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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

GOVERNOR NEWSOM SIGNS ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN HARABEDIAN'S WILDFIRE RECOVERY BILLS

Last week, Governor Gavin Newsom on September 15 signed wildfire recovery bills AB 1642 and AB 1842, establishing the nation's first scientific testing standards for lead and asbestos in fire-impacted homes and providing mortgage relief for survivors, with AB 1642 requiring public health science rather than insurance estimates to determine post-fire safety into law.

The Recovery Act legislation was prompted by the fire which occurred above Eaton Canyon Wash last year, burned 14,021 acres over 24 days, destroyed 9,418 structures and caused 19 deaths across our foothill communities.

In September 2025, the United States Department of Justice sued Southern California Edison for costs of containment and land restoration, attributing the fire to Southern California Edison power line failures.

Assemblyman Harabedian, a Sierra Madre native, led the effort to raise the full restoration costs of \$48 million - a figure put forth by the County of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County Parks Foundation plans to raise the remaining funds through philanthropic and business-sector support, with the county working alongside the foundation on that push, the report states.

According to LA County, the 'wildfire-resilient' design for the new Eaton Canyon Nature Center, is a horseshoe-shaped building with curved walls meant to divert windblown embers, a fire-resistant stone and steel exterior, roof and eave sprinklers, and on-site water tanks. It is the third attempt at a permanent nature center in the canyon, after wildfires destroyed the previous two.

At a community From Ashes to Action panel discussion held at the Arboretum last week, the planning was said to have considered the area's last 100 years of fire, wind and flood patterns in the canyon. The new design is intended to include the canyon's historic, tribal and cultural legacy.

Anne Mooney and Ludwing Juarez of Sparano + Mooney Architecture, presented the plans for the center to more than 100 attendees. Mooney told the crowd that "everyone in this room is here today because we all care deeply about the future of Eaton Canyon," and said the research and community feedback produced a nature center more resilient and prepared to serve future generations, adding that the project aims to "build back better."

Eaton Canyon has lost buildings to fire before. The original Robert McCurdy Nature Study Center, built in 1963, burned down on October 27, 1993, during the 40-mph, wind-driven Kinneloa Fire, according to MyEatonCanyon.com, which led to a replacement facility opening in 1998. That second building was then destroyed in the Eaton Fire.

The next From Ashes to Action panel is scheduled for October 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and will focus on the Eaton Canyon landscape redesign. LA County opened the Eaton Canyon Landscape Recovery Center on March 7, a nursery and restoration hub supported by nearly \$3 million in regional and state grants, including a \$1 million LA County Regional Park grant and \$1.87 million from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Eaton Canyon Natural Area remains closed to the public as the wildlife slowly returns home. MVNews

SIERRA MADREAN FRED THOMAS PERFORMS AT SM PLAYHOUSE THIS WEEKEND



HEART TELLS TALES

September 19 and 20, 2026

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.

87 W SIERRA MADRE BLVD,
SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024 (626) 355-4318

Are You Ready for the Big One!

Join Wes Carson for an informative discussion on earthquake preparation and emergency readiness. Learn practical steps to protect your family, home, and community before, during, and after an earthquake. We will cover emergency supplies, evacuation planning, communication strategies, home preparedness, and simple actions that can reduce risks and improve your ability to respond to the Big One!

The public is welcome to attend!

Sierra Madre CERT General Meeting
Thursday, September 24th 7:00 PM
Hart Park House - Memorial Park
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

COMMUNITY EFFORT TO HELP LONGTIME RESIDENT AND VOLUNTEER ALAN TIERNEY FIGHT THE BATTLE OF HIS LIFE

For years you've seen Alan around town, helping wherever he could - at Little League, numerous community events and much more. Now he needs our prayers and support. Please scan the QR code below and join Team Alan.



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THINGS TO DO - SUPPORT

Non-Profit Special Events Community Meeting



AT SIERRA MADRE CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
232 W SIERRA MADRE BLVD.

Let's Discuss the Special Events Permit



**Wednesday
October 7
6:00 PM**

We want to learn about your events in the City.
Not able to attend? Send your comments or questions to:
communityservices
@sierramadrecap.gov

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September Events Around Town!

Brought to you by Sue Cook

One Time Events

September 6
Sunday Afternoon Concerts in the Dome
Experience the music of the Webern String Quartet in the Mt. Wilson Dome – an incredible acoustic space. Performances 3pm & 5pm Reception 4pm

September 11
Summer Nights Concerts at the Arboretum
Relax to the sounds of live Caribbean music and enjoy food, drinks, games, and more. 6pm – 8pm

September 13
Take a Walk Through 15 Decades of Pasadena History - Pasadena Heritage presents a tour of Pasadena's bungalow past and the impact of the 210 Freeway had on the neighborhood. 9am – 11am; 10am -12pm; 11am -1pm

September 19
Taste of Arcadia at Santa Anita Park Paddock
Sample the region's best food and drinks, visit the Business Showcase, and enjoy terrific entertainment. 2pm – 6pm

September 24
Caltech Campus History and Architectural Tour
Historic tour of Caltech's original campus, begins with a visit to the Athenaeum. 10:30am -12pm

September 26
Moon Festival in Arcadia
Gather on the City Hall Lawn for this mid-autumn festival featuring live entertainment, activities, vendors, and mooncakes. 5pm – 8:30pm

September 26
Arcadia Performing Arts Foundation Presents John Waite - The "Golden Voice of Sound" comes to the beautiful state-of-the-art Arcadia Performing Arts Center. John Waite will be performing a catalogue of hits from his 40-year career. 8pm

September 26
Fall Rodeo - Boots, Bites, and Western Beats at One Colorado - This rodeo-inspired evening includes live country music, food booths, and yard-games in the courtyard. 4pm – 8pm

Ongoing Events

September 1, 2, 8, 15, 16, 22, 23
America's Got Talent at Pasadena Civic Auditorium
Be part of a prime-time television event with celebrity judges and amazing talent. 2pm & 3pm

September 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 20, 22
Broadway Gamble Rumble at The Gamble House
Lineage Performing Arts Center explores the evolution of Broadway through dance, theatre and narrative at the historic Gamble House.

September 11, 12
The Improvised Shakespeare Company at Descanso Gardens - Watch as a new-fully-improvised Shakespearean masterpiece is created right before your eyes. 7pm – 8:15pm

September 12, 13
As You Like It at the Arboretum - The Bardfly Theatre Company brings Shakespeare to the garden with "As You Like It." Gates open at 5pm Light bites and beverages available. Performance 6pm

September 18, 19, 20
Pasadena Greek Festival
Join in a celebration of Greek culture featuring traditional food, music and dance. Free parking will be available at Santa Anita Racetrack.

