

Mountain Views News

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026

VOLUME 20 NO. 31

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THE REAL HOUSEWIVES CELEBRATE OVER A DECADE OF TURNING COSTUME JEWELRY INTO HOPE

Local Relay for Life Team Raises More Than \$120,000 for the American Cancer Society



For the over the past 10 years, a dedicated group of women known as The Real Housewives have been proving that even the smallest donation can make a life-changing difference. Through their unique American Cancer Society Relay For Life fundraiser, the team has collected thousands of donated pieces of costume jewelry and sold each item for just \$1, raising more than \$120,000 to support the American Cancer Society's mission to end cancer as we know it.

The fundraiser is built on the generosity of hundreds of men and women throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond who clean out their jewelry boxes and donate necklaces, earrings, bracelets, brooches, watches, and other costume jewelry. Every donated piece helps fund cancer research, patient support programs, advocacy, and prevention initiatives.

"Our community has been incredible," said Nanette Fish of Temple City, team captain of The Real Housewives Relay For Life Team. "Every piece of jewelry tells a story, and every donation helps create hope for someone facing cancer. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us over the last decade."

Among the team's volunteers is Susan Gallagher of Sierra Madre, who joins Nanette Fish and 25 other women from throughout the Los Angeles area in sorting, pricing, displaying, and selling thousands of donated jewelry items each year.

"We're continually amazed by the kindness of people who donate jewelry they no longer wear," said Gallagher. "Something sitting in a jewelry box can become research, transportation to treatment, or support for a family facing cancer."

Community members can continue supporting the effort by donating gently used costume jewelry of any style or condition. Donations are accepted by contacting the team at therealhousewives00@gmail.com to arrange pickup. Or you can simply make a donation to the Real Housewives America Cancer Society page at: [lives.https://mobileacs.org/XQX32D](https://mobileacs.org/XQX32D)

Throughout the summer, The Real Housewives can also be found at Temple City Concerts in the Park, where they offer their popular \$1 jewelry sale every Wednesday evening. The free community concert series takes place weekly from June through August at Temple City Park. Concert dates and entertainment schedules are available on the City of Temple City's website. The team invites everyone to stop by, browse for hidden treasures, make a donation, and help continue a tradition that has already generated more than \$120,000 in the fight against cancer.

HELP BRING SIERRA MADRE TO LIFE!

A COMMUNITY MURAL FOR HAPPY'S LIQUOR



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EXTREME HEAT WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM PDT SUNDAY...

- * WHAT...Dangerously hot conditions with temperatures of 95 to 106 expected.
- * WHERE...Interstate 5 Corridor and Western San Gabriel Mountains and Highway 14 Corridor.
- * WHEN...Until 8 PM PDT Sunday.
- * IMPACTS...Heat related illnesses increase significantly during extreme heat events.
- * ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Heat hazards may extend into next week for portions of the region.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Drink plenty of fluids, stay in an air-conditioned room, stay out of the sun, and check up on relatives and neighbors.

Do not leave young children and pets in unattended vehicles. Car interiors will reach lethal temperatures in a matter of minutes.

Take extra precautions when outside. Wear lightweight and loose fitting clothing. Try to limit strenuous activities to early morning or evening. Take action when you see symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

To reduce risk during outdoor work, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends scheduling frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned environments. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location. Heat stroke is an emergency! Call 9 1 1.

Stay cool, stay hydrated, stay informed.

Monitor the latest forecasts and warnings for updates.

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AIR CONDITIONING IN YOUR HOME OR LACK SHELTER, YOU
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6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.				
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Mon:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60ss
Tues:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL ON SUMMER BREAK FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. As an alternative, public comment may be submitted by e-mail to publiccomment@sierramadrecal.gov by 3:00PM on the day of the meeting. Emails will be acknowledged at the City Council meeting and filed into public record.

A copy of the posted agenda and a live video stream of the meeting can be found on the City's website at sierramadrecal.gov on Foothills Media website at foothillsmidia.org sierramadrecal, 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@cityofsierramadrecal.com.

MURAL VANDALISM BARGER PROPOSED \$20K REWARD FOR INFO LEADING TO JEWISH CENTER MURAL



LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger introduced a motion today calling on the county to offer a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the person or people responsible for vandalizing a mural at the site of the Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center that burned in the Eaton Fire last year.

The mural in the 1400 block of North Altadena Drive was vandalized with swastikas and other antisemitic graffiti sometime Friday, according to the county sheriff's department. The mural, depicting an orange poppy as a symbol of hope, was produced by artist Miriam Hellmann, the Art over Hate Collective, the Sparks of Kindness Youth Fund and religious school students, volunteers and community members. It was created earlier this year in response to an act of vandalism in which antisemitic graffiti was painted on a wall of the fire-damaged center.

"An attack motivated by hate against one community is an attack against us all," Barger said in a statement after introducing her reward motion, which will be heard by the board next week. "The antisemitic vandalism at the Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center has no place in Los Angeles County. This congregation has already endured the devastation of the Eaton Fire and is working to rebuild. They should not have to face hateful acts intended to intimidate them. Those responsible must be held fully accountable."

She said her proposed reward will apply to information leading to convictions in either or both of the acts of vandalism at the center. Officials at the center wrote on social media over the weekend that the mural is a "symbol of hope, resilience, and solidarity -- not just for PJTC, but for the entire Altadena community."

"Today, we are deeply saddened and outraged by this act, but we refuse to let it define our community," the congregation said. "We are working closely with law enforcement and our security partners as the incident is investigated and as we determine the next steps to restore the mural." The temple posted another message Sunday thanking the community for its support.

"We simply want to say thank you to everyone who reached out with messages of care, solidarity, and support since antisemitic graffiti was discovered on our mural on Friday. Your care and kindness reminded us that we are not facing this alone," the temple posted on social media Sunday. "... We're also deeply grateful to local officials for standing with us, and the local and national media who helped shine a light on what happened. Sharing these stories matters. It raises awareness, confronts antisemitism, and reminds our wider community that hate has no place here."

OZONE ADVISORY

According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), a multi-day high ozone (smog) event is expected to affect some Los Angeles County regions due to a heatwave. Air Quality Index (AQI) may reach "Unhealthy" levels or higher in Glendora and "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" or higher levels in San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and San Gabriel Valley through Sunday evening.

The advisory will be in effect starting on Friday, July 31 at 10 a.m. until Sunday, August 2 at 8 p.m. Everyone should monitor local Air Quality Index (AQI) updates during this period.

The following recommendations will help you protect yourself and your family from harmful effects of bad air quality:

- Avoid vigorous physical activity and remain indoors with doors and windows closed.
- Check air quality levels and limit outdoor activities as necessary. See health recommendations for each AQI level.
- Limit the use of gasoline powered lawn and garden equipment until evening hours.
- Conserve electricity and set your air conditioner at a higher temperature.
- Try to delay trips to the gas station and the use of household chemicals until the evening.
- If it's too hot to keep windows and doors closed, go to a public place like a library or shopping center to stay cool and protect yourself from harmful air.
- If you experience symptoms like severe coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing, chest pain, palpitations, nausea, or unusual fatigue, contact your doctor or go to urgent care. For life-threatening symptoms, call 911.

For more information, see the EPA Guide for Ozone Pollution (PDF).

To stay updated with real-time/forecasted Air Quality in your area, download the South Coast AQMD Mobile App: <http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp> (Also available in Spanish!) or visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/air-quality-forecasts>

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City of Sierra Madre
Public Hearing Notice

From: The City of Sierra Madre

Subject: MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENT (MCTA 26-05): CHAPTER 16.18 (URBAN LOT SPLITS) AND CHAPTER 17.59 (MINISTERIAL DESIGN REVIEW PERMITS) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE

Applicant: City of Sierra Madre

Project Location: Properties in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider amending Chapter 16.18 (Urban Lot Splits) and Chapter 17.59 (Ministerial Design Review Permits) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to update the objective zoning, subdivision, and design standards that promote the orderly subdivision of parcels and development of housing in accordance with the Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act, also known as Senate Bill 9 (SB 9). On April 12, 2022, the City implemented the requirements of the HOME Act under Ordinance No. 1452. Since then, the HOME Act was amended by Senate Bill No. 477, Senate Bill No. 450, Assembly Bill No. 1061, and Senate Bill No. 1426.

