten season maybe we could:

Give up complaining... focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism... become an Optimist
Give up worry... trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness... turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred... return Good for evil
Give up negativism... be Positive
Give up anger... be more Patient
Give up pettiness... again, be more Patient
Give up gloom... enjoy the Beauty all around
Give up jealousy... pray for Trust
Give up gossiping... think before you Speak
Give up giving up... Hang in There!

Bottom line for me this Lent: I'm still going to have coffee. I'm still going to have a little ice cream once in a while. I'm going to look forward to Easter with joy and anticipation!

Maybe this Lenten Season I could be more patient, forgiving, and just plain kind. In a world where you can be anything you want to be...Be KIND!

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
Lent is starting, which means Easter is on its way and
"The Crown" a story about what could have happened to
The Crown of Thorns that pierced Jesus' brow,
is now an actual book, in addition to a Kindle book. It's on my Amazon page.
"The Crown" will enrich your Easter experience.

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF BUTTERFLY EFFECT DAY SPA IN SIERRA MADRE

As we reflect on our ribbon cutting photo from 16 years ago, we are overwhelmed with gratitude.

The village of Sierra Madre has shaped us in ways we could never have imagined. Our clients have become dear friends and extended family. Through every peak and every valley, this community has supported, encouraged, and sustained us.

We are especially grateful for our incredible team. Watching their growth, confidence, and well-being evolve over the years has been one of our greatest joys. Their dedication and heart are what make Butterfly Effect what it is.

After 2020, we made the decision to move to the "Old City Hall" location — we remained in Sierra Madre, because this community is home.

There are so many special people to honor — those who supported us for years and those who helped us even for one meaningful moment. Every bit of encouragement mattered.

We are deeply grateful. We are blessed. And we have only love for Sierra Madre and the surrounding neighborhoods who have kept us going for 16 beautiful years. "See you at the spa"

With gratitude, All of us at Butterfly Effect Day Spa



Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

PPHD Urges Residents to Protect Against Measles Virus

The Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) encourages everyone not vaccinated against measles to receive the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Routine vaccination or vaccination prior to travel is key to protecting yourself and the community from measles. As of Tuesday there are no measles cases among Pasadena residents. PPHD continues to closely monitor developments and remains prepared to follow up on any local exposures.

"With increasing measles activity across the nation and region, I urge Pasadena residents to take steps now to protect their health and the health of their loved ones," said Manuel Carmona, Director of Public Health. "Getting vaccinated remains the most effective way to protect yourself and prevent the spread of disease in our community."

Measles is a highly contagious, serious airborne disease caused by a virus that can lead to severe complications and even death. Measles symptoms appear 7 to 14 days after contact with the virus, and common symptoms include:

- High fever (may spike to more than 104°F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash

Measles complications occur in up to 40 percent of those infected; and may include blindness, hearing loss, pneumonia, seizures, and meningitis. There are no antiviral drugs specifically approved to treat measles and treatment is supportive care.

Measles can be serious in all age groups. However, there are several groups that are more likely to suffer from measles complications, including adults older than 20 years of age, children younger than 5 years of age, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems such as those with leukemia or an HIV infection.

Anyone who plans to travel who is not vaccinated against measles is at increased risk of getting infected. Consult with your doctor about your vaccination status prior to travel, especially if you are travelling internationally or to an area with an active outbreak. For more information on a country's measles risk level, visit the Travelers' Health Centers CDC website. If you think you have been exposed, contact and notify your health care provider as soon as possible.

Adults who were vaccinated before 1968 should consult their healthcare provider and ask about getting another MMR vaccine, since the vaccine they received at that time may no longer be effective. According to the CDC, there is no harm in getting another MMR vaccine if you have already received one.

Visit the PPHD (1845 N. Fair Oaks Ave.) Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. to receive an MMR vaccine. To make an appointment, call (626) 744-6121. Walk-ins are also welcomed.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net/public-health.

Attorney General Opens Investigation into Eaton Fire Response in West Altadena

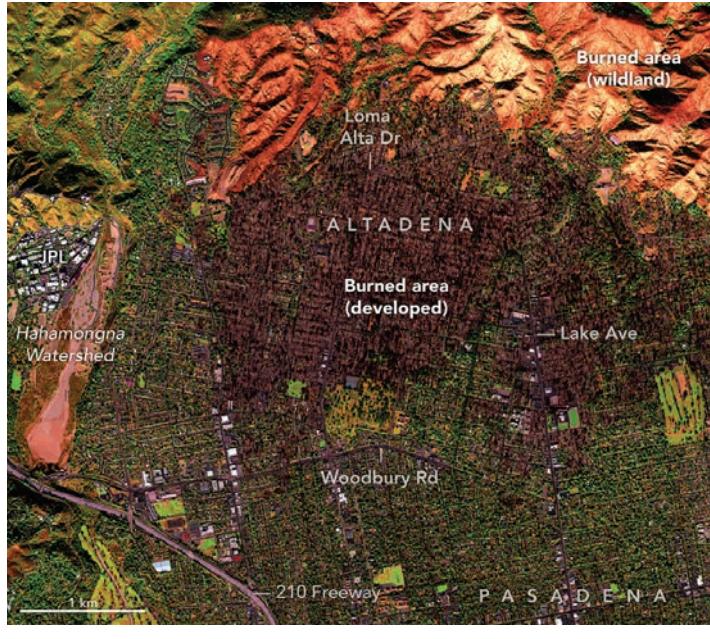
California Attorney General Bob Bonta announced Thursday the start of an investigation by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) related to the emergency response to the Eaton Fire.

"My office will be investigating whether there was race, age, or disability discrimination in the emergency response in West Altadena, which claimed the lives of at least 19 people," Bonta said. "Specifically, we'll be looking at whether the systems and structures at play contributed to a delay in the county's evacuation notice and possible disparities in emergency response in West Altadena."

The investigation will seek to determine whether there was potential race, age, or disability discrimination in the emergency preparations and response in the historically Black community of West Altadena. The Eaton Fire burned 14,021 acres, destroying over 9,000 buildings, and becoming one of the deadliest fires in California history.

"The West Altadena community rang the alarm and brought compelling evidence to the attention of my office. We know that evacuation warnings for the historically Black neighborhood of West Altadena came many hours after these same warnings were sent to the rest of Altadena," he said.

Bonta continued "We must let the facts uncovered by our investigation determine what went wrong here, but one thing holds true: The people



of West Altadena deserve answers to their questions and deserve institutions that are responsive to their concerns, and institutions they can trust."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger issued a statement in response to Bonta's announcement.

"I welcome Attorney General Bonta's investigation into the emergency response to the Eaton Fire and expect our County departments to fully cooperate," she said. The concerns raised by residents of West Altadena deserve to be taken seriously and examined thoroughly. From the outset, I have been committed to accountability and transparency... If there were gaps, we must acknowledge them. If there were disparities, we must confront them. And if systems need to change, we must change them. I stand ready to support the Attorney General's efforts and remain

committed to working collaboratively to ensure we learn from this tragedy and strengthen our emergency response systems for every community we serve."

The investigation will be spearheaded by DOJ's Civil Rights Enforcement Section. DOJ's investigation will focus on potential violations of civil rights laws, legal questions that fall under DOJ's purview. While DOJ is committed to transparency, in order to protect the integrity of this investigation, no further updates can be given at this time.

Cultural Thursdays Eva Scott Féynes

The fascinating life of Pasadena's first female art patron, Eva Scott Féynes, will be explored as part of the Cultural Thursdays event series on site at the Pasadena Senior Center on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m.

Pasadena Museum of History's Education and Program Manager Daniel Nevez will lead "The Artist Life of Eva Scott Féynes," an in-depth exploration of one of the city's first art philanthropists and her passion for art.

The event is free for Pasadena Senior Center members and only costs \$5 for non-members, and reservations are suggested. To register or find more information, visit pasadenasenioreniorcenter.org, then click on Lectures & Classes, then Cultural Thursdays.

Born in 1849 to wealthy New York parents, Eva moved to Pasadena after her travels in Europe and Africa, where she received her first art training. After arriving in Pasadena in 1896, Eva quickly became an active part of the city's growing art community, as well as becoming an accomplished watercolorist herself. She and her husband commissioned the building of Pasadena's Féynes Mansion, now home to the Pasadena Museum of History.

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: pasadenasenioreniorcenter.org or call 626-795-4331.

Learn more about these programs and other PWP educational offerings at PWPweb.com/Education.

PWP provides electricity to more than 65,000 customers within Pasadena. PWP delivers water to nearly 38,000 households and businesses in Pasadena and adjacent communities in the San Gabriel Valley. As a community-owned utility, PWP is a not-for-profit public service owned and operated by the City of Pasadena

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PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCIENCEFEST RETURNS IN MARCH 2026 – A CELEBRATION OF CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY

Pasadena, CA — The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) ScienceFest proudly announces the return of its beloved event, an annual community celebration of innovation, hands-on learning, and student discovery. This year's event will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at John Muir High School, located at 1905 Lincoln Avenue, Pasadena, CA.

ScienceFest 2026 promises an exciting day filled with engaging activities, interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, and inspiring presentations designed to ignite curiosity in students of all ages. Families, educators, local businesses, and community members are invited to join the fun and celebrate science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) education in action.

ScienceFest is more than just an event—it's a vibrant expression of how powerful learning can be when students are encouraged to explore, build, experiment, and dream. We're excited to welcome the entire Pasadena community to experience this amazing event.

Event Highlights:

- Interactive STEAM Exhibits: Robotics, chemistry experiments, 3D printing, and more.
- Hands-On Activities: For all ages—from preschoolers to high schoolers.
- Community Partners & Innovation Booths: Featuring NASA/JPL, Caltech, local makers, and STEAM-focused organizations.
- Live Demonstrations
- Food Trucks and more...