September 18 – October 31
Halloween at Kidspace - Costume parades, a trike ride through a spooky house, and adopt a monster.

September 19, 20
Pasadena ArtWalk in Playhouse Village
Jackalope Arts comes to Playhouse Village. Stroll down Green Street perusing handmade art made by over 180 artisans.

September 21, 28
Music in the Garden at The Huntington
Immerse yourself in the beauty of the garden and in enchanting music performed by Pasadena Conservatory musicians. 1pm – 3pm

September 25 – 27
Mid-Autumn Moon Celebration at the Huntington
Celebrate the season with a magical stroll through the moonlit Chinese Garden. 6:30pm – 9pm



626.253.1323

suecookrealtor@gmail.com

DRE 02015404

SIERRA MADRE HALLOWEEN WINDOW PAINTING IS BACK!

Sierra Madre Civic Club is calling all creative kids ages 9–17 who live in Sierra Madre to participate in our annual Downtown Halloween Window Painting!

It's FREE to participate, thanks to the Sierra Madre Civic Club!

Rules & applications are attached and also available at www.sierramadrecivicclub.org

Let's fill downtown Sierra Madre with spooky, creative fun! Painting takes place during the afternoon on Friday, October 23rd and the morning of Saturday, October 24th. The awards ceremony takes place on Saturday, October 24 at 12pm in Kersting Court.

Proudly sponsored by the Sierra Madre Civic Club, a women's nonprofit organization that has been volunteering, fundraising, and supporting the Sierra Madre community since 1944.

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Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	90s	Lows 60s
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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

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@sierramadrecalifornia.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 sierramadrecalifornia.gov on Foothills Media website at foothillsmidiasite.org sierramadrecalifornia, 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@cityofsierramadrecalifornia.com.



Sierra Madre Public LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

THIS WEEK AT THE
Sierra Madre Public Library

September 21— September 26

Monday

Baby Rhyme Time— Library at 9:00am

Preschool Storytime— Library at 10:00am

Wednesday

VolunTEENS— Library at 4:00pm

Thursday

Intergenerational Storytime— Kensington at 10:00am

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

WALKING SIERRA MADRE: The Social Side by Deanne Davis

“HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY.” Lucy (Charles Schulz)

“Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever.” Karen Davison

You can't change a dog's past, but you can rewrite his future.” Agness Carass

“You can't buy love, but you can rescue it.”

“Rescued is my favorite breed.”

The picture today is my daughter-in-law, Michon, and my grandson, Caleb. They are bringing home this adorable little girl to be part of their family. She's a year old and about 18 pounds. I can't say who looks the happiest, the dog, or the boy!

Adding a dog to the family is one of the best things anyone can do, especially if there are children to love, pet and be with the new family member. When we moved into our house on Canon Drive years ago and the children were going to Pasadena Christian School, we heard that the English teacher there, Ms. Timmons, I think, was going to have to let her seven-month-old German Shepherd go. We were delighted to take her and, eventually, so was Trinkka, who became my best friend and constant companion. She

went everywhere with me and, even though the children loved her, they were growing up and just not at home as much, so Trinkka and I were firmly attached to each other.

Trinka was the first of a succession of German Shepherds who brought us joy and I know this lovely little girl is going to bring much joy to the family. The boys, Caleb and his brother, Brady, have decided to call her Cream Puff but I'll have to wait to see if that sticks. Frequently, just like picking out a name for a baby on the way, when the baby, or the puppy, arrives, a different name seems to fit better.

Things We Learn From a Dog

- Have a happy attitude.
- Green everyone with enthusiasm
- Delight in the simple things
- Don't hold grudges
- Explore everything
- Be supportive
- Take plenty of rests
- Loyalty is a virtue
- Play is good!
- Set your limits
- Accept treats
- Protect those you love
- Show passion with gusto
- Be yourself
- Love unconditionally

All the dogs in our life did exactly all those things listed above and I'm pretty sure that Cream Puff or whatever she ends up being called will too. Congratulations, dear family for bringing home this little bundle of joy! If you've been thinking, dear friends and neighbors, of adding a dog to your family, make sure it's a rescue. Those guys know you've saved them and will show their gratitude forever.

“Heaven is a place where all the dogs you've ever loved come to greet you.” Oliver Gaspirtz

“If you think dogs will not be in Heaven, I tell you, they will be there long before any of us.” Robert Ingersoll

In a world where you can be anything you want to be, be kind.

Have a great week and start thinking about what you're going to do for Halloween window painting and what sort of fabulous scarecrow you're going to create. Halloween is coming!

My book page:
Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
There are treasures there! Trust me!
Including “Just Desserts” A Fall Fantasy of Pumpkins Gone Wrong!

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
232 W SIERRA MADRE BLVD.

Open Special Events
COMMUNITY MEETING



YOUR VOICE MATTERS. YOUR PRESENCE COUNTS.

We'll discuss the Special Events Permit and the future of City events.

This event will be broadcasted and recorded.

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 14
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
232 W SIERRA MADRE BLVD
6:00PM

Can't Attend?

SEND IN QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS!

.....

communityservices@sierramadrecalifornia.gov

DOWNTOWN SIERRA MADRE HALLOWEEN WINDOW PAINTING

Gather your friends and paint local merchants' windows in Halloween themes.

Contest open to youths ages 9-17. At least one member of the team must be a Sierra Madre resident.

Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age category.

Sponsored by the Sierra Madre Civic Club

For Applications and More Info:
SierraMadreCivicClub.org
Facebook
sierramadrecalifornia.gov
The Library
City Hall
Your Local School



FREE EVENT!

PAINTING DATES AND TIMES
FRI, OCT 23, 2:30 P.M. — 6:00 P.M.
SAT, OCT 24, 7:30 A.M. — 10:00 A.M.

DEADLINE TO TURN IN YOUR APPLICATION TO CITY HALL IS OCTOBER 15, BY 4:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS? info@sierramadrecivicclub.org

City Manager Recruitment Relaunched



The Pasadena City Council announced that they have relaunched a nationwide recruitment for the next city manager. To lead this important executive search, the city council has engaged the California-based executive search firm, The Byers Group. With more than 15 years of experience, The Byers Group helps public, private, nonprofit, and educational organizations recruit best-in-class leaders who make a lasting impact within the client organizations and communities they serve.