The HOME Act aims to increase housing supply across California by streamlining lot splits and two-unit residential developments of lots located in any single-family residential zone (R-1, R-C, or H).

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING	PLACE OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre	City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting	City Council Chambers
Thursday, August 20, 2026	232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
(Hearing begins at 5:30 p.m.)	Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The Planning Commission's decision is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because under Government Code 66411.7(m) an amendment to Chapter 16.18 is not a project under CEQA and under Government Code 65852.21(j), an amendment to Chapter 17.59 is not a project under CEQA.

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Supervisors to Vote on \$20K Reward in Synagogue Hate Crime

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger introduced a motion at their board meeting Tuesday to offer a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for two separate acts of antisemitic vandalism at the Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center. The motion will be voted upon by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors next week.

“An attack motivated by hate against one community is an attack against us all,” Barge said “The antisemitic vandalism at the Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center has no place in Los Angeles County. This congregation has already endured the devastation of the Eaton Fire and is working to rebuild. They should not have to face hateful acts intended to intimidate them. Those responsible must be held fully accountable.”

The reward follows the recent defacement of a mural at the Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center with swastikas and other antisemitic graffiti. The mural, created after the congregation’s synagogue was destroyed in the Eaton Fire, stands as a symbol of hope and resilience for the faith community and the broader Altadena community.

Barger’s motion directs the County to re-establish and increase to \$20,000 a previously authorized reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for two antisemitic acts of vandalism targeting the Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center—including the January defacement of the synagogue wall and the recent vandalism of the congregation’s mural.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is investigating both incidents as hate crimes.

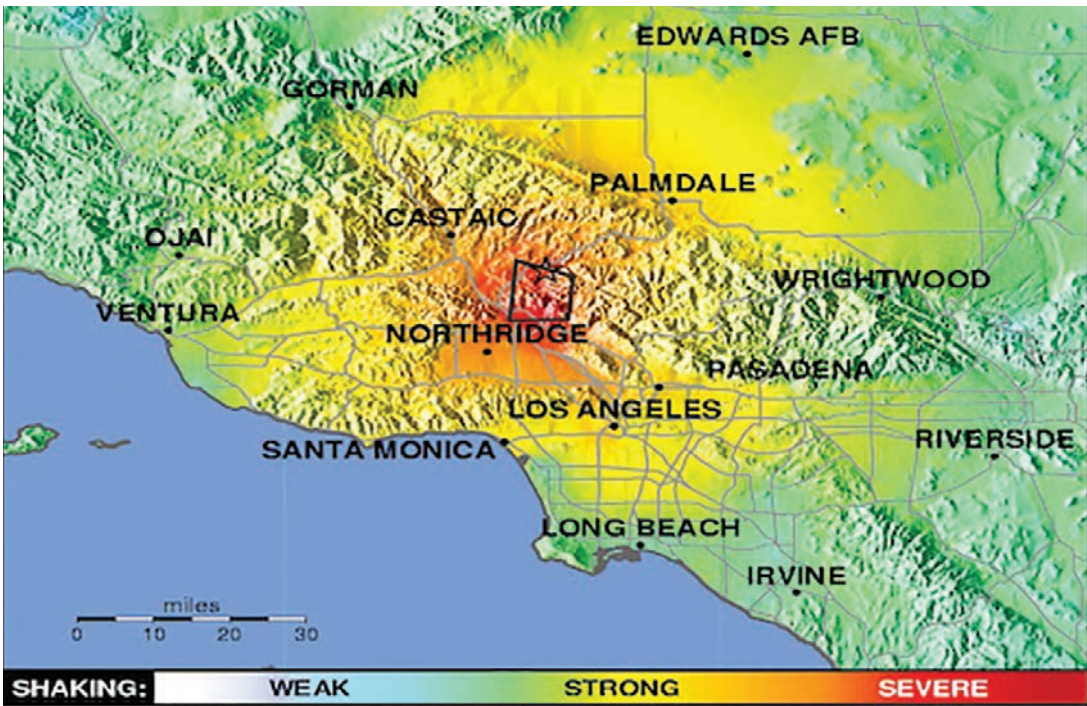
If approved by the Board next week, the reward will be publicly offered, and anyone with information will be encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Shape Clay and Storytelling Workshop

The L.A. Conservancy is set to host 1000 Voices Altadena Mosaic: Clay & Storytelling Workshop on Saturday, Aug 8, from 1 p.m. to 4p.m. At Core Hub, 2333 Lake Ave, Suite 2A

A hands-on art and storytelling workshop for people impacted by the Eaton Fires. Shape clay and share stories in a space of care and creativity. Get your hands in cool, soft, natural clay and share about what you love in Altadena through creative writing and spoken word. Make a tile for the community mosaic and add your voice to local history. Families welcome, no experience necessary. All clay materials will be provided. Bring a journal & pen or pencil.

For more information visit: laconservancy.org.



County Earthquake Readiness Review

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a comprehensive review of Los Angeles County’s earthquake preparedness, while also directing emergency officials to engage renowned seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones –along with experts from Caltech and UCLA – to help shape Los Angeles County’s readiness for the next major earthquake.

“Science is sending us a clear warning and we have a responsibility to listen,” Barger said. “No one can predict when the next major earthquake will occur, but we know with certainty that one will happen. Los Angeles County must engage the best scientific expertise available.”

According to a statement, the motion follows new scientific findings showing that tectonic strain along portions of the San Andreas and San Jacinto fault systems near the Cajon Pass has reached its highest level in at least 1,000 years. While researchers stress these findings do not mean a major earthquake is imminent, they reinforce that

accumulated seismic energy is released only through large earthquakes—which makes preparedness essential.

Los Angeles County has not experienced a large-scale, damaging earthquake since the 1994 Northridge earthquake, which claimed approximately 60 lives, injured more than 9,000 people, displaced 20,000 residents, and caused tens of billions of dollars in damage and economic losses.

Under Supervisor Barger’s motion, the County’s Office of Emergency Management will return to the Board of Supervisors on September 29 with a comprehensive assessment of Los Angeles County’s earthquake preparedness. The presentation will evaluate the readiness of County facilities, emergency personnel, continuity of government operations, and critical infrastructure, while also identifying any gaps that must be addressed before a catastrophic seismic event occurs.

The Office of Emergency Management will work with Dr. Jones and representatives from Caltech and UCLA to ensure

the County’s planning reflects the latest seismic research and emergency preparedness best practices.

The motion also directs the development of a countywide earthquake preparedness initiative that includes an online “Know Your Risk” portal, a multilingual public education campaign leading up to The Great ShakeOut on October 15.

Caltech Talk Search for Life Beyond Earth

Caltech is set to hold a free public online event “JPL and the Search for Life Beyond Earth” on Tuesday, August 25 from noon to 1 p.m.

In September 2025, a sample named Sapphire Canyon made headlines around the world. Drilled by the Perseverance rover from an ancient riverbed in Mars’s Jezero Crater, the sample carries the strongest potential sign of ancient life yet found on another planet. Whether its “leopard spot” mineral patterns were made by microbes or by ordinary chemistry is a question only a returned sample can settle. But the search has never been closer to an answer.

That search runs through JPL. And Jonathan Lunine (MS ‘83, PhD ‘85) has dedicated his career to it.

Lunine earned both of his graduate degrees at Caltech before helping shape mission after mission across the solar system: Cassini at Saturn, Juno at Jupiter, and Europa Clipper, where he is a co-investigator on the spacecraft now flying toward one of the most promising places to look for life beyond Earth. In 2024 he returned to Caltech as professor of planetary science and became chief scientist at JPL.