Admission is free, and parking will be available on-site.

Whether you're a budding scientist, a tech-savvy teen, a supportive parent, or simply a curious neighbor, ScienceFest is your opportunity to celebrate discovery and innovation within PUSD and beyond.

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Beth Copti – bcopti@yahoo.com - 626-627-9404

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(626) 355-3463

Head of School: Joanne Harabedian
E-mail address:
jharabedian@alvernoheights.org

Arcadia Christian School

1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006
Preschool - TK - 8th Grade
626-574-8229/626-574-0805
Email: inquiry@acsliions.com

Principal: Cindy Harmon
website: www.acsliions.com

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School

Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal
2660 East Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, Ca 91107
626-793-2089
<https://school.abvmpasadena.org/>

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588

Head of School: Tonya Beilstein
Kindergarten - 8th grade

website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527

Preschool-TK-8th Grade

Principal: Jonathan Hawes

website: www.bcsliions.org

Clairbourn School

8400 Huntington Drive
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172

FAX: 626-286-1528

Marianne Ryan

administration@clairbourn.org

E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy

822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 301-9809

Principal: Nancy Lopez

www.foothilloaksacademy.org

office@foothilloaksacademy.org

Frostig School

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

Head of School: Jenny Janetzke

Email: jenny@frostig.org

The Gooden School

192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

(626) 355-2410

Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner

website: www.goodenschool.org

Holy Angels School

PK-8th Grade

360 Campus Drive

Arcadia, CA 91007

626-447-6312

office@holyangelsarcadia.org

Principal: Aimee Dyrek
holylangelsarcadia.net

High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road

Pasadena, Ca. 91107

Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989

website: www.highpointacademy.org

La Salle College Preparatory

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.

(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org

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

Odyssey Charter School

725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001

(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill

website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.

(626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba

website: <http://phs.pusd.us>

St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

(626) 355-6114 Principal: Jon McMaster

mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org

Website: www.st-ritaschool.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

(626) 355-1428 Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso

E-mail address: marchesso.jodi@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom

E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us

Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd

Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166

www.waldenschool.net

Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107

(626) 797-0204 Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Website: www.weizmann.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.org

Website: www.pusd.org

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

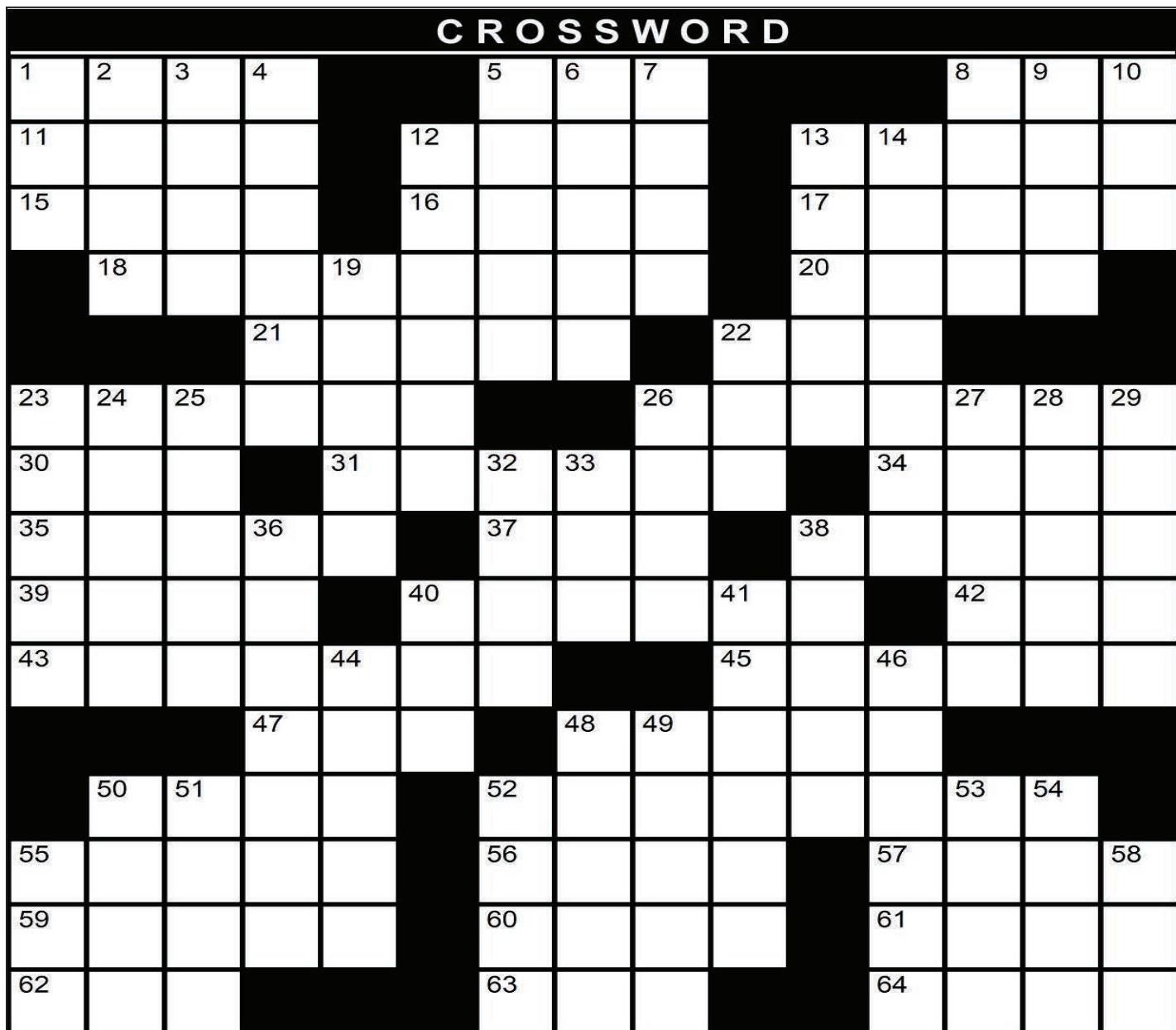
Website: www.monroviaschools.net

Duarte Unified School District

1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010

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WORLD EXPLORERS

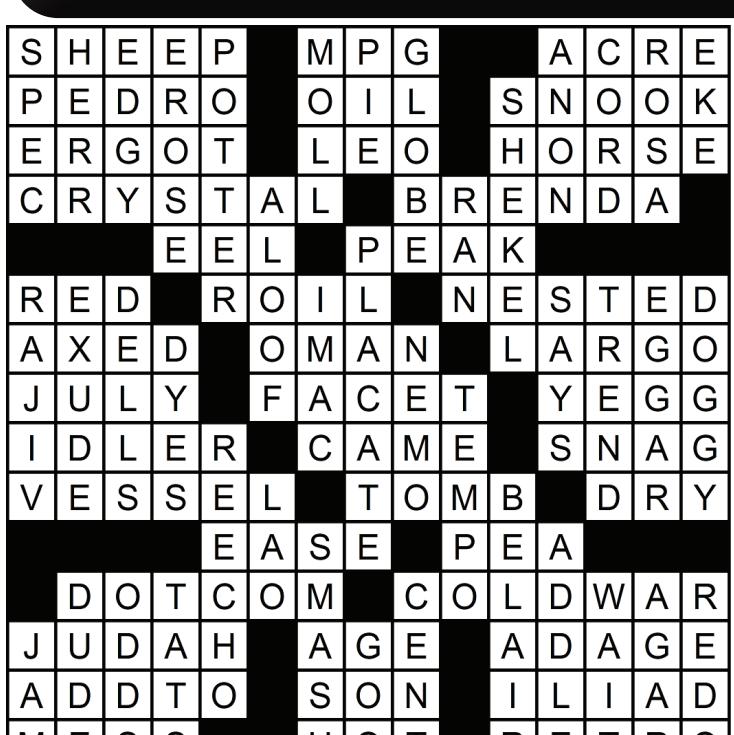
ACROSS

- UPS competitor
- "The One I Love" band
- Prior to, pref.
- Gin flavor
- wig or winkle
- Command to Fido
- Grey of tea fame
- Policemen's surprise
- Brunch offering
- *Explorer Amerigo's last name
- Rock opera version of "La Boheme"
- Gossipmonger, in Yiddish
- Ballet step
- *Henry the Navigator's title
- Chicken pox pimples
- Poetic "even"
- Demosthenes or Cicero
- "The ___ on the Floss"
- Stories "from the Crypt"
- Rank above maj.
- Sore spot
- "Happily ___ after"
- Familiar routine
- "Wow!"
- Retina, pl.
- *Explorer Shackleton's first name
- New on the block?
- Barbara Eden's TV character
- Rumple
- *First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
- Lewis' or Clark's vessel
- Fictional giant
- Plaintiff
- Shrovetide dish
- Zig or zag
- Dunking cookie
- "___ and the City"
- "C'___ la vie!"
- Backgammon predecessor

DOWN

- Take drugs
- Bohemian, e.g.
- Skin opening
- Short for self-synchronous
- Don't just stand there!
- "Fear of Flying" author Jong
- Skirt length
- Part of a hammer
- Wholly engrossed
- Obtain, but just barely
- Gardening tool
- Junk yard stuff
- "Dr. Livingstone, I ___?"
- Fictional cowboy Bill
- One better than bogey
- J.M. Barrie's Pan
- Plunder
- *Geographical feature named for Ponce de Leon
- *Inspiration for hide-and-seek game
- City in Belgium
- North Pole workers
- Winter driving hazard
- Homesteader's purchase, sing.
- Likewise
- *Possibly America's first European Leif ___
- Jeopardy
- Horse poker
- Tooth cover
- One born to Japanese immigrants
- Willie of country music fame
- Dashboard windows
- Type of heron
- Gender checkbox
- Windows alternative
- Change address
- Mystique
- Not ever, poetically
- TV network
- "Maggie May" singer

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PROGRAM PROVEN TO REDUCE YOUTH RISK FACTORS FOR VIOLENCE RAND STUDY VALIDATES CLUB'S CASE MANAGEMENT APPROACH



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PASADENA

Pasadena, CA - A recent study conducted by RAND Corporation has found that a Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena prevention program is making a positive impact on youth mental health and other indicators.