The next city manager will oversee a general fund budget of \$365 million and a total budget of approximately \$1.5 billion, including \$446 million for capital improvement projects and \$110 million in appropriations for the city's three operating companies — the Rose Bowl Operating Company, the Pasadena Center Operating Company, and the Pasadena Community Access Corporation. As the City's Chief Administrative Officer, the city manager will lead 15 departments and approximately 2,200 staff, partnering with and supporting the city council on policy development while directing the day-to-day administration of a complex organization.

The next city manager will engage the community of roughly 140,000 residents. Applications are accepted now through Friday, October 16. The most qualified candidates will be invited to participate in interviews in late October and early November officials said.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net.

San Marino Measure U Town Hall



San Marino residents are invited to attend a Town Hall regarding Measure U, the proposed renewal of San Marino's existing Utility Users Tax (UUT). Join the discussion on Tuesday, September 29, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at the San Marino Community Center to learn more about Measure U and its consideration by San Marino voters. Mandarin interpretation will also be available on Zoom. Learn more at SanMarinoCA.gov/MeasureU.



New Dodgers Dreamfields at Farnsworth Park

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF), in partnership with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks), is supporting Altadena's ongoing recovery with the development of two new Dodgers Dreamfields at Charles S. Farnsworth Park.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the \$1.4 million investment to fully restore two new Dodgers Dreamfields at Farnsworth Park in Altadena is scheduled for November 5. The ceremony will include a shovel dedication and a brief program from LADF leadership, representatives from LA County Parks, and project sponsors. The fields will be an inclusive spaces for local youth and families to gather.

Officials said the addition of two new Dodgers Dreamfields will help address a significant funding gap in park restoration after the Eaton Fire caused the loss of facilities, rental spaces, and program revenue. Charles S. Farnsworth Park, a historic Altadena landmark, was among the most severely impacted sites. With Loma Alta Park reopened and construction planning underway at Charles White Park, the upcoming work at Charles S. Farnsworth marks the next phase in restoring access to vital recreation and community programming for Altadena families. Thus far, the project has included community listening sessions with local stakeholders, including the Community Coalition for Altadena Recovery, Central Altadena Little League, and other community leaders, to ensure that the project is informed by the needs, priorities, and aspirations of local residents and families.

"From the beginning, we knew our commitment to Altadena wouldn't end with building Dodgers Dreamfields at Loma Alta Park," said Nichol McKenzie-Whiteman, CEO of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation. "Over the past year, we've continued to respond to what families needed most by bringing our Dodgers Dreamteam programming, which includes access to education and health resources for the community, supporting food distributions, and creating moments of normalcy during a very challenging time. The two new Dodgers Dreamfields at Charles S. Farnsworth Park build on that work, creating a safe, welcoming space where the community can gather and flourish as it continues moving forward."

The 69th and 70th Dodgers Dreamfields will support baseball and softball programming for youth ages 5-12, while also providing open recreational access for youth and teens up to age 18. Upgrades include new irrigation systems, improved playing surfaces, fencing, shade structures, solar-powered hexagonal scoreboards reminiscent of those at UNIQLO Field at Dodger Stadium, and a STEM Trail connecting the upper and lower fields through two distinct journeys. Learning moments will create an engaging outdoor classroom that blends LADF's Science of Baseball curriculum and the park's natural environment. Together, these enhancements will create a safe, high-quality recreational space and provide families with a revitalized gathering place within their own community.

LADF builds and refurbishes baseball and softball fields through the Dodgers Dreamfields program, providing families with safe havens and points of pride in their neighborhoods. Through the program, LADF invests in and supports the design and construction of field improvements. Upon completion, LA County Parks and Recreation oversees ongoing field operations, including maintenance, reservations, scheduling, permitting, programming, and community use. Dodgers Dreamfields revitalizes green spaces to re-energize the community's involvement in baseball and softball, boost safety in local parks, and provide a place where neighbors can gather, exercise, and play.

For more information visit: Dodgers.com/LADF

Child Passenger Safety Week

During Child Passenger Safety Week, September 21 through Sept. 27 the South Pasadena Police Department encourages all parents and caregivers to make sure their children are riding safely by using the correct car seats, booster seats and properly fitted seat belts.

"When it comes to protecting our youngest passengers, there is no room for guesswork," Police Lieutenant Shannon Robledo said. "Child Passenger Safety Week is a good reminder of how critical it is to choose the right car seat and ensure it is installed properly."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of car seats (46 percent) are misused. Properly installed car seats have been shown to reduce fatal injury crashes by 71 percent for infants under a year old and by 54 percent for toddlers ages 1 through 4.

Current California law requires all children under 2 years old to ride in a rear-facing car seat, unless the child is 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. Once a child reaches these milestones, all children under the age of 8 years old are still required to be secured in a car seat or booster seat, in the back seat. Children 8 and older, or who are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall, may be secured by a booster seat, but at a minimum must be secured by a safety belt.

As of January 1, 2027, AB 435 requires children ages 8 to 16 years old to pass all steps of the "Five-Step Test" before they can safely use a seat belt without a booster seat.

For more traffic safety information visit: gosafelyca.org.

Tournament Announces 2027 Float Awards Judges



The Pasadena Tournament of Roses announced Thursday that Karen Marshall, Ania Norwood and Adam Schwerner are the distinguished judges that will determine the 2027 Float Awards for the 138th Rose Parade on New Year's Day.

The three judges have experience in horticulture, floral design, creative direction and visual storytelling. Their diverse backgrounds will help them recognize the skill, creativity and artistry in the floats that will bring the 2027 theme, "Welcome," to life on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena.

"We're thrilled to welcome Adam, Ania and Karen as our 2027 Float Awards judges," said Terry Madigan, 2027 Tournament of Roses President. "Their diverse professional experience and creative perspectives make for a strong team, and we're confident they will bring a thoughtful eye to recognizing the extraordinary artistry, craftsmanship and innovation behind this year's floats."

Each year, the Float Awards honor the outstanding work of the Rose Parade's float designers, builders, decorators and volunteers. The panel chooses 24 awards that highlight excellence in categories like Float Design, Floral Presentation and Entertainment Value. The top honor is the Sweepstakes Trophy, given to the float that shows the highest level of beauty in design, floral presentation and entertainment.

The 2027 Float Awards will be announced January 1 on the front steps of Tournament House in Pasadena.

Karen Marshall (pictured left) is the Co-founder of Fleurs de Villes, the internationally acclaimed floral show brand creating spectacular fresh floral experiences that celebrate local floral artistry and bring people together through flowers. Ania Norwood (pictured middle) has competed, taught, and presented at major floral events around the world, and her work has appeared in international publications.