Join Lunine for a fireside chat with Sarah Al-Ahmed, host of The Planetary Society’s Planetary Radio, broadcast live from Caltech. Over 75 minutes, the two will walk through the missions defining the hunt for habitable worlds: Perseverance and the Sapphire Canyon sample, Curiosity’s organic molecules in Gale Crater, and Europa Clipper’s voyage to Jupiter’s ocean moon. Lunine will share mission imagery and video throughout, and the conversation closes with live questions from the audience.

For more information or to register visit: events.caltech.edu.

PWP Winners of Art Contest and Academic Scholarships



Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) announced Taste the winners of the 2026 “Being Water Wise Is...” Art Contest. Held every year in partnership with Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the “Being Water Wise Is...” Art Contest is open to Pasadena students in grades K-12. Student artists submitted creative artwork with messaging that encourages the community to conserve and use water more wisely.

Isabella B., 5th Grade, is the first-place winner for her artwork, “Water is a Necessity,” and Jonpatrick (Jordan) S., 3rd Grade, is the second-place winner for his piece, “Water is Part of Nature.” Both students attend Pasadena Unified School District’s Daniel Webster Elementary School.

PWP is also proud to announce the winners of the 2026 scholarship contest. These scholarships reflect PWP’s ongoing commitment to supporting local students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). As part of this year’s application process,

students submitted a video responding to a prompt about how their passion for a STEM-related field contributes to the utility industry, public service, or sustainability initiatives, and how the scholarship will support their future career goals.

Adrianna Bäumle of Blair High School is the 2026 first-place winner. Her submission highlighted her enthusiasm for pursuing mechanical engineering and her intention to apply her problem-solving skills to address climate change. Mildred Gonzalez of John Muir High School Early College Magnet is the second-place winner. She plans to study Business Economics and Finance and is passionate about integrating environmental sustainability and ethics into STEM-focused business leadership.

PWP also offers scholarships for Pasadena students who plan to attend a vocational or technical school or community college with a focus on skilled utility trades for the 2026–2027 academic year. The deadline for the utility trades scholarship is Thursday, December 31.

Talk on Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing

Join Pasadena Heritage Tuesday August 11 at the Blinn House for a conversation, “Where Home Meets History” on the relationship between historic preservation and affordable housing. The event run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Speakers include:

- Dr. Bridget Lawlor – Executive Director, Pasadena Heritage
- Charles Loveman – Executive Director, Heritage Housing Partners
- Shawn Morrissey – Vice President of Advocacy and Community Engagement, Union Station Homeless Services

There’s a common misconception that historic preservationists work to freeze historic sites in time, creating static, museum-like spaces that critics blame for rising property costs and stalled development.

At the same time, affordable housing has become a prominent point of regional discussion, facing public dissatisfaction with current housing efforts in Los Angeles County. While the two fields are met with discontent, a new practice has begun to bridge the gap between preservation and housing. Adaptive reuse, the concept of repurposing buildings to create new, functional spaces outside its original purpose, has been adopted by preservation groups as a way to responsibly honor history.

This discussion explores a future where preservation meets housing solutions to offer innovative alternatives to affordable housing.

The Blinn House is located at 160 N Oakland Ave, Pasadena. For more information visit: pasadenaheritage.org.

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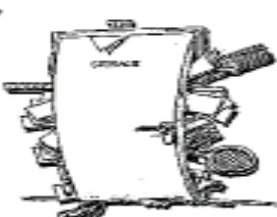
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CHRISTOPHER NYERGES

[Nyerges is the author of "Urban Survival Guide," "Extreme Simplicity," and other books. Information about his books and classes is available at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com]

TOLTECAYOTL CEREMONY IN PASADENA A Dancing



The beat of 6 powerful drums mightily resounded as up to 200 Aztec dancers in full regalia performed the Toltecayotl ceremony at Pasadena's Villa Parke on Saturday afternoon, July 25.

Toltecayotl, is a Nahuatl word, which is synonymous with the Toltec Tribe and symbolizes the sum total of the wisdom of their elders, in the areas of the arts, spirituality, and philosophy. The ceremony is designed to bring together families, children, elders and the dance groups in a spirit of dignity, respect, and cultural pride.

The dancing began in the gymnasium when it was nearly 100 degrees f. outside, with fully-feathered dancers spinning and turning with the beat of the drums in the middle. "At powwows, it is common for the dancers to follow the drummers, but at this event, the dancers are actually leading the drummers," says Courage Escamilla, one of the helpers-servers of the event.



As the dancers continued non-stop for hours, Courage would artfully walk through the dynamically-moving crowd and offer water, watermelon and melon pieces to keep everyone hydrated.

This was the annual Toltecayotl ceremony conducted by the dance group Yankuititl (meaning "new fire"), who have been working together for 36 years. The annual public event is intended to honor the land, to honor those who have come before, and to honor those who are in attendance. "The Toltecayotl is an ancestral memory that lives through our dance tradition" says Maggie Calderon, the capitana of Yankuititl, who practices Aztec traditions. "Plus, keep in mind that these dances are a form of prayer, and are dedicated to our community," says Caldero.

Courage pointed out that the term "Aztec dancer" has become a catch-all word for the many dance groups that have originated in Mexico. "In fact," he stated, "the dancers come from many different backgrounds, such as Nahua, Maya, Zapotec,

Mixtec, Otomi, Totonac, Tzotzil, Mazahua, Mazatec, Purepecha, Chol, Huastec, Raramuri-Tarahumara, Chontal, Huichol, Yaqui, and more." (Courage is Raramuri-Tarahumara).

"It's a misnomer to think that the most popular tradition in Mexico was the Aztecs," added Courage. "Historically, there



were 68 distinct indigenous languages in Mexico, with more native speakers in Mexico today than there are in the U.S."

The dancers eventually moved outside around 6:30 p.m., and danced on the north lawn until about 8 p.m.

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SMMS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



The Cross Country team finished their extended season this past weekend by competing in the Pasadena Triathlon and 5k. They added to their record-breaking season with a few more trophies:

Yan Fu was 2nd overall in the 5k; Jeremy Wierman won his age group in the triathlon; and the relay of Hannah Lundgren, Marie McFarlane, and Arya Kiang was the 3rd overall female relay! Over the year, 121 runners participated in cross country this year, setting multiple new school records and placing higher than ever before at invitationals and 5ks!

Some highlights from the year:
Jude Wedel set a new men's SMMS school record for the mile with a time of 5:48. He also owns the SMMS 5k school record of 21:03!

Sarah Bates set a new women's SMMS school record for the mile with a time of 6:14. She also became the first SMMS runner to ever medal at Mt Sac!

Emma Tan set a new 6th-grade women's SMMS school record for the two-mile, finishing just out of the medals on a hard Mt Sac course!

Jeremy Wierman set a new 6th grade men's SMMS school record for the mile with at time of 5:52 and won his age group in 5 different 5ks throughout the season!

Congrats to all our runners for an amazing season!

LATEST BOND REFINANCING GENERATES OVER \$10 MILLION IN TAXPAYER SAVINGS THROUGH PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

PASADENA, CA – The Pasadena Unified School District has successfully refinanced a portion of its outstanding general obligation bonds, saving local taxpayers over \$10 million by reducing its long-term borrowing costs.

"This refinancing reflects our commitment to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars," said Dr. Elizabeth Blanco, PUSD Superintendent.

The District issued General Obligation Refunding Bonds to refinance \$133.4 million of outstanding voter-approved Measure TT general obligation bonds. Net of all transaction costs, the refinancing will save taxpayers \$10.4 million in total debt service, a net present value savings of \$8.8 million, or 6.6% of the refinanced principal. The savings will be realized proportionally over the remaining ten-year repayment period, with the final maturity occurring in 2036.

The refinancing does not extend the repayment term of the bonds. Instead, it takes advantage of favorable market conditions to reduce the District's borrowing costs—similar to how a homeowner refinances a mortgage to secure a lower interest rate.