Over the past three years, BGCP participated in a violence prevention grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections, along with eight other LA-area Boys & Girls Club organizations. The project paired Boys & Girls Clubs' traditional youth development programs with a new strategy: individual case management for youth with the highest needs. RAND Corporation, the project's independent evaluator, released its official program evaluation in December 2025 and found that youth participants who received intensive case management through the Boys & Girls Club program had decreased risk factors for involvement with violence.

Nearly 1,400 Los Angeles-area youth participated in the three-year program. After youth received intensive case management, according to the RAND report, "...there was a statistically significant reduction in total risk factors ... Improvements were seen in the categories of social-emotional connection, impulsive risk-taking, truancy and justice involvement, and mental health indicators. Youth who participated in more case management sessions experienced a greater reduction in risk."

Additional findings from the study were:

- the most common risk factor for violence among youth assessed was not criminal behavior—it was social disconnection;
- intensive, relationship-based support works for youth at highest risk for violence;
- safe, trusted adults are the program's most powerful intervention, as youth consistently reported that the most valuable part of the program was having a stable adult who listened, followed through, and showed up;
- violence prevention can take the form of education and workforce readiness, as case management sessions focused heavily on school success, goal-setting, and future planning; and
- the program filled gaps that schools and clinical systems cannot, as youth reported that they would not access formal therapy, but would engage through Clubs.

Since the grant has expired, BGCP has secured interim funding from private sources to continue the program's work. Still, Club leaders hope that the grant is renewed. According to the Club's Board Chair Melina Montoya, "We were privileged to participate in this grant and bring this violence prevention strategy to Pasadena-area youth. We are hopeful that this grant is renewed and we can continue making a positive impact."

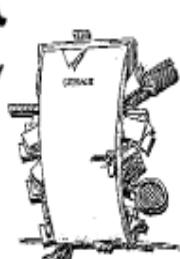
Since 1937, the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena has enriched the lives of young people in our community, enabling them to reach their full potential as productive, caring, healthy, and responsible citizens. Serving more than 1,500 youth, ages 5 – 18 annually, BGCP focuses on Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyle, Life and Workforce Readiness, and Good Character and Leadership. The Club experience fills the gap between school and home – year-round – providing a welcoming, safe and positive environment in which kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs, make friends and find encouragement with caring adults.

The Club operates five locations in the Pasadena area: Slavik Branch on E. Del Mar Blvd., Mackenzie-Scott Branch on N. Fair Oaks Avenue, the Dena Teen Center at the Mackenzie-Scott Branch, Odyssey Charter School – North, and a new site in the Kings Villages housing community on North Fair Oaks Avenue.

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 SierraMadreWomansClub
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Peter A. Dills
<https://podlink/1116885432>

THE COMING OUT PARTY FOR THE TIRED (OF THE TIP SCREEN)

This morning at Starbucks, I experienced what I'll call a small cultural turning point. Nothing dramatic happened. The Chai Tea wasn't bad. The service wasn't rude. The barista was perfectly pleasant. But after I ordered and tapped my card, the screen was turned toward me and there they were — suggested tip amounts: \$1, \$3, \$5, or "Other."

I hadn't received my Tea yet. The foam hadn't been poured. The lid wasn't even on the cup. And yet, I was being asked to decide what the service was worth.

This isn't an angry column. It's more of a coming-out party for those of us who are simply tired of the screen appearing before the fries are hot or the coffee has cream.

Let me be clear: I am not tired of generosity. I believe in tipping. I've made a career celebrating great hospitality. When a server goes the extra mile, when a bartender keeps the martini cold and the conversation warm, when a manager stops by the table — what I call "table touching," muy importante — I tip well and gladly. Appreciation matters.

But there is something different about being prompted before the service has even occurred. It subtly changes the nature of the transaction. Tipping once felt like a thank-you. Now, in many places, it feels like a pre-payment on hope.

The screen itself has become part of the ritual. It glows politely, waiting for your decision, angled just enough that the employee can see your choice. It's not a quiet jar by the register where you drop in a dollar if you feel inclined. It's a digital suggestion, presented at eye level, with preset amounts that feel less optional than they once did.

At Starbucks, it's not even percentages. It's dollar figures — \$1, \$3, \$5 — which, psychologically, feel more immediate. On a six-dollar tab, that can represent a meaningful bump. It's not catastrophic, but it's noticeable. And multiplied over a week of quick stops, it adds up. What makes people uneasy isn't the idea of tipping. It's the timing. We are being asked to reward a performance we haven't yet seen. If the order is wrong, can we get the tip back? Of course not. If the fries are cold or the coffee isn't quite right, that dollar or three dollars has already been committed to history.

This isn't an indictment of Starbucks. They didn't invent this culture; they're simply operating within it. Wages are tight. Costs are up. Businesses are trying to help employees earn more without pushing menu prices into orbit. I understand the economics.

But somewhere along the way, customers became part of the payroll strategy. The base price looks reasonable, and the rest is gently nudged onto the screen. It's clever, and it probably works. But it's also exhausting.

I heard a radio host this morning who sounded like he was complaining about tipping culture. Maybe he was. Or maybe he was simply articulating something that many people feel but don't quite say out loud. There's a difference between being ungenerous and being fatigued. Most people are still tipping. They're just increasingly aware of how often they're being prompted to do so.

We've layered social pressure onto simple transactions. Buying a cup of coffee now comes with a micro-decision about identity. Are you generous? Are you stingy? Are you pressing "Other"? It's a lot to process before caffeine.

For me, the solution is simple and personal. I tip at the end of the week. That's what I do. If I've had consistently good experiences — friendly faces, accurate orders, a little warmth in the exchange — I make sure to show appreciation. That feels proportional. It restores tipping to its original spirit: gratitude after service, not anticipation before it. Generosity should feel good. It shouldn't feel compulsory.

This isn't a rebellion. No one is storming the barricades over cappuccino foam. Most of us will continue to tip. We're not anti-worker. We're not anti-service. We're simply noticing that something subtle has shifted.

The real tipping point isn't the \$1, \$3, or \$5 option on a screen. It's when enough reasonable people quietly think, "Let me experience the service first." That thought doesn't make anyone cheap. It makes them sensible.

So consider this a small coming-out moment for the politely weary — the ones who still believe in rewarding excellence, but would like to taste the coffee before deciding what it was worth.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to finish mine. And yes, it was good. Email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com and log onto my podcast Dining with Dills

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THE ELDERLY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ROUTINE

As people age, stability becomes more than just a preference — it becomes a vital component of physical, emotional, and cognitive well-being. For seniors, especially those living independently or transitioning into assisted living, maintaining a consistent daily routine can dramatically improve quality of life. Routine provides structure, predictability, and a reassuring sense of control in a season of life that often includes significant change.

One of the greatest benefits of routine is its positive impact on physical health. Regular wake and sleep times help regulate the body's internal clock, improving sleep quality and energy levels. Scheduled meals support proper nutrition, stabilize blood sugar levels, and reduce the likelihood of skipped meals — a common issue among older adults. Routine medication times also improve compliance, which is especially important for seniors managing chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or high blood pressure.

Beyond physical health, routine plays a critical role in cognitive stability. For seniors experiencing mild cognitive impairment or early stages of dementia, consistent daily patterns reduce confusion and anxiety. Familiar sequences — morning coffee, a daily walk, an afternoon phone call with family — provide comforting anchors in the day. Predictability minimizes stress and helps preserve independence longer. Emotionally, routine combats loneliness and depression. When seniors have planned activities — exercise classes, church services, volunteer work, or social gatherings — they maintain meaningful connections and a sense of purpose. Even simple habits, like reading the newspaper at the same time each morning or tending to a garden in the afternoon, create rhythm and intention.

Routine does not mean rigidity. Flexibility is important, but having a dependable framework for the day promotes safety, confidence, and overall well-being. For families and caregivers, encouraging consistent daily patterns is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to support aging loved ones. In later life, routine becomes more than habit — it becomes stability, dignity, and peace of mind.

MEDICARE CAN HELP OLDER SMOKERS KICK THE HABIT



Dear Savvy Senior,
Does Medicare offer any coverage that helps beneficiaries quit smoking?
New Beneficiary

Dear New,

If you're ready to quit smoking, Medicare can indeed help! Medicare Part B covers up to eight face-to-face counseling sessions per year to help you kick the habit, and if you have a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, certain smoking-cessation medications are covered as well. Here's a guide to help you get started.

It's Never Too Late

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 8.3 percent of Americans age 65 and older still smoke. Many older smokers indicate that they would like to quit, but because of the nicotine, which is extremely addictive, it's very difficult to do.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable illness, responsible for an estimated one-fifth of deaths in the United States each year. But research shows that quitting, even after age 65, greatly reduces your risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, osteoporosis and many other diseases. It also helps you breathe easier, smell, and taste better, and can save you money. An \$8 pack-a-day smoker, for example, saves about \$240 after one month without cigarettes, and nearly \$2,880 after one year.

How to Quit

The first step you need to take is to set a "quit date," but give yourself a few weeks to get ready. During that time, you may want to start by reducing the number or the strength of cigarettes you smoke to begin weaning yourself.