Adam Schwerner (pictured right) is the President and CEO of San Diego Botanic Garden. For more information visit: tournamentofroses.com.

Pasadena Citywide Active Transportation Plan Outreach

The City of Pasadena Department of Transportation announced they are launching a comprehensive citywide community outreach and engagement effort to guide the development of the city's Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

Engagement events will occur throughout the city. The ATP will gather community input, to create a plan to advance key transportation improvements, such as:

- Safer and more accessible sidewalks and pedestrian crossings
- Improved bicycle and micromobility infrastructure
- Better walking and biking connections to public transit, schools, parks, and other community destinations
- Traffic safety improvements that reduce serious injuries and fatalities for all road users
- More accessible streets and pathways for people of all ages and abilities
- Improved lighting, shade, and other amenities that make walking and biking more comfortable
- Projects and programs that encourage walking, biking, rolling, and transit use
- Identification of priority projects and funding opportunities for future active transportation improvements

To ensure broad and inclusive participation, the City will host multilingual community engagement activities, including pop-up events, community workshops, youth-focused engagement, and surveys. Engagement efforts will begin this month and will be designed to reach residents and stakeholders across Pasadena. Upcoming community outreach events will take place at the following:

- Pasadena Chalk Festival at Brookside Park – Saturday, September 26 10 a.m. at 480 N. Arroyo Blvd.
- Victory Park Farmers Market – Saturday, October 3, 8:30 a.m. at 2900 block of North Sierra Madre Blvd
- Villa Park Farmers Market – Tuesday, October 6, 8:30 a.m. at 363 E. Villa St.
- ArtNight Pasadena – Friday, October 9, 6 p.m. at Pasadena Museum of History, 470 W. Walnut St.
- Pasadena Latino Heritage Parade & Festival – Saturday, October 10, 4 p.m. at Pasadena City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net.



SIERRA MADRE
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Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.

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CLOSED WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY (ALL YEAR)
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Photos at
  SierraMadreWomansClub.org

Sierra Madre Woman's Club since 1907
Wistaria Shop Re-Opens 10 am, Thurs., 9/3/26



AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

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Altadena, CA 91001

Kathryn BARGER
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF
Parks & Recreation
The Arboretum
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

FROM ASHES TO ACTION

Reimagining Eaton Canyon

Join us for a presentation and conversation about the future of Eaton Canyon Natural Area and the vision for its new Nature Center.

Hear from planners, designers, and LA County Parks staff as they share how science, community input, and the site's history are shaping the new Nature Center. Learn how the design will honor the original Nature Center, support wildfire resilience, and enhance visitor experiences through new trail connections and interpretive opportunities.

NATURE CENTER DESIGN
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

SPARANO + MOONEY ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

STUDIO MLA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN
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Instructions:

- Students may be inspired by the 2027 Rose Parade theme, Welcome, but the theme does not have to limit their design ideas. There are no limits to their creativity!
- To create sketches for the design, please use the sketch outline.
- Design sketches may be completed in pen or pencil, but colored pens, crayons or colored pencils are preferred. The design should continue around the back of the vase.
- Completed sketches should be turned in to Mr. Newsom in the Main Office by October 1st
- Teachers and staff will vote as to the winning student design
- Only the school winner will receive a vase and paint kit. The student may use only the paint provided because the vase will be glazed and fired later.
- First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded in two divisions: grades 4-5 (Elementary) and grades 6-8 (Secondary).