The 2026 refinancing continues Pasadena Unified's disciplined approach to debt management. The District has previously completed successful bond refinancings in 2014, 2016, and 2019, consistently taking advantage of favorable market conditions to reduce financing costs. Including this transaction, the District has reduced total debt service on its voter-approved bonds by more than \$68 million through carefully timed bond refinancings since 2014.

"Good financial management doesn't end once bonds are issued," said Arik Avanesyans, Chief Business Officer. "Whenever market conditions provide an opportunity to lower the cost of voter-approved bonds, it is our responsibility to pursue those savings on behalf of our Community."

General obligation bonds are approved by local voters and may only be used to construct, repair, modernize, or improve school facilities. Bond proceeds cannot be used for teacher salaries or day-to-day operating expenses. The District's bond program remains subject to independent citizens' oversight, annual financial audits, and public reporting to ensure accountability and transparency.

The refinancing was completed with the assistance of municipal advisor Dale Scott & Co., which has advised California school districts on municipal financings for more than three **DECADES**.

About the Pasadena Unified School District

The Pasadena Unified School District serves more than 13,000 students across schools in Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and Altadena. The District is committed to providing safe, modern learning environments that support student achievement while maintaining transparency and responsible stewardship of public funds.

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E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org

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

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy
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(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School
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626-793-2089
https://school.abvmpasadena.org/

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Head of School: Tonya Beilstein
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School
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Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527
Preschool-TK-8th Grade
Principal: Jonathan Hawes
website: www.bcsllions.org

Clairbourn School
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Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172
FAX: 626-286-1528
Marianne Ryan
administration@clairbourn.org
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy
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Principal: Nancy Lopez
www.foothilloaksacademy.org
office@foothilloaksacademy.org

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Email: jenny@frostig.org

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website: www.goodenschool.org

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holyangelsarcadia.net

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Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org

La Salle College Preparatory
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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://pchs.pusd.us

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School
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(626) 355-1428
Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso
E-mail address: marchesso.jodi@pusd.us

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(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
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By Peter Dills

A GREAT STEAKHOUSE LASTS FOREVER

There's an old saying in the supermarket business: when one grocery store opens, another one closes. I've actually seen it happen here in Pasadena. Whether that same theory applies to steakhouses, I'm not so sure, but it did get me thinking.

As new restaurant concepts arrive, some old favorites disappear. Pacific Dining Car is gone. Other longtime restaurants have shortened their hours. That's a story for another day, but it raises an interesting question:

What makes a great steakhouse?

I recently met friends for a late lunch at Taylor's Steak House in La Cañada, one of Southern California's true dining institutions.

Before my friends arrived, I settled in at the bar with a perfectly chilled martini and had a chance to look around. One thing immediately caught my attention: the restaurant was spotless. The dark walnut wood gleamed as though it had just been polished. The booths weren't ripped or worn out. There wasn't a crumb on the floor. Those little details may go unnoticed by many diners, but they tell you everything about the pride a restaurant takes in itself.

Manager Elva greeted guests with a warm smile and quiet confidence. She's part of the reason Taylor's continues to feel like home to so many loyal customers. Great restaurants are built on great people, and you sense that from the moment you walk through the front door.

Soon my friends arrived, and the steakhouse experience officially began.

The shrimp cocktail was impressive—large enough for four of us to share. That's the kind of generous portion you expect from a classic steakhouse. Next came the cheese bread, and I have to admit it rivals the famous cheese bread at Clearman's Galley, better known to many of us as "The Boat." Those are strong words, but Taylor's deserves to be mentioned in the same conversation.

For my entrée, I chose the bone-in ribeye. It was everything a steak should be: perfectly cooked, well-seasoned, and served without unnecessary fanfare. Sometimes restaurants try too hard to impress you. Taylor's simply lets the quality of the food speak for itself.

Our server, Mario, has been with Taylor's for 22 years, and it showed. He knew the menu inside and out, never rushed us, and made the entire lunch feel relaxed and enjoyable. In today's restaurant world, finding someone who has dedicated more than two decades to one dining room is becoming increasingly rare. That's another reason places like Taylor's continue to stand apart.

Before leaving, I spent a few minutes with owner Bruce Taylor. Over the years, I've heard him say something that perfectly captures his philosophy.

"Are we the best steak in town? That's for you to decide," Bruce told me. "What I can tell you is we serve a good steak at a fair price."

I like that answer because it isn't about bragging. It's about confidence. People often ask me where they can find a great steak. The truth is, a good steak can be found in a lot of places. I can even grill a pretty good one in my own backyard. But a great steakhouse? That's something entirely different.

A great steakhouse isn't built overnight. It's built over decades—one perfectly cooked steak, one cold martini, one birthday celebration, one business lunch, and one loyal customer at a time.

Taylor's has adapted over the years. The hours aren't what they once were, but thankfully the experience remains intact. In a world where so many restaurants come and go, that's something worth celebrating. The steak lasts an hour.

A great steakhouse lasts forever.

Taylor's Steak House two locations, Foothill Blvd. La Canada- 8th Street Korea Town
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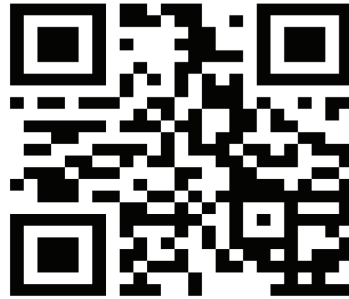
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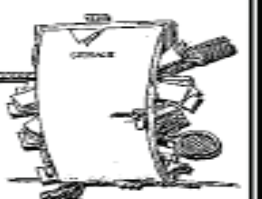
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OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

MAYBE I SHOULD ROB A BANK

Throughout my life, money has been quite a challenge. I was a pastor for almost 50 years, and as a pastor I did not get much of a salary, barely enough to get by on. But I didn't become a pastor for the money, or I would've become a televangelist. I didn't say that, did I?

Both The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I worked to be as frugal as possible with our budget. We tried our best not to spend our money on things we didn't really need. Then when the children came along, that certainly changed our budget.

As a young kid, I was frugal with my money. I didn't make very much money, but I made sure most of it went into my little piggy bank. Every week I would look at my piggy bank and count the money several times. I knew how much I had, but I enjoyed counting it and looking at it.

Now that I'm older, but not that much wiser, I check out my savings account every week. At least once a week, sometimes several times during the week, OK, every day. I enjoy looking at that money in my savings account. What I enjoy the most is seeing the interest I'm earning in my savings account. Like my father used to say, "A penny earned is a penny saved." I want all my pennies in my savings account to earn interest.

That money was for emergencies, and boy, when I had to take money out of my savings account, it was the hardest thing that I ever had to do. It was easy putting it in, but it was very difficult for me to pull it out. I know the savings account was for emergencies, but I had a hard time defining "emergencies." Sometimes The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage steps in and helps with that definition.

Every time something happened unexpectedly in the financial area of life, I really wrestled with drawing the money from the savings account. I know it had to be done, but I kicked it down the road as far as I could.

Just the other week, there was a mechanical problem with the Sissy Van. It was a problem that needed to be fixed, and it was around \$1000. I never kept that much in my checking account because I preferred most of my money to be in my savings account.

When I got the bill, I was very sad. I looked at my savings account and then looked at the bill for the Sissy Van, and I was not too happy about it. It was almost as much as my Social Security checks each month.

As I was looking at my savings account online, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came in and

asked about getting her mechanic bill paid. We needed to go pick it up, and when we did, we needed to pay for the mechanical services.

"You do have enough money to pay for that, don't you?" The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said.

I looked at her with very sad eyes and said, "Well, the money for the mechanical bill is in my savings account. I hate to transfer it to my checking account."

"You do have it in the savings account for emergencies, right?"

I looked at her, then looked back at my account on the computer, sighed very deeply, and said, "I'm going to have to move money over to my checking account, and you know how much I hate doing that."

With a very serious look on her face The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Instead of taking it out of your savings account, why don't you just go and rob a bank this afternoon. Then you might have more money to put back into your savings account after you pay the mechanic bill."