Also check out over-the-counter nicotine replacement products — patches, gum and lozenges — to help curb your cravings (these are not covered by Medicare). And just prior to your quit day get rid of all cigarettes and ashtrays in your home, car, and place of work, and try to clean up and even spray air freshener. The smell of smoke can be a powerful trigger.

Get Help

Studies have shown that you have a much better chance of quitting if you have help. So, tell your friends, family, and coworkers of your plan to quit. Others knowing can be a helpful reminder and motivator.

Then get some counseling. Don't go it alone. Start by contacting your doctor about smoking cessation counseling covered by Medicare and find out about the prescription antismoking drugs (bupropion and varenicline) that can help reduce your nicotine craving.

You can also get free one-on-one telephone counseling and referrals to local smoking cessation programs through your state quit line at 800-QUIT-NOW or call the National Cancer Institute free smoking quit line at 877-44U-QUIT.

It's also important to identify and write down the times and situations you're most likely to smoke and make a list of things you can do to replace it or distract yourself. Some helpful suggestions when the smoking urge arises are to call a friend or one of the free quit lines, keep your mouth occupied with some sugar-free gum, sunflower seeds, carrots, fruit or hard candy, go for a walk, read a magazine, listen to music or take a hot bath.

The intense urge to smoke lasts about three to five minutes, so do what you can to wait it out. It's also wise to avoid drinking alcohol and steer clear of other smokers while you're trying to quit. Both can trigger powerful urges to smoke.

For more tips on managing your cravings, withdrawal symptoms and what to do if you relapse, visit 60plus.SmokeFree.gov. There are also a variety of helpful quit smoking apps you can download like EasyQuit, QuitNow and Quit Genius.

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



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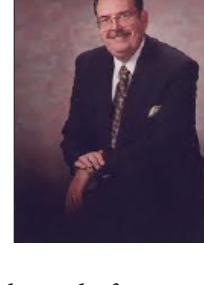
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OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

VALENTINE'S DAY - JUST ANOTHER DAY ON THE CALENDAR?

The older I get, the more I have to forget, and believe me, I don't forget to forget. I can't keep up with dates, holidays, or even my birthday. I believe a day is a day, and that should be the end of it.

As I was drinking my morning coffee, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered and said, "Do you know what day Saturday is?" I didn't know what kind of question this was, because she always throws me questions that confuse me, just to see if I can be confused. Looking at her, I said very seriously, "I believe that it will be Saturday." Then I looked at her and smiled. "Oh, you silly boy. This Saturday is February 14. You do know what day that is." I had to admit to her that I had no idea what she was talking about. I thought about it and then said to her, "Is it one of our granddaughter's birthday?" We always like to celebrate these birthdays, and I had no idea which of our granddaughters had a birthday this week.

"You sure don't keep up with the times, do you?" She said rather snickerly. Looking at me with one of her serious looks, she said, "This Saturday is February 14 and that is Valentine's Day. Remember what Valentine's Day is?" I had to think for a moment, and then it came to me, another holiday that I can't keep up with.

"Don't you remember we became engaged on Valentine's Day 55 years ago?" Looking at her, I said, "No way it's that long!"

I had to give this a lot of thought, and I began to remember that 55 years ago, on Valentine's Day, we became engaged. Then six months later, we got married. My, oh my, how time flies when you're getting old.

That sure was a long time ago, and it has gone by rather quickly. I never thought I would live to be this old. But here I am, celebrating 55 years of being engaged. I remember meeting The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage six months before our engagement. And then six months later, we were married.

We were at Bible school together, where we met. One Sunday, a bunch of us went to a church to sing. We did that often during our school time. I lip-synched while the others actually sang.

On our way home, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were sitting towards the back of the van. We were talking about this and that and everything. Then she asked me a question, which I assume was rhetorical. She said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to be married?"

Not knowing that it was not rhetorical, I smiled and said, "Yes, it would be wonderful to be married someday." That was the end of that conversation. She was smiling all the way back to the dorms.

The next day, as I walked down the school hallway, everyone looked at me, smiled, and said, "Congratulations." I smiled back and thanked them. I thought I had finally passed one of my tests, and they were congratulating me. But everybody I passed congratulated me.

Not knowing what was going on, I stopped one of them and said, "What are you congratulating me for?"

"Oh, you know. You're getting married."

I was getting what? I had no idea where that was coming from. But the rhetorical question was, in fact, a real one. I was the last one at school to find out I was getting married.

At first, I thought it was some prank that people were playing on me. I went along with it, not wanting to look stupid.

I met with the former Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and wanted to get things straightened out. I didn't want to take anything for granted; what I really wanted to know, was this the truth?

We went to a little restaurant down the street, and as we were sitting there, I looked at her and said, "Did you hear the rumor that you and I are getting married?" I then laughed quite hilariously. She smiled and said very enthusiastically, "That's not a rumor it's true. You and I are going to get married."

Well, there wasn't anything more I could do about that.

55 years later, as I thought of Valentine's Day, I remembered that incident. Looking back over the years, I couldn't help but think what a wonderful time that has been.

Now that I'm old, I can say that Valentine's Day 55 years ago was probably the best day of my life, and it was all because of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I looked back at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "Valentine's Day is one of the best days of the year. Don't you agree?"

In pondering this I was reminded of what King Solomon said, "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

This August we will celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary and I intend to follow King Solomon's advice to "Live joyfully with the wife." Why change when it's working just fine so far?



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February Events Around Town!

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One Time Events

February 8
Historic Old Pasadena Walking Tour – Dayton Street

Explore the rich history of Dayton Street and Pasadena's earliest Black-owned businesses. 10am – 11:30am

February 14
A Vintage Valentine at the Queen Anne Cottage

Enjoy an elegant afternoon sipping champagne and discovering Victorian secrets of courtship. 2 – 4pm

February 14
Romance Along the Arroyo – A Valentine's Day Event

The Gamble House and Pasadena Museum of History celebrate Valentine's Day in vintage style with romantic music, treats and more. 4pm – 7pm

February 18
Little Songbirds at Descanso Gardens

Join the Pasadena Conservatory of Music for a nature-themed musical story time. 10am – 11am

February 21
Floriography Wreath Family Workshop at the Arboretum

Hands-on family workshop on Victorian art of sending messages through flowers. 2pm – 3:30pm

February 21
Black History Festival in Robinson Park, Pasadena

This festival offers live performances, community booths and more. 10am – 3pm

February 22
Lunar New Year Festival in Downtown Arcadia

Lunar New Year Festival with a day of tradition, food and community spirit. 11am – 4pm

February 26
Caltech History and Architectural Tour

Explore Caltech's historic original campus and its architectural footprint on the community. 10:30am

February 28 - 9am – 2pm

Lunar New Year at the Arboretum
Family crafts, cabbage planting, live performances, red envelope seed giveaway and food trucks.

Ongoing Events

January 23 – February 6
Dine LA Restaurant Week

Enjoy special Dine LA lunch and dinner menus at hundreds of participating local restaurants.

February 5 – 16
Circus Vargas Presents "Masquerade" at Santa Anita Park

The circus comes to Arcadia with a spellbinding journey of pure artistry and family fun.

February 8 – March 8

Richard III at A Noise Within

A thrilling drama - one of Shakespeare's most iconic explorations of corruption, control, and power.

February 11 – March 8

Amadeus at Pasadena Playhouse

Unforgettable musical show about the riveting rivalry between composers Salieri and Mozart.

February 13, 14

Adult Night Hike: Bawdy Botany at the Arboretum

Learn about the history, folklore and botany that influence the way we celebrate love. 7:30pm – 9pm

February 13 – 16

Great Backyard Bird Count at Descanso Gardens

Join in a world-wide bird count to help scientists better understand and help birds.

February 21, 22

Lunar New Year Festival at The Huntington

Enjoy a family-friendly event filled with crafts, live performances, floral arts and more. 10am – 5pm

February 21, 22

Lunar New Year at Santa Anita Park

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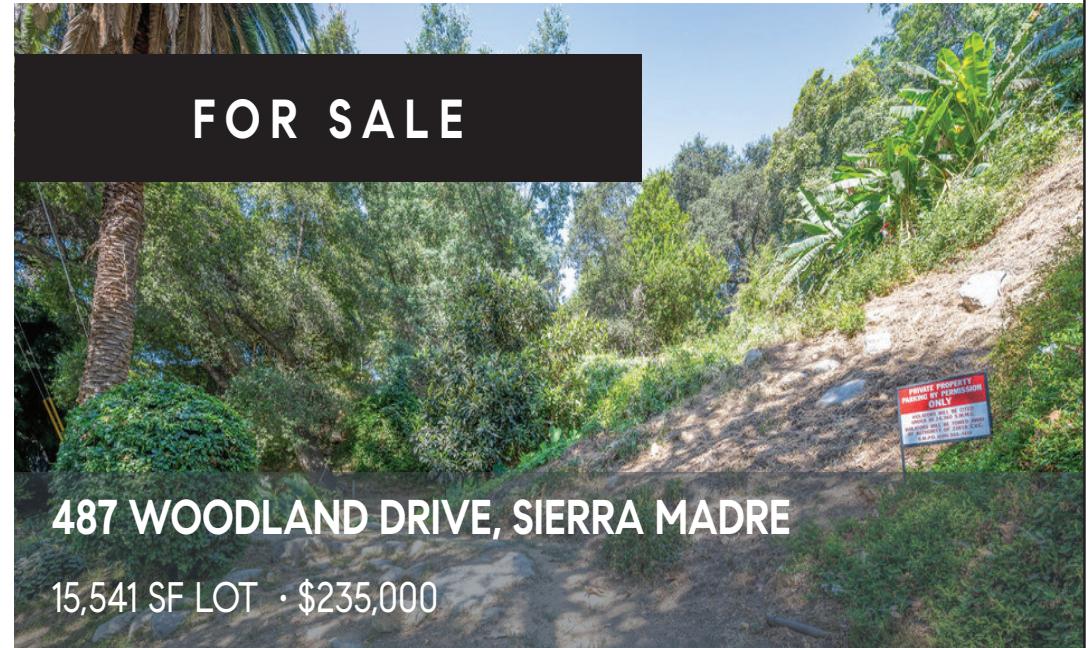
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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

NEWS BRIEFS

SUPERVISOR BARGER ISSUES STATEMENT FOLLOWING VOTE ON PROPOSED COUNTY SALES TAX

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger issued the following statement today after casting her "no" vote on placing a Countywide general sales tax increase for healthcare on the ballot:

"Backfilling federal funding cuts on the backs of County taxpayers is not acceptable. Los Angeles County residents are already stretched thin. Last year, Bloomberg News reported that Los Angeles now has the highest sales tax rates of any major metropolitan region in the nation. This proposed half-cent increase would push us even higher, making our County less affordable for families and less appealing for consumers to shop and businesses to operate. We are risking imposing higher everyday costs and small businesses and employers choosing to leave Los Angeles County altogether."