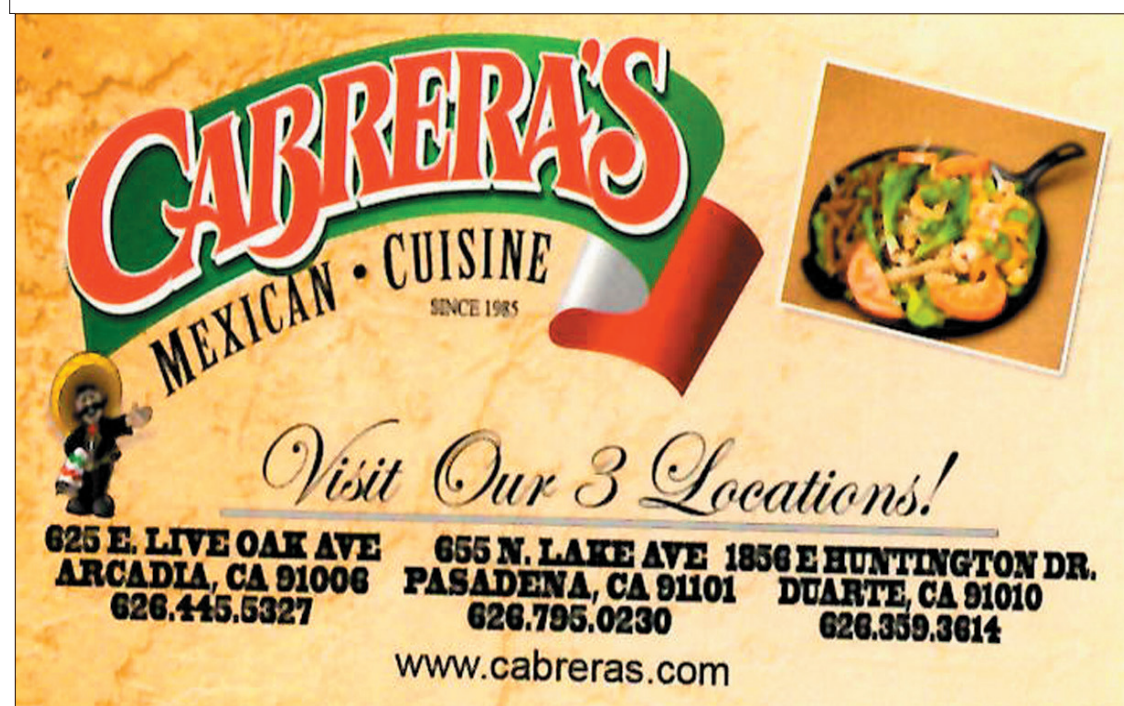


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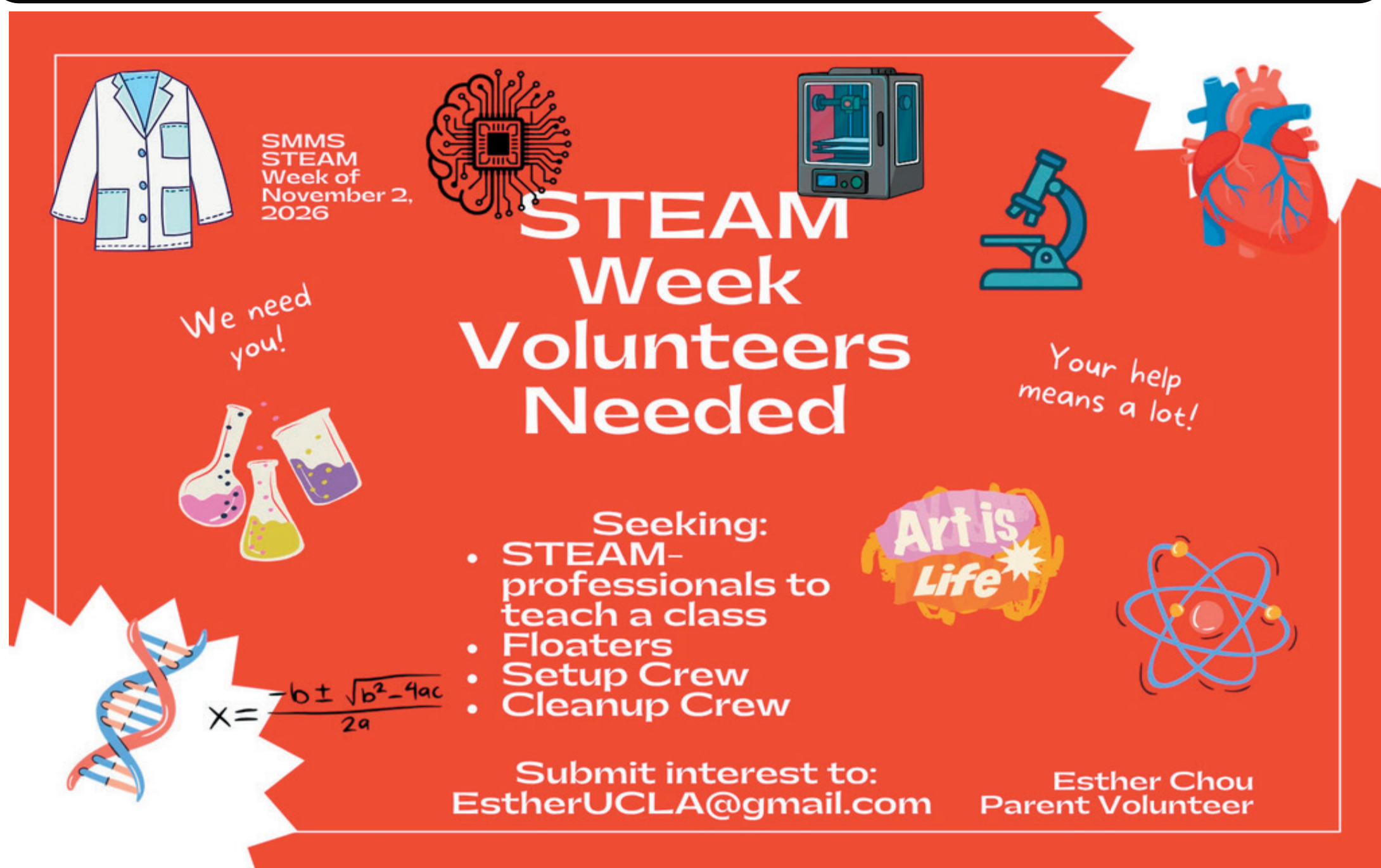
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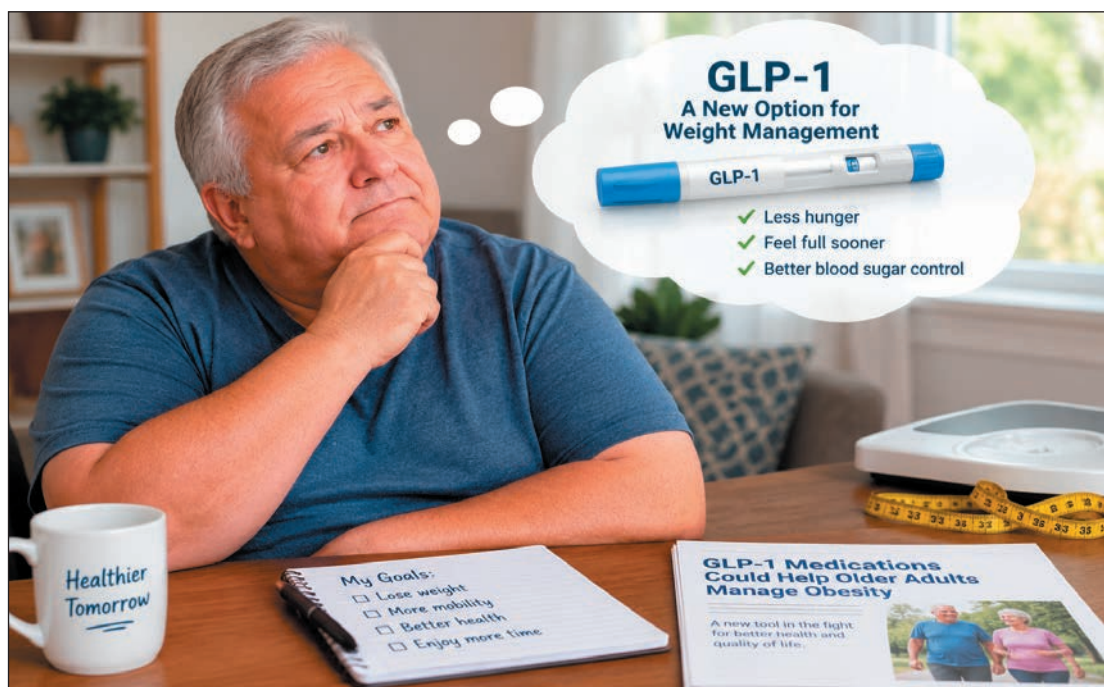


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GLP-1 MEDICATIONS: A NEW OPTION FOR OBESITY IN OLDER ADULTS

Obesity is not just a concern for younger adults. For seniors, carrying excess weight can increase the risk of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, joint problems and reduced mobility. Today, a new class of medications known as GLP-1 drugs is giving many older adults another option for managing obesity.



Medications such as semaglutide and tirzepatide work in part by helping people feel full sooner and reducing appetite. They can also improve blood sugar control. For people who have struggled to lose weight through diet and exercise alone, these medications may provide meaningful results. Weight management becomes especially important as we age. Losing excess weight can make everyday activities such as walking, climbing stairs and getting out of a chair easier. However, weight loss in seniors needs to be approached carefully. Older adults can lose muscle along with body fat, making adequate protein intake and strength-building exercise important parts of a weight-loss program.