I looked at her, chuckled, and said, "Did you say to go and rob a bank?"

I'm not sure what planet she was on at the time, but robbing a bank never came to mind as I was thinking of my money. Of course, it would make sense if I could rob a bank and get away with it.

"What if I get caught?" I asked her very seriously.

"Then," she said with a smile on her face, "you'll have free room and three meals a day and you won't have to pay for any of that. You do like free don't you?"

I just stared at her for a few moments and watched her smile back at me. It never occurred to me to rob a bank, but as I looked at my savings account, it didn't seem like a bad idea at the time.

I finally had to move the money from my savings account to my checking account. That is the hardest thing I ever did in life. I sighed very deeply and closed the computer, then I picked up my checkbook and said to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "Let's go and get your Sissy Van."

Later that day I read Ecclesiastes 5:10, "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity."

As much money as I have in my savings account, there will always be some emergency that needs me to withdraw it.

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PROTECTING SENIORS FROM EMAIL AND PHONE SCAMS

Technology has made it easier than ever to stay connected with family and friends—but unfortunately, it has also made it easier for scammers to target older adults. Fraud by email, text message, and telephone continues to rise, and seniors are often targeted because criminals believe they are more trusting or may have retirement savings.

One of the most common scams begins with an unexpected phone call. A caller may pretend to be from Medicare, Social Security, your bank, or even a grandchild in trouble. They may create a sense of urgency by saying your account has been compromised or that a loved one needs immediate financial help. Remember, legitimate organizations will not pressure you to provide personal information or demand immediate payment over the phone.

Email scams have become increasingly sophisticated. Fraudulent emails can look identical to messages from well-known companies and may ask you to click on a link, verify your password, or make a payment. Before clicking anything, take a moment to examine the sender's email address carefully. If something feels unusual, it probably is.

- A few simple habits can provide powerful protection:
- Never give out your Social Security number, banking information, or passwords over the phone.
 - Don't click links or open attachments from unknown emails or text messages.
 - Hang up and call the company directly using a trusted phone number if you're unsure.
 - Discuss suspicious calls or emails with a trusted family member or friend.
 - Trust your instincts—if someone pressures you to act immediately, slow down and ask questions.

Scammers succeed when they create fear and urgency. Your best defense is taking your time. It's perfectly acceptable to hang up the phone or delete an email without responding. Staying informed isn't about being suspicious of everyone—it's about protecting yourself and preserving your peace of mind. When it comes to fraud, a healthy dose of caution can go a long way.

HOW FAMILIES CAN FIND LOST MONEY AFTER A LOVED ONE DIES



Billions of dollars in unclaimed assets are waiting to be claimed. Learn where to look for forgotten accounts, insurance policies and other lost money after a loved one dies.

Dear Savvy Senior,
After my mom passed away, we discovered a few small accounts and an old insurance policy we didn't know she still had. It made me wonder how often families uncover forgotten or unclaimed money like this after a parent dies. Is it common, and where should I start looking?
—Searching Sarah

Dear Sarah,
It's actually quite common. After a parent or spouse dies, families often come across small, forgotten accounts, uncashed checks, or old insurance policies that slipped through the cracks over the years. In many cases, paperwork was misplaced, accounts were opened decades ago, or loved ones simply weren't aware the assets existed.

According to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, billions of dollars in unclaimed assets are currently being held by state governments and federal agencies, waiting to be claimed by rightful owners or heirs.

Unclaimed property usually comes from financial accounts or benefits that became inactive because the owner moved, changed names or died. In many cases, heirs were never aware the money existed or did not know where to look. These assets can include savings or checking accounts, uncashed dividend checks, utility security deposits, life insurance proceeds, pension benefits, tax refunds, matured savings bonds and unpaid wages.

By law, banks, employers, insurance companies and other institutions must turn these assets over to the state if they cannot locate the owner or next of kin after a set period, usually two to five years. Once turned over, the money is held indefinitely, so there is no deadline for families to file a claim.

Where to start
A good place to begin is MissingMoney.com, a free site endorsed by the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators and the National Association of State Treasurers. It allows users to search for unclaimed property in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico at once. Hawaii is not included but can be searched through a link on the site.

When searching, check every state where your mother lived, worked or did business. Be sure to search under maiden names, married names and common misspellings. Using just a first initial and last name can also uncover accounts that do not appear under a full name search. Each state's site will indicate whether property is listed and explain how to file a claim.

Other places to check
State treasuries are only part of the picture. Families should also check several other common sources of forgotten money.

Pensions and 401(k)s: To search for lost or forgotten retirement benefits your mom may have left behind with an old employer, use the U.S. Department of Labor's Retirement Savings Lost & Found Database and the National Registry of Unclaimed Retirement Benefits. Or to search for unclaimed retirement benefits from private-sector plans that have closed down, use the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation search tool.

Savings bonds: It's very common for people to lose track of U.S. Saving Bonds because they are often given to children as gifts, then forgotten before the bonds reach maturity. To find out if your mom had a Savings Bond or other Treasury security visit your state's unclaimed property office using unclaimed.org. Search the state of residence at the time of the securities purchase or last known address.

Lost life insurance: To track down a lost or forgotten life insurance policy, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, an insurance regulatory support organization, offers a free policy locator service at eapps.naic.org/life-policy-locator.

Other refunds: To search for money left at an FDIC insured bank or credit union that has gone out of business, visit closedbanks.fdic.gov/funds. Federal tax refunds can be checked at irs.gov/refunds or by calling 800-829-1954. FHA mortgage refunds can be checked at entp.hud.gov/dsrs/refunds. And unpaid wages are listed at dol.gov/agencies/whd/wow.

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PROBLEMS WITH PRODUCE?

A San Diego infectious disease doctor recently made headlines when he said it might be best to stay away from fresh produce for a week or so because of a parasite called “Cyclospora”. He explained that even washing fruits and vegetables may not completely remove the parasite.

With another produce-related outbreak making headlines, it's understandable that many people are wondering what's safe to eat.

Over the past few years, we've heard about recalls involving lettuce, spinach, onions, cucumbers, berries, eggs, peanut butter, and even ice cream. It seems like every time we turn on the news, another food has been pulled from store shelves because it might make people sick. It's enough to make anyone nervous.

But before you stop eating fruits and vegetables, let's put things into perspective. Fresh produce is still one of the healthiest foods you can eat. It provides vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants that help lower your risk of heart disease, diabetes, some cancers, and many other health problems. Giving up these foods because of one outbreak could do more harm than good.

The real lesson isn't to stop eating produce. It's to become a smarter shopper and a safer food handler.

Cyclospora is a tiny parasite that can contaminate fresh produce. People who become infected often experience severe diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, loss of appetite, and extreme tiredness. The illness can last for days or even weeks if it isn't treated. Older adults, young children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems have a greater chance of becoming seriously ill.

One reason these outbreaks seem to be happening more often is because scientists can now detect contamination much faster than they could years ago. Food is also shipped all over the country, so if one farm has a problem, stores in many states may receive the same product. The good news is that health officials are finding these problems sooner and warning the public more quickly.

So what can you do to protect yourself? Start by paying attention to food recalls. If health officials announce that a certain product has been recalled, don't assume it won't affect you. Take a few minutes to see if you have that product at home. If you do, throw it away or return it to the store. It isn't worth taking the chance.

Next, buy produce that looks fresh and has not been damaged. Avoid packages that are leaking, torn, or have signs of spoilage. If you buy bagged salads or pre-cut fruit, keep them refrigerated and use them before the expiration date.

Before eating fresh fruits and vegetables, wash your hands with soap and water. Then rinse produce under cool running water. You don't need soap, bleach, or special produce washes. Plain running water works well for most fruits and vegetables.

If you're washing firm produce like apples, cucumbers, potatoes, or melons, gently scrub the surface with a clean vegetable brush. Even if you don't eat the peel, washing the outside first helps keep bacteria from getting onto the inside when you cut it. Refrigeration is also important. Don't leave cut fruits or vegetables sitting on the counter for hours. Refrigerate them as soon as possible, especially during the hot summer months. Heat allows bacteria to multiply much faster.