The healthcare challenges our County faces are real. This is a serious issue that demands serious solutions. We should be demanding stronger commitments from our state's legislators. Making things more expensive—especially for those who can least afford it—with no real guarantees or accountability is not the answer. Placing a burden on taxpayers, with no certainty that the dollars will be spent as intended, is not responsible fiscal policy. If the County is going to ask voters to approve a tax, it should be a special tax that provides clear purpose, enforceable accountability, and real transparency—not a general tax which can be used for other County needs. My vote reflects a commitment to affordability and doing right by the taxpayers of Los Angeles County."

POLICE INVESTIGATE DEATH ON ARROYO DRIVE

South Pasadena police are investigating the circumstances of an individual found deceased at a popular overlook on Arroyo Drive. A man's body was located on a bench that overlooks the Arroyo and is a popular destination for people to watch the sun set. Traffic during the morning rush hour had to be diverted on the busy roadway while police conducted their investigation.

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Mountain View News Saturday, February 14, 2026

SGV MOSQUITO'S DIRECTOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MVCAC PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARD



Director of Scientific Programs Tristan Hallum with MVCAC Presidential Citation Award



Trustee Doornik (Glendora) and Trustee Estrada (Baldwin Park) with District Manager Farned and Director Hallum at MVCAC Conference

West Covina, Calif. — Tristan Hallum, Director of Scientific Programs at the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (SGV Mosquito/District), was honored with the Presidential Citation Award at the 94th Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) Annual Conference, held in Rancho Mirage, California. The MVCAC Presidential Citation Award recognizes individuals whose exceptional leadership, innovation, and service have made a significant impact on vector control and public health in California. Hallum was recognized for his groundbreaking leadership during the Eaton Fire emergency mosquito control response in 2025, which resulted in a historic first for the vector control industry. During the wildfire recovery effort, Hallum successfully led SGV Mosquito through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance process—establishing a new precedent for FEMA reimbursement of wildfire-related mosquito control by a vector control district. "Tristan's work during the Eaton Fire fundamentally changed how vector control is viewed in emergency management," said SGV Mosquito District Manager Jason Farned. "His persistence, creativity, and scientific leadership opened the door for districts across the state and nation to access critical federal resources to protect public health after disasters."

Historically, vector control agencies have faced challenges meeting FEMA eligibility requirements, which focused on documented increases in adult mosquito populations and laboratory-confirmed disease transmission. Hallum reframed the District's case by demonstrating that the rapid expansion of mosquito habitat caused by wildfire damage—within a region already experiencing endemic and locally transmitted disease—constituted an imminent public health threat. This innovative interpretation, supported by the California Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and ultimately approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), resulted in federal authorization for mosquito abatement and larvicide treatments in the Eaton Fire burn area.

"It's an honor to receive this award, and it reflects the collaborative efforts of the District's staff in response to the Eaton Fire," said Hallum. "I'm grateful for the distinction and look forward to continuing our work to protect public health."

MVCAC President and Executive Committee members recognized Hallum's contributions as an extraordinary advancement of MVCAC's mission to protect public health through leadership, science, and innovation.

About SGV Mosquito

SGV Mosquito is one of five vector control districts in Los Angeles County. Year-round, the agency monitors stagnant water sources, such as gutters, storm drains, channels and non-functional swimming pools. The agency also routinely monitors populations of adult mosquitoes using traps and tests groups of adult female mosquitoes for the presence of WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases. In addition, the agency submits samples from dead birds, such as crows, for testing, which can provide insight into the spread of WNV.

ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN, HALL OF FAME PHOTOGRAPHER, TO SPEAK AT USC TROJAN AFFILIATES PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION ON MARCH 5th



Andrew D. Bernstein, Hall of Fame Photographer, will speak to the USC Trojan Affiliates on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at a private home in the San Gabriel Valley. The meeting will begin with hearty refreshments at 6:15 p.m. followed by the program and meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Andrew D. Bernstein is widely recognized for his decades-long career documenting professional sports and cultural icons. A Hall of Fame photographer, Bernstein's images have appeared in thousands of publications worldwide and in major advertising campaigns, as well as books he co-authored with Phil Jackson and Kobe Bryant.

Bernstein has served as team photographer for multiple Los Angeles professional sports franchises including the Lakers, Clippers, Kings, and Dodgers. He holds leadership roles within prominent sports and entertainment venues including Crypto.com Arena, and Nokia Theater LA Live. Bernstein has been the photographer for the United States Olympic national basketball team since the 1992 "Dream Team". He has since extensively covered all USA gold medal-winning teams. He has worked commercially on advertising campaigns for Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Mia Hamm, LeBron James, and others for brands including Nike, Reebok, Adidas, Pepsi, Coca-Cola and Icy Hot.

Bernstein hosts the weekly podcast "Legends Of Sport" and is co-founder of the platform. Legends Of Sport produced Vanessa Bryant's new book "Mamba & Mambacita Forever." Autographed books will be available for purchase at the meeting.

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

USC Trojan Affiliates is in its tenth year of contributing money to its scholarship endowment fund of \$100,000, (now well over the initial funded amount) using these dollars to support its scholars. Members also volunteer at the Pasadena Showcase House (April) to earn funds and participate in the USC Trojan Affiliates Benefit (February), USC Day of Service (March 21), Clothes for Cash (March 29), Swim With Mike (April 11), San Marino Motor Classic (June 14), Town and Gown of USC Holiday Boutique (Fall), and other programs to support the University and its students.

Past meetings have included Paint Nights, authors, physicians, entertainers, USC professors, and more. The last meeting of the 2025-2026 program year will take place on Thursday, May 7th and will feature Sarah Jane Sherman, Emmy winning voice director, voice over artist, and casting director at a local restaurant in the San Gabriel Valley.

For information, reservations, and to learn the location of the meeting, please contact Trojan Affiliates Membership Chairman Terry Leahy by March 1st at terry.leahy17@gmail.com.

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FITNESS FOR LIFE



Michele Silence, M.A. is a 37-year certified fitness professional who offers semi-private/virtual fitness classes. Contact Michele at michele@kid-fit.com. Visit her Facebook page at [michelesfitness](https://www.facebook.com/michelesfitness). Visit her Facebook page at [michelesfitness](https://www.facebook.com/michelesfitness).

see a short-term rise in blood sugar. Using ultrasound guidance helps reduce some risks by placing the medicine exactly where it's needed. I've never wanted a quick fix or a way to mask pain instead of addressing the underlying problem.

But sometimes, even for someone like me, they make a huge difference.

Eight months ago, as you know, I had shoulder surgery. I had a supraspinatus repair with a biceps tenodesis, and while the procedures went well, I still have lingering pain and movement restrictions. My bicep hasn't fully recovered, which keeps me from stretching my arm backward or getting into a dip position—two things I could do before surgery and am determined to regain. Even with diligent therapy and strength work, progress has been slow.

After months of frustration, my doctor suggested a cortisone injection. I hesitated. I wanted to avoid another needle in my shoulder, but the pain and limitation were holding me back from getting stronger. This time, though, I opted for an ultrasound-guided injection rather than a regular cortisone shot.

Here's the difference:

A regular cortisone shot is what most people get. The doctor locates the inflamed spot and injects the medication "blind," based on anatomy and experience. It's quick and inexpensive but doesn't always hit the right place—especially in tricky joints like the shoulder. Sometimes the medicine misses the target, limiting how much relief you feel.

Ultrasound-guided shots are different. Using real-time imaging, the doctor can see exactly where the inflammation is and place the needle precisely in the joint, tendon, or bursa. Studies back up why this matters: blind shots only hit the intended spot about 40–76% of the time, while ultrasound-guided injections reach the target 63–100% of the time. In

I'm not a fan of cortisone shots. I don't like injecting things into my body that I might become dependent on or that could have long-term effects. Cortisone shots are generally safe, but they can cause temporary pain, bruising, or skin changes. Repeated injections may weaken tendons or cartilage, and people with diabetes can

shoulder injections specifically, accuracy jumps to 87–93% compared with 27–73% for blind shots. That precision often means better pain relief and improved function—at least in the weeks right after the injection.

When I got my ultrasound-guided shot, the difference was immediate. The shoulder pain eased right away, and I could feel my range of motion improving. The bicep still isn't fully back to pre-surgery strength, but I now have the freedom to begin pushing toward those two movements I've been missing. Without the precise placement, the relief might not have been so complete.

For anyone considering cortisone, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Ask about ultrasound guidance. If your joint is small, complex, or has had surgery, it can make a real difference.
- Understand it's not a cure. Cortisone can reduce pain and inflammation temporarily, but it doesn't replace physical therapy, strengthening, or proper care.
- Consider timing. Sometimes a well-placed injection allows you to work harder in therapy, which can speed long-term recovery.
- Check availability and cost. Not all offices offer ultrasound guidance, and insurance coverage can vary.