GLP-1 medications are not appropriate for everyone. They can cause side effects such as nausea, constipation, diarrhea, stomach discomfort and, in some cases, more serious complications. Seniors may also take several medications or have kidney, heart or other health conditions that need to be considered before treatment begins.

For that reason, older adults should not view GLP-1 medications as a quick fix or a substitute for healthy habits. A physician should evaluate whether the medication is appropriate and monitor progress, nutrition, hydration and overall health.

For seniors struggling with obesity, GLP-1 medications represent an important development in treatment. When combined with sensible nutrition, physical activity and medical supervision, they may help older adults achieve a healthier weight while maintaining strength and quality of life.

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FALL IS VACCINE SEASON: WHAT SENIORS NEED TO KNOW

Fall is the perfect time to catch up on the vaccines seniors need to stay healthy and protected through the winter.

With fall right around the corner, cooler temperatures, changing leaves and pumpkin spice everything are about to return. So is flu season. If you're 65 or older, now is a good time to check your vaccines – because there's more to the fall vaccine lineup than just the flu shot.

Start with flu

Flu can be especially serious for older adults. As we age, our immune systems don't respond as strongly to infections, which is one reason people 65 and older account for most flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.

That's why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adults 65 and older get one of three enhanced flu vaccines instead of a standard-dose shot: Fluzone High-Dose, Fludac or Flublok.

All three are designed to produce a stronger immune response in older adults, and studies haven't shown one to be consistently better than the others. So there's no need to track down a particular brand. Get whichever of these enhanced vaccines is available.

There's also a new option for the 2026-27 flu season. Moderna's mFLUSIVA is the first mRNA flu vaccine authorized in the United States. It is approved for adults ages 50 to 64 and has received accelerated approval for those 65 and older, pending additional study results. For now, adults 65 and older should continue following CDC recommendations and choose one of the three enhanced vaccines whenever possible.

September or October is generally the best time to get your flu shot. But if you miss that window, don't skip it. A flu shot in November or later can still provide valuable protection.

Medicare Part B covers one flu shot each flu season at no cost when given by a Medicare-participating doctor, clinic or pharmacy.

Check the rest

While you're getting your flu shot, take a minute to see whether you're due for other vaccines, too.

RSV: The CDC recommends a one-time RSV vaccine for everyone 75 and older, as well as adults ages 50 through 74 who are at increased risk for severe RSV illness. Medicare Part D covers RSV vaccines.

Pneumonia: Adults 50 and older who haven't received a pneumococcal vaccine should ask about getting protected against serious pneumococcal disease. The preferred options are Prevnar 20 (PCV20) or Capvaxine (PCV21). Most people need only one dose, and Medicare Part B covers these vaccines.

Shingles: If you haven't had Shingrix, put it on your list. The two-dose vaccine is more than 90 percent effective at preventing shingles and the painful nerve complications that can follow. Medicare Part D covers both doses.

COVID-19: Recommendations have become more individualized, but older adults remain at higher risk for serious illness. Ask your healthcare provider whether an updated COVID-19 vaccine is appropriate for you. Medicare Part B covers COVID-19 vaccines.

One trip, several shots

You generally don't need to make separate trips for each vaccine. Flu, RSV, COVID-19 and other recommended vaccines can usually be given during the same visit. If you're concerned about temporary side effects such as fatigue, muscle aches or a sore arm, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist whether spacing them out makes sense.

To find pharmacies and other providers offering vaccines near you, visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

Fall is a good time to review your vaccination record and talk with your healthcare provider or pharmacist about any shots you may need. Staying up to date can help reduce your risk of serious illness and keep you healthier through the months ahead.

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OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

A FLASHBACK TO MY RANDFATHER'S PIPE

This week, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I went shopping.

Normally, I don't go shopping, at least not with her. However, this was a special occasion, and so I tagged along.

I'm not quite sure what she was shopping for, and after 55 years of marital bliss, I don't ask. I have found that if I ask, she'll respond, which is more than I want.

We were in the store for just a few moments, and she had to go down an aisle to get some stuff, so I went the other way. If I tagged along with her, she would say repeatedly, "What do you think of this? You think I should get this?"

Telling her what she needs is so far above my pay grade that I'll never reach it. I have learned to let her make her own decisions, which makes our home a happy place. I like my happy place.

I was going down several aisles when I saw something I hadn't seen in a long time. There, in a glass case, was a large collection of smoking pipes. Looking at them, one flashed my grandfather's face back. I was stunned. Nothing like this had ever happened to me before.

Looking at that one pipe, I realized it was exactly the kind my grandfather had. Since my grandfather died over 50 years ago, I was surprised I remembered what his pipe looked like.

I looked at it and came very close to purchasing it in memory of my grandfather. I'm sure he would've enjoyed that. I don't smoke, and I had no plans to smoke that pipe; I was just looking at it and being reminded of my grandfather. He never went anywhere without that pipe. I'm not sure what that pipe meant to him, but he was really attached to it. Sometimes he had it when he wasn't even smoking.

Many times, I spent an afternoon with my grandfather; as we were chatting, he puffed on his pipe. I never could understand why he did that, but I watched him, and that picture stayed clear in my mind. I never expected to have this kind of experience, and I can't remember the last time I thought about my grandfather.

As I was enjoying my view, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came up and said, "You're not thinking what I think you're thinking? Are you?"

After all these years of marital bliss, I still can't figure out the latest question she throws my way.

I turned around, looked at her, and said, "What do you think I'm thinking?"

She just stared at me, and finally I said, "See that pipe right there? That is the exact pipe that my grandfather had when I was a young boy."

She looked at it, smiled very gingerly, and said, "Are you thinking of buying it?"

I looked at her for a moment, then looked back at the pipe and thought for a long time.

"Well, I gave that a little bit of thought because it would be a great reminder to me of my grandfather. That pipe defined him in many regards."

"Where would you like to hang it at the house?" She asked.

Chuckling a little, I looked back at her and said, "I said I gave it a little bit of thought, but as much as I would like to, I am not going to buy a pipe and take it home."

As we were going home in the Sissy Van, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "What is it about that pipe that reminded you so much of your grandfather?"

That's the kind of question you can't answer in a few words. Thinking along those lines, for the first time in many years, I thought about my grandfather and all the good times we had together; he was a Class A prankster in many ways. If anybody could prank you, it was my grandfather.

One prank I remember was when our pastor came to visit him, and when he left, he forgot his hat. That was my grandfather's cue to prank the pastor.