If you are especially concerned during an active outbreak, you may choose cooked vegetables instead of raw salads for a short time. Cooking destroys many harmful germs that can make people sick. You can also choose fruits that can be peeled, such as bananas, oranges, or avocados. These simple changes can lower your risk while still allowing you to enjoy a healthy diet.

Just don't let fear make your food choices for you. News stories are designed to get our attention. A food recall is important, but it doesn't mean our entire food supply is unsafe. In fact, recalls are often a sign that our food safety system is working. Problems are being found and the public is being warned before even more people become sick.

Good health is never about one single food. It's about the choices we make day after day. Continue filling your plate with colorful fruits and vegetables. Eat a variety of foods. Stay informed about recalls. Practice good food safety at home. Most importantly, remember that healthy eating is one of the best investments you can make in your future.

The next time you hear about a food recall, don't panic. Learn the facts, follow the recommendations from health officials, and make smart choices. A little extra caution makes sense. Giving up fresh produce altogether does not.

Michele Silence, M.A. is a certified fitness professional who offers semi-private/virtual fitness classes. Contact Michele at michele@kid-fit.com. Visit her Facebook page at: michelesfitness



POOPSY-DOO

- Born 9/14/2025
- Great with people
- Great with cats
- Happy, fun girl



Poopsy-Doo is an energetic, eternally happy, constantly curious, super snuggly 11-month-old female grey tabby. She and her siblings were born in a backyard and abandoned by their mom. She was bottle-fed and raised by her foster family since 3 days old.

She is used to being around other foster cats but hasn't had a playmate her age since her siblings were adopted. She is great at keeping herself busy, constantly playing with her spiral toys. She would do well in a house with lots going on as she loves to

get involved in everything!

Poopsy-Doo is spayed, vaccinated, and ready for her new family. She is a delight in the house, with a smile constantly on her face! Apply to meet her at <https://www.lifelineforpets.org/poopsy-doo.html> or use the qr code.

Pet of the Week

Mason is the kind of dog who makes every outing more fun. This handsome 6-year-old Siberian Husky at Pasadena Humane loves exploring new places, sniffing every trail, splashing through sprinklers, and, of course, never says no to a pup cup. He's playful, confident, and full of goofy charm, but he's also happy to settle into a nice, relaxed walk once he's had a chance to get his excitement out.



Mason is also potty trained, knows several cues, takes treats gently, and after a day of adventures, his favorite place to be is curled up next to his favorite person for a long, cozy nap. And there's no better time to adopt — starting July 31 through August 9, adoption fees for dogs and cat 6 months and older, like Mason, are waived at Pasadena Humane as part of the Hot Dog & Cool Cat Summer adoption promotion.

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

Walk-in adoptions are available every day from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. View photos of adoptable pets at pasadenahumane.org.

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

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

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Tuesday - Saturday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM



SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS
THE HEART TELLS TALES



A Play By Omen Kaine

HEART TELLS TALES

Encore performance! After sold-out Los Angeles and New York runs, Omen Kaine's The Heart Tells Tales returns to Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Following sold-out runs in Los Angeles and New York, Omen Kaine's acclaimed psychological thriller The Heart Tells Tales returns for a special encore performance at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. Inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart, this haunting production blends gripping drama with an electrifying live score to explore guilt, trauma, and the fragile boundaries of the human mind. Audiences who missed the original sold-out engagement now have one more opportunity to experience the bold theatrical event that captivated theatergoers and established The Heart Tells Tales as one of 2025's most talked-about new plays.



Pets in need

Some pet parents cannot afford the cost of vet care right now. You can help those pets! Visit us:

www.FreeAnimalDoctor.org



Sierra Madre based non-profit



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

STUART TOLCHIN



PUT THE LIGHTS ON

DO WE CHOOSE OR ARE WE CHOSEN

My wife and I have been spending about six hours a day for the last couple of weeks in my son's hospital room. Something is wrong and we wonder if he will be okay. Inside we all are terrified. This article is an example of my attempt to avoid my fears and get from one day to the next. I think that to distract myself, I posed the following question to my wife and son. Does a belief in God affect your experience of reality?

Please understand that the three of us have very different life experiences. My wife is a Hispanic woman born in a house in Boyle Heights which was built by her grandfather. She attended a Catholic High School also attended by her mother and together attended with her cousins. She participated in Catholic choirs and attended church services. This is a very different experience from my own and I cannot speak of her present state of belief or disbelief other than saying it is probably very different from my own.

I was born in Chicago the son of a man who together with his mother and three siblings emigrated from the Ukraine fleeing a pogrom. My father had absolutely no religious training or education, but Yiddish was the language of his family, and he always identified as a Jewish man. Other than on the High Jewish Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur there was rarely any mention of ethnicity in our family. On the high Holidays my sister and I were forbidden to attend School. We never went to any religious services but my farther who was diabetic would nevertheless walk to shul and frequently pass out along the way or faint after he arrived at the synagogue. I remember this happening several times and it is part of my experience of being Jewish. I was very attached to my father who was my family's only source of livelihood. My father, because of his diabetes, began to lose sight and eventually lost his vision at about the time I graduated from High School. A great part of the activity of my father and I was hiding his ongoing visual loss from my mother. I recall going to the office of the DMV and memorizing the eye chart (almost seventy years later I still remember that eye chart) and going over it with my farther who could then pass the DMV eye test and continue to make a living.

Why this is important today and why it is a part of this article I am not sure. I am certain that a huge part of my existence is a devotion to family. That devotion is my religion. For reasons that are almost inexplicable I became the single parent raising my son and daughter. Today and for the past two weeks my wife, who is my children's stepmother and my daughter have all together spent many hours with my son in his hospital room. My son and my daughter were born two years apart, although they have the same birthday, they could not have more different lives.

My daughter is a very busy, successful immigration attorney involved in a loving relationship with her own seven-year-old child. Still, she manages to come to the hospital almost every day. My son, exactly two years older than my daughter, is a neurodivergent person who lives alone but receives assistance from the Regional Center, a non-profit agency that coordinates lifelong assessments and support for individuals with developmental disabilities.

My wife, the children's stepmother, is an extraordinarily supportive, caring person who has been my wife for over thirty years and is a great source of comfort to all of us.

So why am I reporting all of this to you. Frankly, I feel an almost religious obligation to continue writing my weekly articles as a way of keeping myself functional and of assistance to my family. I feel as if I have no choice in the matter and am grateful that my wife and I are retirees, both of whom are able to be present with my son. My wife and daughter are of great support and assistance to my son while I seem to just get in the way.

If there is any message to my readers contained in this article, it is that you are who you are. That I do not believe is a matter of choice. Do the very best you can within the parameters of your own existence and realize that is not just your choice but is your gift presented to you by all of the other influences and experiences of your life and heritage.

I hope to be around next week to tell you that all is well, and I hope that you are all well.

HOWARD Hays As I See It - Seeing It Clearer



"250 years ago we declared independence from a king who ran the colonies as a family business. In just 18 months, the Trumps have made King George look like an amateur." – Hunter Biden on X

Coming into August, here are some favorite posts from this past month: Jamie Boskiewicz asks: "Anyone else remember being taught that America was a melting pot and that it was something to celebrate?"

Dr. Maalouf posts a pic of 9/11 with: "How the hell does the city that faced the biggest Islamic terrorist attack in history vote for a Muslim mayor?" The response: "But if you blame all white people for slavery they get really mad?"

Olivia Julianna on the killing of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo by ICE: "I'm tired of people acting like somebody's life matters less because they weren't an American on paper. He spent 35 years here, raised three American children, and built his life in Houston. He was an American in every way that mattered."

In response to another killing: "It doesn't matter if the man killed by ICE in Maine was authorized to work in the United States or not. It doesn't matter if he had a social security or not. ICE should not be killing anyone. Period."