From my experience, the lesson is clear: while cortisone shots aren't my favorite, getting one with precision can be a game-changer. It's not about taking the easy way out—it's about giving your body a chance to heal properly while reducing the barriers that pain creates.

Pain and limited movement are frustrating, especially when you've been active and strong before an injury. Cortisone injections, particularly ultrasound-guided ones, can provide the window of relief you need to rebuild strength, regain mobility, and get back to the activities you love.

I'm now focused on two goals: regaining the ability to stretch my arm backward fully and returning to dip exercises. With the shot helping reduce inflammation and pain, I finally feel like I have the chance to reach those goals safely.

Cortisone isn't for everyone, and it's not a permanent fix. But when administered correctly, it can provide the boost needed to take the next step in recovery. For anyone struggling with lingering joint pain after surgery or chronic injury, it's worth asking your doctor whether ultrasound-guided cortisone might make the difference between temporary relief and a breakthrough in your therapy.

I still approach injections cautiously, but this one worked exactly as intended. Pain eased, mobility returned, and for the first time in months, I can see myself working back toward the strength and movements I had before surgery. Sometimes, the right shot—placed in exactly the right spot—makes all the difference.

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ALL THINGS

by Jeff Brown

10 LOVING MINI RITUALS BOOST INTIMACY, & CONNECTION

1. The 4-Second Kiss

Purpose: Slow down, be present, release bonding hormones. When: Anytime Creates intimacy and togetherness .Yum!

2. The 20-Second Hug

Purpose: Physical touch increases oxytocin and reduces stress. Tip: Hold each other without distractions—phones down! Feels wonderful!

3. Morning Check-In

Purpose: Set emotional tone for the day. How: Ask one simple question like, "How are you feeling today?" Time: 30–60 seconds over coffee or breakfast.

4. The "I Appreciate You" Statement

Purpose: Reinforce admiration and respect. How: Say one specific thing you admire or are grateful for. Example: "I love how patient you were with the kids today."

5. Hand-Holding or Touch During Tasks

Purpose: Maintain physical connection without interrupting routines. Tip: Hold hands while walking, cooking, or watching TV.

6. Eye Contact Ritual

Purpose: Deepens emotional attunement. How: Look into each other's eyes for 20–30 seconds once a day. Bonus: Smile while doing it — triggers positive emotional feedback.

7. Daily Compliment

Purpose: Keeps admiration alive. How: Give a genuine compliment about appearance, effort, or personality.

8. Shared Mini Celebration

Purpose: Celebrate small wins together. How: High-five, small toast, or verbal acknowledgment for achievements big or small.

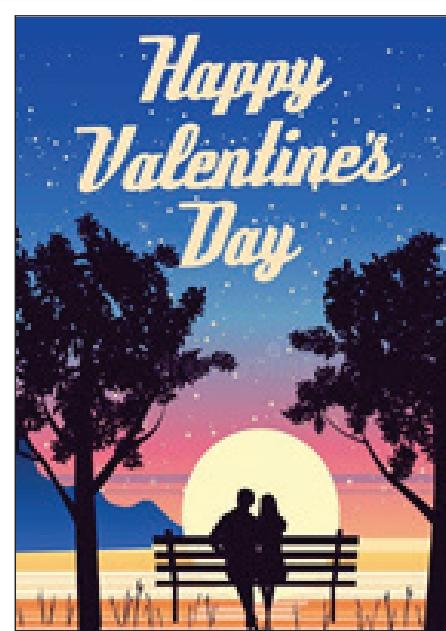
9. Goodnight Ritual

Purpose: Ends the day connected, reduces stress before sleep. How: Kiss, hug, or verbal check-in: "I love you, sleep well."

10. Quick "Thinking of You" Message

Purpose: Maintains connection during busy days. How: Text, voice note, or sticky note with a short message: "You make me smile," or "Can't wait to see you tonight."

Variety keeps it fresh: Mix physical touch, verbal affirmation, and shared experiences.



UNLOCK YOUR LIFE



Lori A. Harris

SOLVITUR AMBULANDO:

It Is Solved By Walking

From peace monks to Thoreau and King, change has always moved on foot.

A line of robed Buddhist monks, walking single file along American highways in winter, touched our hearts this week. They started their journey in October. These monks completed the 2,300 mile "Walk for Peace" across the United States, step by step, through storms, traffic noise, and political boundaries. They carried no signs but their own presence. They didn't shout. They walked.

Their leader said this was not a protest against anyone. It was a pilgrimage meant to awaken the peace that already exists within each of us. Watching the monks, I remembered the Latin phrase: solvitur ambulando is solved by walking." Life is sometimes about motion. When faced with a problem, the answer is to stand up and move. Theoretical problem, practical solution.

For me, and maybe for you, it's also a way of thinking about our civic and spiritual lives. We don't resolve our deepest problems by arguing about them. We resolve them by taking a step. Last spring, I did my own small devotional walk on the Camino de Santiago, joining a centuries old stream of pilgrims who have walked toward Santiago as an act of reflection, healing, and faith. Day after day, I learned on my own that inner questions are often worked out one ordinary, imperfect step at a time.

Two of my guides understood this. Henry David Thoreau, my personal mentor, wrote that he needed to spend at least four hours a day "sauntering" through woods and fields, "absolutely free from all worldly engagements." Walking, for him, was not fitness or leisure; it was a spiritual vocation and a quiet refusal of a society moving too fast in the wrong direction.

His essay on civil disobedience, and the time he spent in jail for refusing to support slavery and war, later traveled, on foot, into the imaginations of others. Mohandas Gandhi read Thoreau and carried those ideas into the salt marches that helped end British rule in India. Martin Luther King Jr. read both Thoreau and Gandhi and turned their ideas into bus boycotts, freedom marches, and a long walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Harriet Tubman walked people out of slavery along the Underground Railroad, acting in faith with each step. None of these leaders led from a desk. They led with their bodies in motion. I've been a student of Thich Nhat Hanh for over a decade. His practice of walking meditation, each step taken in mindfulness, on a sidewalk or in a forest, has taught me that walking can be prayer, protest, and healing all at once. When we walk in awareness, we remember that we have a body, a breath, and a choice about what we do next.

We don't need to walk across the country. We can walk across the street to check on a neighbor. We can walk to a local meeting instead of staying home and scrolling. We can take a ten minute peace walk before we fire off that angry email or social media post. All transformation starts the same way: with a single step. In a divided country, that may be the simplest and most radical thing we can still do together.

What step toward peace will you take this week? Share it with me at lori@loriaharris.com.

Lori A. Harris is an award-winning coach and podcast host. You can learn more about how she can help you at loriaharris.com.

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good."

Maya Angelou

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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
ARE YOU ENJOYING LIVING IN THIS AMERICAN DEMOCRACY?

Of course these are two separate questions and behind these questions there is one more. I am motivated to create this article as conversations with several people have revealed to me that they have great concerns about continuing to live in America, but they want very much to continue living within a democracy. I need to emphasize at this point that I just viewed the Congressional Hearing of Attorney General Pamela Jo Bondi who evaded a question concerning the Justice Department's failure to properly investigate and release documents pertaining to the Epstein File. The Justice Department (DOJ) post-Watergate has maintained a significant degree of independence in investigations to prevent partisan influence.

Being well aware of the concern to maintain at least the appearance of independence I was shocked to hear the Attorney General evade questioning by proclaiming their irrelevance and criticizing behavior of the Trump administration when it is clear to everyone that Donald J. Trump is the greatest President in American history in addition to the Dow now being over 50,000.

If you are anywhere close to agreeing with this statement, there is no reason for you to continue reading this article. Perhaps you are a wealthy person only concerned with the Stock Market and have closed your eyes and are disinterested in anything else. With your eyes shut, you perhaps have managed to ignore the horrors going on around us. American citizens and children with no criminal records have been arrested and detained. News broadcasters such as Don Lemon have been arrested. Many people, particularly non-white minorities have been afraid to leave the house to go to work or take their children to school. This should not be happening in a Democracy or anywhere else!

Let us return to my original two questions behind which is the question "What Is a Democracy?" I am a University of California Berkeley graduate with a major in Political Science, a graduate and later a member of the faculty at UCLA Law School, so I have an educational background to help answer the question. First the word Democracy is not present in the Constitution of the United States. After the commencement of the Revolutionary War in 1776 the independent thirteen English Colonies attempted

to combine in such a way as to maintain their independence but to still formulate an agreement of cooperation and resistance to England. There was no mention of creating a President who would lead and preside over a united country. Instead, what resulted was an agreement which went by the name of the Articles of Confederation. These articles established a weak central government and referred to a "league of friendship" among the sovereign states to manage the Revolutionary War. This "League of friendship" lacked the authority to tax, regulate commerce, or enforce laws. With our historical perspective it is not surprising that this attempt at governing was ineffective.

By 1787, 21 years later, to meet the apparent need of a stronger Central Government the Constitution of the United States was written and ratified. Its first three words - "We the People" make clear that the government of the United States exists to serve its citizens rather than have its citizens serve its President which seems to be the case today. For over two centuries the Constitution has remained in force resulting from the framers' careful separation and balancing of governmental powers by creating three equal branches of government.

To this President, his presence and actions automatically represent the "will of the people", and all guardrails have been destroyed.

This is not Democracy and I understand why many call what we are living through autocracy and tyranny. If we don't like it, what options do we have? The primary framer of the Constitution, Thomas Jefferson, proclaimed that an "informed electorate" is the prerequisite to an operating democracy. Today, "we the people" are bombarded with so much news, "fake news" and distractions that staying informed is very difficult. Last week I concluded my article by emphasizing that the greatest weapon of the people is "honesty." To maintain honesty, we must reject myths that tell us we should cooperate and trust the powers that be who we really want to believe have our welfare at heart. It is clear today that the powers don't really care about us unless we are billionaires. The rest of us must care for ourselves or remain indifferent, ignorant, and try to be as comfortable as possible.