My grandfather took the pastor's hat to a friend who owned a men's clothing store. He had that friend stretch the hat almost twice its original size.

The next Sunday my grandfather came to

church and brought the pastor's hat with him. After the service, he went up to the pastor with the hat and said, "Pastor, you left your hat at my place this past week. I thought I'd bring it to you today."

The pastor was happy because he couldn't remember where he left his hat. He took it from my grandfather, put it on his head, and it slid down to his chin. Very slowly, the pastor took his hat off, looked at my grandfather, and tried to smile.

That's just the beginning of the pranks I remember my grandfather playing.

That event brought a Bible verse to mind.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

I often get frustrated when I forget something. As a Christian, I can rely on the Holy Spirit to bring to my mind what I need to know and when I need to know it.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.



By Peter Dills

GINGER CORNER MARKET: THE LITTLE MARKET ACROSS FROM GRANT PARK

Growing up — and I do mean a while back — the little building that is now Ginger Corner Market was called Eddie's Market. It couldn't have been much more than 800 square feet. Across the street was Grant Park, where we played as kids. Eddie's was just part of the neighborhood. You didn't think much about it. It was the little market across from the park.

Funny how many years later I'm back in that same little building having lunch.

Ginger Corner opened in the summer of 2012, so it's hardly the new kid on the block anymore. It's a small neighborhood spot with sandwiches, coffee, breakfast, sweets and some fun retro sodas.

The first thing I noticed was the place has personality. Old coffee cans and cracker tins sit on the shelves along with bottles, toys, cards and all kinds of odds and ends. It feels a little like an old neighborhood market, which considering my memories of Eddie's, works just fine for me.

My friend invited me for lunch and I went with a turkey sandwich. Most of the sandwiches are around \$14, and you can get yours pressed or not pressed. I went pressed.

My sandwich had plenty of turkey, cheddar and greens on toasted bread. Nothing fancy or complicated. It looked good, tasted fresh and filled me up.

The man behind the sandwiches is Bubba. I'm officially calling him the sandwich guru. In a place this small you don't need a cast of thousands. You need somebody behind the counter who knows how to make a sandwich, and Bubba does. Bubba and cast includes Diana with the smile, and Liz she owns the joint

Now, about that \$14.

My dad, Elmer Dills, was adamant about mentioning prices in his restaurant reviews. He always believed you couldn't just tell readers that something was good. Tell them what it costs. Is it worth it? Would you order it again? I can almost hear him now. "Fourteen dollars for a sandwich?" Yes, Dad. Fourteen dollars.

Of course, we're not living in the Eddie's Market days anymore. These days \$14 for a good deli sandwich isn't exactly breaking news. But for \$14, I want enough meat, fresh ingredients and a sandwich that doesn't leave me hungry an hour later.

Ginger Corner passed the test.

I also went for a Dr. Brown's Black Cherry soda. With all the retro touches around the place, somehow it seemed like the right choice.

There's more than sandwiches here. The menu has breakfast, salads, coffee and sweets, so you could easily come back several times and try something different.

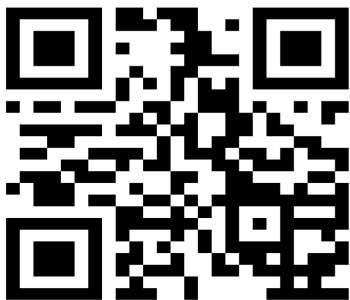
In fact, I already know my order for next time: the ham and Brie sandwich(I did) , pressed, with the beet salad on the side. Ham and Brie is one of those combinations that sounds just right to me, especially warmed up on the press. Add the beet salad and I think I've got lunch figured out.

There's also some outside seating, which brings me to Peter's Pro Tip.

It seems the fall weather is cooperating so, find a bench, find some shade and have lunch in the park. For me, that's where this story really comes together. When I was a kid, we played in Grant Park with Eddie's Market sitting across the street. Today the park is still there and so is that little building.

Only now it's Ginger Corner Market, Bubba is making the sandwiches, and I'm the guy worrying about whether a \$14 sandwich is worth the money.

Come to think of it, maybe I'm turning into my dad. Ginger Corner Market
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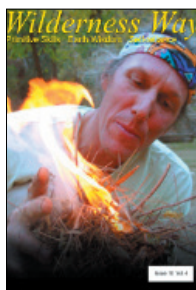


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[Nyerges is the author of "How to Survive Anywhere," "Extreme Simplicity," "Til Death Do Us Part?" and other books. He can be reached at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

ARTIST KATE LAIN'S POST-WILDFIRE COMMUNITY ART PROJECT BRINGING POST-FIRE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

On Sunday, September 13 at Pasadena's Arlington Garden, community members participated in a unique art project called Watershed. Under a canopy in the shade of the Garden, Pasadena-based artist Kate Lain gave each participant a specially treated piece of fabric, measuring about 8 inches by a foot and a half. The cloth was placed on a stiff piece of cardboard for easy handling. Each person then placed plant material and other artifacts onto the cloth and then covered it all with a thick sheet of clear plastic to hold everything in place. Each such piece was then placed in the sun for about 3 minutes. The sun shines down on the cloth, and makes an impression on the treated cloth, except where the plants were laid. Then the cloth is removed, and placed in water for a few minutes to "develop" the image of the plants and artifacts.



Alejandro Palacios (left), and daughter Karimeh watch as Kate Lain (with red headband) "develops" their cyanotype cloth in water. -photo Helen Wong

This process is known as cyanotype, an analog photographic process which produces blue and white images.

The cloths, once removed from the water, were beautiful art pieces where the plant materials come out white, and the background is blue. It is a detailed and somewhat exacting process, and participants were visibly excited by the results. Kate Lain guides each step to ensure that everyone has a success.

The dried and fresh plant materials mostly came from Eaton Canyon, and were primarily invasive plants that were removed by Eaton Canyon staff and volunteers working on habitat care to help the park recover from the fire. It was important to Lain to involve the fire-ravaged park in this project. The Eaton Canyon invasive plant materials included dried star thistle, dry grasses, sweet allysum seed pods, horehound, and puncture vine. There were also some fallen branches with leaves from a burned oak tree.

"I wanted to use some of the non-native invasive plants that were pulled as part of the Eaton Canyon post-wildfire recovery efforts," says Lain. "For me, it's a way to make visible the ways our recoveries – as people, communities, landscapes, ecologies – are intertwined."

Community members attending Sunday's session were invited to bring meaningful objects from home to use in creating their cyanotype. Objects could be something that survived the fire, something that has brought comfort during post-fire recovery, or something else of personal significance.