From Grace Hall: "An ICE officer is trained for 71 days. It takes 150 days to become a certified pet stylist at Petco. One grooms dogs . . . the other carries guns. This is what's wrong with our country?"

Leading Report posts: "(White House press secretary) Karoline Leavitt says Gen Z has been born with 'silver spoons in their mouths'. Political Punk responds: 'Karoline Leavitt went to an expensive private high school, then worked for the White House immediately out of college, then married a billionaire her daddy's age. What kind of spoon is that?'"

James Tate observes: "Republican Rep. (Tom) Kean (NJ) voted against 40 hours of paid medical leave for workers, then took 4 months paid leave himself."

Eric notes: "Canadians will wait in line for 12 hours at an ER, then look you straight in the face and say Canada is better than America". The response: "In America you wait for 12 hours and then owe \$35,000".

Muhee observes: "The wildest part about POVERTY is how much time it steals. Waiting for buses. Calling assistance offices. Comparing grocery prices. Fighting insurance. Sitting at laundromats. Being poor is a second job nobody pays you for?"

From House Republicans: "Every communist regime promised to abolish class. Instead, they ended up with two classes: the ones with power, and everyone else." The response: "Yes, thank goodness America doesn't have two classes, the ones with power and everyone else."

The White House posts: "The United States will NEVER be a communist country," nyara responds: "You freaks consider free healthcare, affordable housing and earning a livable wage 'communism'."

"Every time I pay \$400 for groceries, I just have to remind myself to be grateful for the new White House ballroom and the war in Iran."

President Trump states at the NATO summit, "We had 111 missiles shot by The Islamic Republic of Japan". Ron Filipkowski posts: "Biden is old but he never accused Japan of being an Islamic Republic shooting missiles at us." Mike Nellis adds: "Call me old-fashioned, but I think the President of the United States should be able to remember the name of a nation he's been bombing the (crap) out of for five months."

Trump asserted that "Most people don't know that Dumb has a B in it" Michael Freeman responds: "I'm going to venture that this is the first POTUS in our nation's history to marvel incessantly about learning how a four-letter word is spelled." The Lincoln Project adds: "Has the nuclear codes, by the way."

Vice President Vance is quoted: "We have got to have a governor who takes fraud as seriously as the president." Jamie Boskiewicz reminds: "Donald Trump has pardoned more than 70 people convicted of fraud."

As Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) posts, "Donald Trump is releasing unverified, meaningless documents to appease his own delusions about an election he lost resoundingly, all while continuing to withhold 3 million pages of the Epstein files", hasanabi wonders: "so elections were rigged under his watch but then Biden fixed the election rigging and that's how trump won?"

The White House posts about the "New Air Force One" being taken out of service to be "Maxed Out". The Lincoln Project responds: "American service members are dying in a war you still don't know the reason for, and he's posting about planemaxxing his jet from Qatar." Adds Brian R. Kline: "This is the most embarrassing White House ever."

Gunther Eagleman asks: "Why do Republicans never riot or try to burn (stuff) down? Why is it always the democrats?" Grace Hall responds: "January 6????"

And another from Hunter Biden: "I am officially nominating Donald J. Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. No President in History has ended the same war so many times. Our Dear Leader has ended the War with Iran at least 38 times by CNN's count. No President has ever done this before. And he is nowhere near finished ending it. It's a record worthy of the Nobel committee's recognition. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

RICH JOHNSON



SONGS SUNG BLEW

The title of this column is a takeoff of the classic Neil Diamond song, "Song Sung Blue". A confession by our "solitary man" that sadness is normal. Turning that pain into music is an antidote that can heal us and, hopefully, make us feel good again.

We all have songs that travel with us through life, bring us back to both ecstatic times of wonderful joy. And they attach to tragic moments of pain and suffering. It helps us feel and show joy, sadness and excitement. Music actually triggers good brain chemicals like dopamine. In fact, people who know these types of things know music activates many parts of the brain at the same time. (I'm still working on mine. I think the batteries are dead.)

Our little community gave us Van Halen AND Mercy and the Merkett's, and least I forget, JJ Jukebox, (playing this upcoming Saturday night, August 8th at Nano Café. 6:30-9.30pm)

Now, where was I? Song titles run the gamut, aka the entire range or scope of a particular subject. And it isn't strange that the original purpose of the song is confused. "Every Breath You Take" by the Police sounds romantic, but Sting told the BBC when he wrote it, he was dealing with jealousy and obsession over the collapse of his first marriage. "I'll be watching you" takes on a whole new meaning lol. (I wonder if Sting is watching me?) By the way, Sting is mostly over it. Maybe because he typically receives annual royalties for that one song totaling \$730,000.

"Smells Like Teen Spirit" was written for Nirvana by Kurt Cobain. The tune was written based on talking points for a deodorant commercial aimed at teenage girls.

"Respect" became a very important song for women and it was the first number 1 song for Aretha Franklin. The song was written by Otis Redding which is perfect because respect for each other is everybody's business. "Respect" is also ranked fifth in Rolling Stone's "500 Greatest Songs of All Time".

Interesting "quirk" about rock stars. Van Halen had a very special request when performing at various venues. He wanted there to always be a big bowl of M&M's in their dressing room waiting for them. But he said, there was to be NO brown M&Ms. Before you think he was a few M&Ms short, he had a purpose. He wanted to see if the organizers were reading the requests sent to them in advance of a concert.

Here's something you can mention at your next social gathering. DID YOU KNOW...that termites consume wood twice as fast if you play them heavy metal? Talk about important to know.

The National Symphony Orchestra of the Principality of Monaco has more members than their army. (Now that's a priority!)

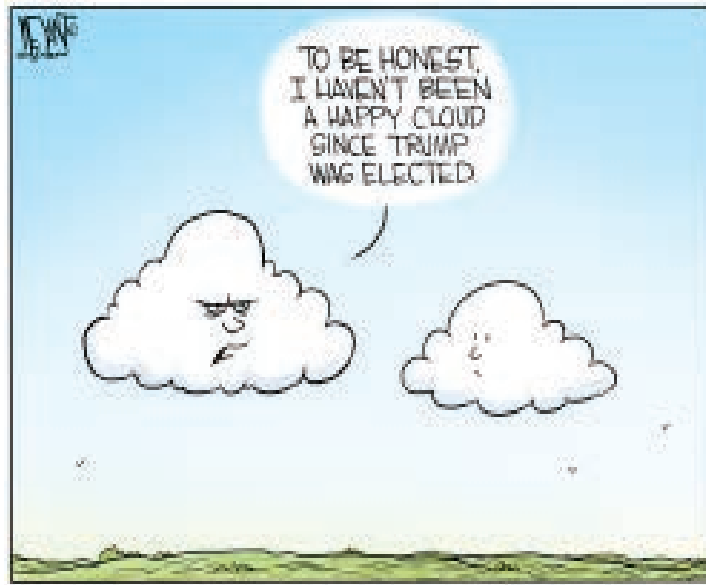
Bob Dylan's epic song "Like a Rolling Stone" lyrics were originally six pages long. (the FM version might be that long.)

Lynyrd Skynyrd's band is named after a high school gym teacher, Leonard Skinner coincidentally, who constantly suspended members of the band for having long hair.

Paul Hewson (AKA "Bono") got his famous band name from a hearing-aid, medical supply shop in Dublin named "Bono Vox" which means "good voice" in Latin. P.S. Bono: Have you found out what you are looking for? Someone wants to know.