These are difficult alternatives especially when you are as old as I am and incapable of much change, so, no matter what, I am staying here.

What about you?

HOWARD HAYS AS I SEE IT



"It's just insane, when I read that post I can't believe what I'm reading, but it's par for the course." - Mayor Drew Dilkens of Windsor, Ontario on President Trump's demand for half-ownership of the Gordie Howe International Bridge

The news, as I'm writing this, is all about the Bad Bunny halftime show at the Super Bowl. There was Ricky Martin, Lady Gaga, a real wedding and L.A.'s own Villa's Tacos of Highland Park in the production - with chef Victor Villa himself appearing. It had themes of love, joy, family, unity and hope for the future - so of course it made MAGA heads explode.

Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN) called the performance "pure smut . . . Children were forced to endure explicit displays of gay sexual acts, women gyrating provocatively". Roger responded on X; "Sir, I believe you are conflating a dream you had with the actual halftime show." President Trump's complaint was made in the context of 500 million Spanish speakers worldwide, 41 million in the U.S., when he said, "Nobody understands a word this guy is saying."

The Gordie Howe Memorial Bridge connecting Detroit with Windsor, Ontario has been in the works for a dozen years and is due to open soon. Though paid for entirely by Canada, Trump says he won't allow it to open on our side unless we get 50% ownership. The NY Times reported that hours before making this demand, Trump got a call from Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who'd spoken with a billionaire Trump donor with his own interest in that bridge. Matthew Mouron's family are private owners of another bridge connecting Detroit with Windsor. They'd been trying to kill this publicly-owned bridge project for years; because of the impact it would have on their own toll-collecting revenue.

Threatening relations with our neighbor and largest trading partner to protect the interests of a campaign donor would, in normal times, lead to removal from office. Now, as Mayor Dilkens would say, it's "par for the course". But it also helped divert attention from stories dominating the news over preceding days - events that, again in normal times, would have buried any administration in disgrace.

In Philadelphia's Independence Mall, near the Liberty Bell, the National Park Service maintains the house where George Washington lived when serving as president in the 1790s. This last week of January, right before Black History Month, workers took a crowbar and pried off the wall plaques which commemorated the slaves Washington had owned. State Senator Nikil Saval described it as "not dissimilar from a book burning. You're watching history and knowledge that people have struggled to bring to light being erased and in such a brute fashion."

Also maintained by the National Park Service is the home of Medgar and Myrlie Evers in Jackson, Mississippi. After service in WWII, Evers returned to fight segregation. Earlier this month, informational brochures were removed from the home because they described Byron De La Beckwith, member of the White Citizen's Council and KKK, the man who shot Medgar Evers in the back, as a "racist". Martin Luther King III posted, "The murder of Medgar Evers was an act of racial terror. That fact is not partisan. It is historical. Calling it anything else is not 'restoring truth.' It is erasing it."

When reaction came to the President of the United States posting on his personal account a depiction of former President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama as apes, press secretary Karoline Leavitt called it "fake outrage", suggesting attention instead be on something "that actually matters to the American public."

Posted in reaction on X: "This would be a nuclear-level scandal like 10 years ago. But Trump has lowered the bar so much that I don't think this even gets a news cycle worth of coverage." Governor Newsom responded, "Every single Republican must denounce this. Now." Maybe a handful did. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), the only Black Republican in the Senate, called it "the most racist thing I've seen out of this White House". As for the president himself, he blamed it on a staffer - said "I didn't make a mistake" so had nothing to apologize for, telling reporters on Air Force One, "I'm the least racist president you've had in a long time."

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, reminded; "This is the man who built his political fortune by way of a vile campaign of birther lies and harassment against President Obama. Bigotry has been his brand since Day 1, and the wretched 'yes' men who surround him enabling or endorsing this conduct aren't going to change that. As his scandals continue to escalate, and as he continues to lose the little lucidity that remains with him, I expect Donald to only retreat deeper into the sewers of racism and ignorance. That's where he's most at home. That's where he's most comfortable."

As for Trump's having since deleted that post, Rep. Clarke quoted her mother; "Too late. Mercy's gone." Mayor Dilkens of Windsor, Ontario and other observers by now seem simply resigned to these "just insane" posts from our president as "par for the course".

I'm going to log into YouTube and re-watch that Bad Bunny halftime show. Love, joy, family, unity and hope for the future - no wonder it made MAGA heads explode.

RICH JOHNSON

WE NEED MORE HOLIDAYS AND KISSES



Did you know that we, as Americans, are slighted by having only 11 recognized federal holidays. AND there are none, zip, zilch and nada in either March or April. Our government doesn't even celebrate my birthday officially. You may know it as Halloween. Fits, doesn't it?

When was the last time we, as a society, added holidays to our calendar? I can't think of any...can you? Forget about Federal Holidays! I want to share some of my favorite holidays:

March 4th "Do Something Day" (Well, do something)

March 5th "Cinco de Marcho" (A little play on words)

March 26th is actually "Make Up Your Own Holiday" Day!

April 16th "Wear your Pajamas to Work Day". Intentionally created to invite U.S. Taxpayers to relax the day after Tax Day

April 29th "Zipper Day" celebrates the day in 1913 when Gideon Sundback received the patent for the modern zipper

May 4th "Star Wars Day" (figure it out) (Hint: May the ___th) be with you.

May 21st "Talk Like Yoda Day" Remember, Yoda mixes up speaking order. We do "subject-verb-object", and Yoda does "object-subject-verb". Instead of "Rich eats ice cream". Yoda would say, "ice cream rich eats, he does"

June 4th "Hug Your Cat Day" As we all know Cats rule the world. We have two, Mabel and Gizmo. They rule our home and heart.

June 7th "VCR Day" (Really?) Actually changed the way we watched television. Which was later changed by streaming services and pushy daughters.

June 17th "Eat Your Vegetables Day" (I faithfully celebrate this holiday every year with a load of fries from In 'n Out.)

June 18th "International Panic Day" Held the same day as International Picnic Day so you can relax the same day. I'll end this list with

July 6th "World Kissing Day" Kissing Day is thought to have begun officially in the United Kingdom. Anthropologists have no real theories on the origins of kissing. A couple of holiday suggestions:

Steal kisses from your sweetheart throughout the day. And don't forget... scientists tell us we use 34 of our 42 facial muscles in kissing. Using more muscles could result in serious injury...maybe marriage and then...you know what.

Since I've come up a bit short on the column I will, as a public service, discuss kissing to the end. Let's briefly discuss the 6 rules of social kissing:

Rule One: Kiss the correct cheek. You want to kiss the right cheek first.

Rule Two: Kiss the cheek the correct number of times. One kiss is quite enough for first encounters and in business (business?). Acquaint yourself with rules in other cultures...like kissing in Orange County or Bakersfield.

Rule Three: Use humor in awkward moments (like going for the same side.)

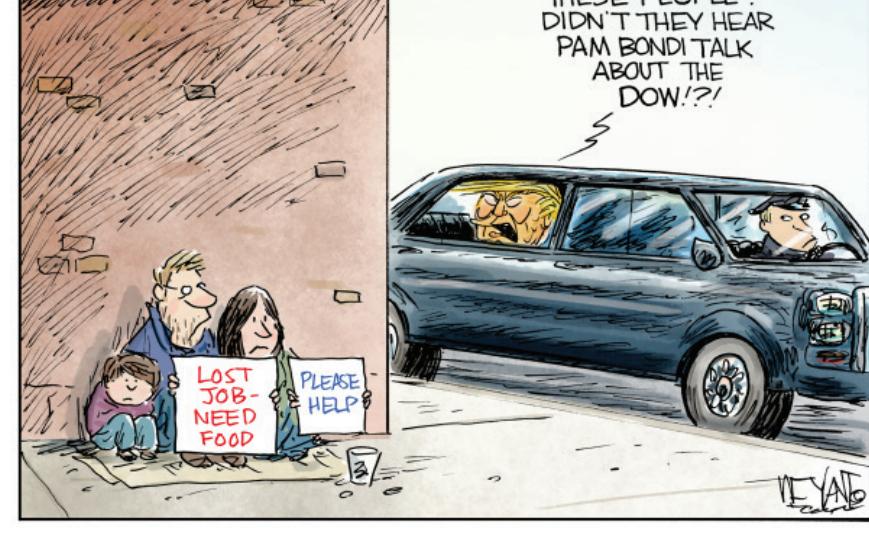
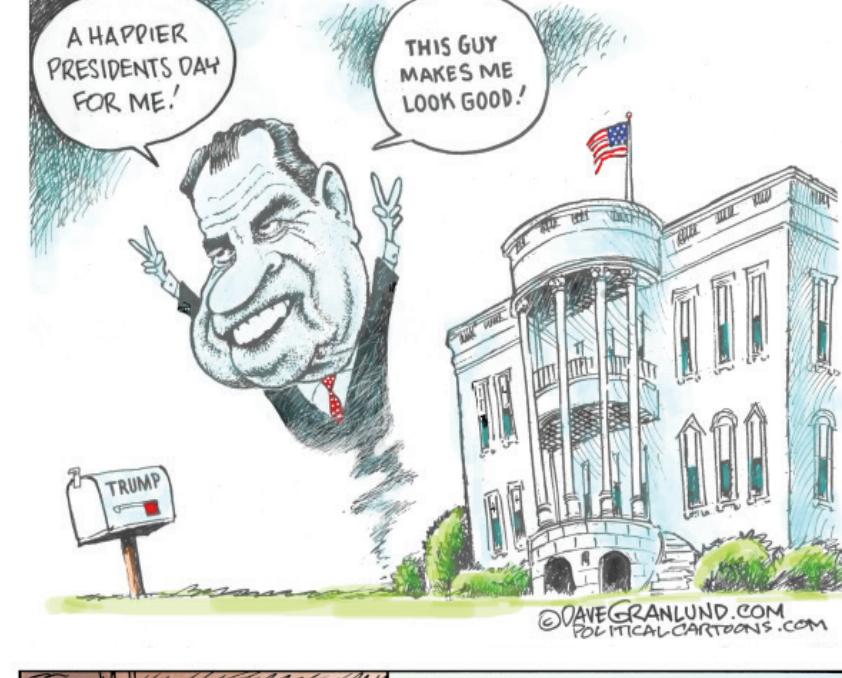
Rule Four: Don't actually kiss the other person. (It's not really an actual kiss but an air kiss. If you make the slightest and briefest contact with the cheek that's okay.)