Talk about being underpaid. Paul McCartney performed at the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics for a fee of one British pound (equivalent to US \$1.35)

Now wonder I didn't get the gig. Speaking of gigs, remember this Saturday night at Nano Café. Songs we do include "Born to Be Wild" or is that "mild", a variety of the Doobie Brother, Creedence, Moody Blues, Beatles and other better known groups lol.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026-119334
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CABRAL'S SERVICES, 14736 VALLEY BLVD, LA PUENTE, CA 91746. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JOSE DE JESUS CABRAL, 14736 VALLEY BLVD, LA PUENTE, CA 91746. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOSE DE JESUS CABRAL/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/01/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2001. 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)
Published: Mountain Views News/JDC
Dates Pub: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026-127919
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: COSMODENT, 7821 GILLILAND AVE 7821, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MELVIN JOSUE ALVARADO, 7821 GILLILAND AVE 7821, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MELVIN JOSUE ALVARADO/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/10/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2026. 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)
Published: Mountain Views News/JDC
Dates Pub: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026-121462
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DON DULCES DE DENA, 2493 E. COLORADO BLVD, PASADENA, CA 91107. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) AZUCENA CORTES PLIEGO, 2493 E. COLORADO BLVD, PASADENA, CA 91107. This Business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: AZUCENA CORTES PLIEGO/GENERAL PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/03/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2026. 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)
Published: Mountain Views News/JDC
Dates Pub: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026-121445
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: EL JAOCHO TACO STAND, 2493 E. COLORADO BLVD, PASADENA, CA 91107. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MIGUEL AGUILAR-CRUZ, 2493 E. COLORADO BLVD PASADENA, CA 91107. This Business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE. Signed: MIGUEL AGUILAR-CRUZ/HUSBAND. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/03/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/2018. 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)
Published: Mountain Views News/JDC
Dates Pub: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026-121855
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GASTELLUM TREE SERVICE, 2732 LEAFDALE AVE, EL MONTE, CA 91732. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) PEDRO PABLO GASTELUM TORREZ, 2732 LEAFDALE AVE, EL MONTE, CA 91732. This Business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE. Signed: PEDRO PABLO GASTELUM TORREZ/HUSBAND. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/03/2026. 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)
Published: Mountain Views News/JDC
Dates Pub: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026-128677
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GRAIL ROOM LLC, 1229 W 141ST ST, GARDENA, CA 90247. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) GRAIL ROOM LLC, 1229 W 141ST ST, GARDENA, CA 90247. This Business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Signed: LILIA YOLANDA ALCOVER TUADLES/MANAGING MEMBER. ARTICLE # B20260262544 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/11/2026. 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)
Published: Mountain Views News/JDC
Dates Pub: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026-121705
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LA MARIPOSA FUNNEL CAKES AND SWEETS, 152 SOUTH AVE 58 APT 8, LOS ANGELES, CA 90042. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ANABEL MIXCOATL-ZEMPOALTECA, 152 SOUTH AVE 58 APT 8, LOS ANGELES, CA 90042. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ANABEL MIXCOATL-ZEMPOALTECA/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/03/2026. 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)
Published: Mountain Views News/JDC
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Shop Reopens 10 am Thursday, 9/3/26

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July Events Around Town!

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Independence Day Events

July 3, 4
Sierra Madre Fourth of July Events
July 3 - Enjoy a community picnic, beer garden, live music, bubble wrap fireworks and more. 5pm - 10:30pm
July 4 - 7:30 am - Family Fun Run. 8 am - Women's Club breakfast with live music. Sierra Madre community parade begins at 10am Family swim at Sierra Vista Park 12pm - 2pm

July 3 - 5
Foodieland Food Festival at Rose Bowl Stadium
Enjoy a wide variety of cuisine as well as shopping, live entertainment and more. On July 4 the festival will showcase the Rose Bowl's Second Annual Drone Show. 3pm - 10pm

July 4
Alhambra's Fourth of July Celebration
Head to Alhambra Park for an evening of food, games, live entertainment and a fireworks show. 4pm - 9pm

July 4
Arcadia Celebrates America's 250th
Enjoy live music, food, games, contests, and a 9pm pyrotechnic drone show at Santa Anita Park. Gates open at 6pm

July 4
Monrovia's Concert and Fireworks Show
This celebration features music by OC Groove at Library Park, followed by fireworks. 7pm - 9:30pm

July 4
San Marino July Fourth Celebration
Lacy Park opens at 7am for patriotic activities, live entertainment, and a fun zone. A parade steps off at 4:45pm at the corner of Wemby Road and Monterey Road, and ends at Lacy Park. The fireworks show begins at 9pm

One Time Events

July 5
Sunday Afternoon Concerts in the Dome at Mt. Wilson
A brass quintet will perform at 3pm and 5pm Reception at 4pm

July 9
Descanso Gardens Summer Music and Dance
Celebrate music and dance with Las Colibri Mariachi in the Amphitheater, and The Wimberly Blue Grass Band in Rose Pavilion. 4:45pm - 6:45pm

July 11
LA Astronomical Star Party
Lovely evening under the stars looking through telescopes. Sunset - 1am

July 11
Route 66 and Car Culture in Playhouse Village
Pasadena Museum of History walking tour featuring the Playhouse Village in the 1920's when auto ownership was rising. 10am - 12pm

July 18
Wizarding World Night Hikes at The Arboretum
Explore the wizardry, legends, and folklore of plants on this fun adventure. Kids and family - 5:30 - 7pm Adults 7 - 9pm

July 26
Summer Camp for Adults at the Arboretum - "Christmas in July"
Midsummer celebration packed with camp fun and holiday cheer. 5 - 8pm

July 31
Golden Hour: Music in the Garden at the Norton Simon Museum
Enjoy a casual and creative afternoon of music, drawing, light bites and drinks in the museum's newly renovated garden. 4:30 - 6:30pm

July 31
Arboretum Summer Nights
Enjoy live music by local artists, food trucks, crafts, lawn games, and cocktails at The Peacock Café. 6 - 8pm

Ongoing Events

Every Wednesday
Healing Drum Circle at Kersting Court in Sierra Madre
Bang them sticks and beat that drum at this fun community event for all ages. Bring a drum if you have one or use one provided. 7 - 8pm

July 2, 9, 16, 23
Arcadia's Concerts and Movies in the Park
Bring a picnic and enjoy live music and a movie in Arcadia's City Hall Park. Concerts begin at 6:30pm and movies begin at dusk.
July 2 - Cobra Cowboy, and Miracle
July 9 - New Romantics, and The Lorax
July 16 - Black Crystal Wolf Kids, and Shrek
July 23 - Groovie Maximus, and Lilo & Stitch
July 30 - Random 1s, and Cars

July 5, 12, 26
Twilight Garden Strolls at The Huntington.
Relax and explore the gardens after hours. 4:30pm - 8:30pm

July 5, 12, 19, 26
Jazz in the Park, Concerts at Playhouse Village Park
Bring a blanket and enjoy a picnic and a variety of jazz music. 6 - 8pm

July 8, 15, 22
Summer Concerts in Temple City Park
Bring a picnic and enjoy an evening of music. 7pm - 9pm
July 8 - Past Action Heroes
July 15 - The Mirage
July 22 - Funk Station

July 10, 24
Live Music and Libations at One Colorado
Enjoy live music, a sunset ambiance, and libations. 7:30pm

July 10, 24
Friday Nights at the Gamble House
Picnic on the lawn and enjoy live music and wine tasting. Explore the first floor of the historic Gamble House. 5:30pm - 7:30pm

July 10, 24, August 7, 21
Sunset Music Series at Kidspace Museum
Live music, dance, & crafts. 5:30pm - 7pm

July 11, 18, 25
Altadena Rotary's Summer Concert Series
Concerts take place at Lower Loma Alta Park at 7pm
July 18 - Past Action Heroes
July 25 - Las Chikas

July 11, 25
Pasadena Pops Concerts at the Arboretum
Enjoy music under the stars! Gates open at 5:30 pm for picnicking. Concerts begin at 7:30pm
July 11 - Dancing in The Street: Music of Motown
July 25 - A Toast To The Rat Pack

July 12, 19, 26
Sierra Madre Concerts in Memorial Park
Enjoy a variety of live musical concerts. 6pm - 8pm
July 12 - The New Romantics
July 19 - Smokin' 60's
July 26 - Elvis



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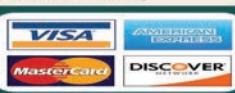
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