Rule Five: Make it a quiet kiss. No sound effects, no big Mwah.

Rule Six: be respectable all over. Make sure your hands are above the waist.

Don't want to kiss or be kissed. Then extend your hand swiftly for a handshake (I get that a lot on dates).

I may have reported that my band, JJ Jukebox's next performance was on April 11th. It has been moved up to March 28th. Come hear rock and roll. Make reservations at Nano Café, (626) 325-3334 after 4:00pm Wednesdays through Saturdays. Located in Sierra Madre near the southeast corner of Lima and Sierra Madre Blvd. 6:30-9:30 pm (626) 325-3334.

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.

SUMMONS
(CITACIÓN JUDICIAL)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

CASE NO. 26STCV00821
Complaint filed: January 9, 2026

ALTADENA WILDFIRE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING DISTRICT,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF THE VALIDITY OF THE FORMATION OF THE ALTADENA WILDFIRE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING DISTRICT, THE ADOPTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING PLAN, THE ALLOCATION OF TAXES TO THE DISTRICT, THE AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT TO ISSUE BONDS SECURED BY THE ALLOCATION OF TAXES TO THE DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING PLAN, AND ALL OTHER MATTERS AND PROCEEDINGS RELATING THERETO

Defendant.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond by March 5, 2026. Read the information below.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde para el 5 de marzo, 2026 la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE VALIDATION OF: all proceedings conducted by each of the Altadena Wildfire Recovery Infrastructure Financing District Public Financing Authority, which serves as the governing body of the District (the "District Board"), and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles relating to: (i) the formation of the Altadena Wildfire Recovery Infrastructure Financing District ("District"); (ii) the Adoption of the Infrastructure Financing Plan ("IFP") for the District; and (iii) the Allocation of Taxes to the District; (iv) the authority of the District to issue bonds secured by the taxes allocated to the District pursuant to the IFP; and (v) all other matters and proceedings related thereto have until March 5, 2026 to appear and file a written answer to the complaint 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 (<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/>), 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 your rights, default will be entered against you upon application by the plaintiff, and the plaintiff may apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint. Contesting the legality or validity of this matter will not subject you to punitive action, such as wage garnishment or seizure of your real or personal property.

You may seek the advice of an attorney in any matter connected with the complaint or this summons. Such an attorney should be consulted promptly so that your pleading may be filed or entered within the time required by this summons. 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.lawhelpca.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/>), 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. The District has brought this action to determine the validity of the formation of the Altadena Wildfire Recovery Infrastructure Financing District ("District"); (ii) the Adoption of the Infrastructure Financing Plan ("IFP") for the District; and (iii) the Allocation of Taxes to the District; (iv) the authority of the District to issue bonds secured by the taxes allocated to District pursuant to the IFP; and (v) all other matters and proceedings related thereto.

(EN ESPAÑOL)

TODAS LAS PERSONAS INTERESADAS EN LA VALIDACIÓN DE: todos los procedimientos llevados a cabo por cada una de las Autoridades de Financiación Pública del Distrito de Financiación de Infraestructuras para la Recuperación tras el Incendio Forestal de Altadena, que actúa como mesa directiva del Distrito (la "Mesa Directiva del Distrito"), y el Consejo de Supervisores del Condado de Los Ángeles en relación con: (i) la constitución del Distrito de Financiación de Infraestructuras para la Recuperación tras el Incendio Forestal de Altadena ("Distrito"); (ii) la adopción del Plan de Financiación de Infraestructuras ("IFP", por sus siglas en inglés) para el Distrito; y (iii) la asignación e impuestos al Distrito; (iv) la autoridad del Distrito para expedir bonos garantizados por los impuestos asignados al Distrito de conformidad con el IFP; y (v) todos los demás asuntos y procedimientos relacionados con los mismos tienen hasta el 5 de marzo, 2026 para comparecer y presentar una respuesta a la demanda por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. 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 AutoAyuda de las Cortes de California (<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/>), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte más cercana a usted. 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 sus derechos y el demandante podrá solicitar al tribunal el remedio solicitado en la demanda. Impugnar la legalidad o validez de este caso no le expondrá a medidas punitivas, como la confiscación de su salario o de sus bienes o su propiedad personal.

Puede buscar el consejo de un abogado en cualquier asunto relacionado con la queja o esta citación judicial. Debería consultar a dicho abogado puntualmente de modo que su alegato pueda presentarse o registrarse dentro del tiempo requerido por esta citación judicial. 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.lawhelpca.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp) 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 o 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. El Distrito ha presentado esta demanda para determinar la validez de la constitución del Distrito de Financiación de Infraestructuras para la Recuperación tras el Incendio Forestal de Altadena ("Distrito"); (ii) la adopción del Plan de Financiación de Infraestructuras ("IFP", por sus siglas en inglés) para el Distrito; y (iii) la asignación de impuestos al Distrito; (iv) la autoridad del Distrito para expedir bonos garantizados por los impuestos asignados al Distrito de conformidad con el IFP; y (v) todos los demás asuntos y procedimientos relacionados con ello.

CASE INFORMATION
(INFORMACIÓN DEL CASO)

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

Superior Court of the State of California
 County of Los Angeles – Central District (Stanley Mosk Courthouse)
 111 N. Hill Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3014

2. The Court department is (El departamento la Corte es): Department 71, the Honorable Daniel M. Crowley presiding

3. The case number is (el número de caso es): 26STCV00821

4. The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, es):

Allison E. Burns
 Gregory J. Maestri
 STRADLING YOCOA CARLSON & RAUTH LLP
 660 Newport Center Drive, Suite 1600
 Newport Beach, California 92660
 Telephone: (949) 725-4000

PETER M. BOLLINGER
 MICHAEL S. BUENNAGEL
 DEBBIE Y. CHO
 Office of the County Counsel
 County of Los Angeles
 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
 500 West Temple Street #648
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 Telephone: (213) 974-1811

CARE INC, 1400 W WHITTIER BLVD, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: LUIS FLORES RIVERA/PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/13/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/2025. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business 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: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 24, 31, FEB 07, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026-009632

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PAPA BEAR,

3038 9TH AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA

90018. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed:

LUIS ACOSTA-REYES/OWNER.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/14/2026. 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 Business 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: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 24, 31, FEB 07, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026-010346

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SAN PEDRO LOCK

AND KEY, 464 W SEVENTH ST,

SAN PEDRO, CA 90731. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) QUEZADA

GROUP ENTERPRISES, 464 W

SEVENTH ST, SAN PEDRO, CA

90731. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed:

FAUSTINO QUEZADA/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/14/2026. 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 Business 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: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 24, 31, FEB 07, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026-010347

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SAN PERDO LOCK

AND KEY, 464 W SEVENTH ST,

SAN PEDRO, CA 90731. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) QUEZADA

GROUP ENTERPRISES, 464 W

SEVENTH ST, SAN PEDRO, CA

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FAUSTINO QUEZADA/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/14/2026. 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 Business 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

Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/15/2026. 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 Business 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: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 24, 31, FEB 07, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025-284237

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ROBLEDO, 13750 UNITED

RD, DSRT HOT SPGS, CA 92240

Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JESUS JR ROBLEDO, 13750

UNITED RD, DSRT HOT SPGS, CA

92240. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JESUS JR ROBLEDO/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 01/2022. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business 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: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 24, 31, FEB 07, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026-015952

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SHABAT

BUSINESS SERVICES, 10233

EIGHT ST, VICTORVILLE, CA

92392. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) GLORIA B HERNANDEZ,

10233 EIGHT ST, VICTORVILLE,

CA 92392. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed:

GLORIA B HERNANDEZ/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/22/2026. 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 Business 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: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 24, 31, FEB 07, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026-015953

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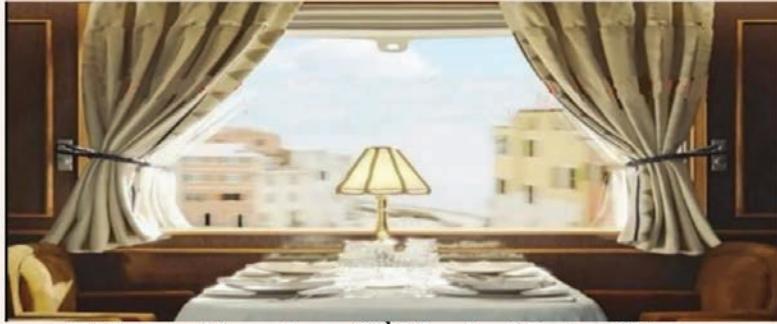
GLORIA B HERNANDEZ/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/22/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County

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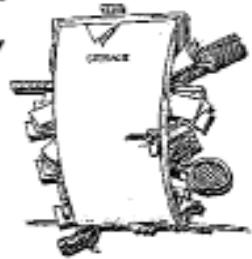
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