James Oberhausen and Caryn Carver hang their developed cyanotype cloths to dry. – photo Helen Wong.

Lain's deep connection with Eaton Canyon started back when she was a child, visiting the nature center and hiking with her family. She went on to work as a college intern in the trailer when the nature center was being rebuilt from the 1993 fire, then worked for years as a staff naturalist in the new nature center. She researched Eaton Canyon history and continued to volunteer with her family for the park and nature center for years to come.

"Eaton Canyon is a place I've been deeply connected to all my life," says Lain.

Watershed, facilitated by Kate Lain, is a post-wildfire community art project grounded in the idea that creating art in community with one another, and with the environment, can be healing.

Anyone impacted by the wildfires in any way is invited to participate. Besides making the cyanotype strips, participants were encouraged to draw images on a large roll of paper for how they visualize the future of our post-wildfire communities, and also write their thoughts about how healing can occur. Some of these drawings and words will be used to create additional cyanotypes for the project.

The blue cyanotype cloth strips will later be sewn together to create a 50 foot or longer textile stream which will be displayed as a temporary art installation for public viewing at Arlington Garden in the spring of 2027.

Sunday's event was just part one of the project. Another drop-in cyanotype-making session will be held at the Arlington Garden, from 11:30 am to 2:30 p.m.

According to Lain, there will be additional cyanotype and art-making sessions. Progress of the art project and future art-making sessions and workshops will be announced on Watershed's Instagram account and a Facebook page, and those sessions and workshops held at Arlington Garden will be included on their Eventbrite page.

What did the participants think of this project? Caryn Carver and James Oberhausen said, "We're so grateful to be part of this beautiful project which represents our beautiful and resilient community." Alejandro Palacios and Karimeh Palaces added "Selecting the items was the best part of making cyanotypes."

For more information, go to: https://www.instagram.com/p/DcUHFNnD5P6/?img_index=1 Watershed is hosted by Arlington Garden, and sponsored in part by the Pasadena Arts and Culture Commission, and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division.

Lain adds that "I'm particularly interested in including community members who were impacted in any way by the Eaton Fire. I invite you all to come be part of the art-making." It's free to participate in the event, but registration is requested so Lain can estimate how many supplies to bring.

Drop-in Cyanotype Session #2: Saturday, Oct.3, 2026, 11:30am–2:30pm
More info at <https://watershedartproject-oct3.eventbrite.com>



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 Visit her Facebook page at: michelesfitness.

PUMPKIN SPICE OVERLOAD

As summer fades and leaves begin to turn, pumpkin spice takes over. Coffee shops roll out lattes, grocery stores fill with pumpkin-flavored snacks, and fans rush for their first taste of fall. For many, the warm, spicy flavor brings back memories of family, cozy kitchens, and holidays ahead. But why are we so hooked on something so simple?

It comes down to comfort and tradition. The spices (cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and cloves) remind us of pies, chilly evenings, and family gatherings. Add “limited time only” marketing and a flood of social media posts, and pumpkin spice becomes more than a flavor. It’s a cultural event people don’t want to miss.

So what are the most popular pumpkin spice items? At the top of the list is the famous Pumpkin Spice Latte (PSL). Starbucks introduced it in 2003, and it has been the star of the season ever since. Today, nearly every coffee chain offers its own version, from iced pumpkin spice cold brews to bottled pumpkin spice coffee drinks.

Right behind lattes are pumpkin spice creamers. Instacart reports that sales of these creamers jump more than 1,400% once fall hits. That means people aren’t just ordering a PSL,

they’re making pumpkin spice coffee at home every morning.

Then there are the snacks and sweets. Walk into any store in September and you’ll see shelves of pumpkin spice cookies, protein bars, muffins, cereals, candies, and even pretzels. Trader Joe’s alone launches more than 30 pumpkin spice products each year, including donut holes, waffles, and ice cream.

And let’s not forget the novelty items. From pumpkin spice marshmallows to pumpkin spice beer, companies try to outdo each other with new twists. The pumpkin spice market in the U.S. now tops \$1 billion a year and is expected to double in the next decade.

But all that cozy flavor comes with a cost—both for your body and your wallet.

Let’s start with health. A standard grande pumpkin spice latte from Starbucks has around 390 calories and 50 grams of sugar, more sugar than you should have in an entire day. Add whipped cream, or drink one several times a week, and stack up quickly. Pumpkin spice creamers may seem harmless, but a splash here and a splash there can add up to hundreds of calories each week. Snacks like cookies and muffins are usually loaded with added sugar and fat too.

The financial cost adds up as well. A single PSL costs around \$6–\$7 depending on where you live. Have one multiple times a week, and you’re spending more than \$100 a month on just one drink. Add creamers, cereals, and special treats from the grocery store, and pumpkin spice can quietly drain your budget long before the holiday shopping season arrives.

Fortunately, you don’t have to give up the flavor you love. There are realistic ways to enjoy pumpkin spice without breaking your health goals or your bank account.

Make your own latte at home. Brew strong coffee or espresso, warm some plant-based milk, and add a teaspoon of real pumpkin purée with a sprinkle of cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger. Sweeten lightly with honey or maple syrup. You’ll cut the sugar by more than half and save money too.

Use spice blends instead of syrups. A small container of pumpkin pie spice costs just a few dollars and can last the whole season. Shake it on top of oatmeal, yogurt, or plain coffee. You’ll get the flavor without all the additives.

Try healthier snacks. Instead of buying processed pumpkin spice cookies, bake your own using whole wheat flour, less sugar, and real pumpkin. Or stir pumpkin purée and spices into yogurt for a protein-rich snack.

Keep it special. One reason pumpkin spice feels exciting is because it’s seasonal. If you limit yourself to a weekly treat instead of a daily habit, you’ll enjoy it more, and save money and excess calories.

Pumpkin spice isn’t just about food. It’s about feelings. We crave it because it makes us feel safe, warm, and connected to traditions we love. There’s nothing wrong with enjoying that comfort. But being aware of what you’re actually consuming can help you make better choices.

So the next time you’re tempted by a pumpkin spice latte or a box of pumpkin spice cookies, pause for a second. Ask yourself: is this the cozy flavor I’m after, or just the sugar rush? If it’s comfort you want, you can get that feeling with a homemade version, a simple spice blend, or even just the smell of a cinnamon candle.

UNLOCK YOUR LIFE



Lori A. Harris

THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES:

What Story Are You Telling Yourself About Yourself

We all carry narratives about our abilities and limitations. “I’m not good at technology.” “I’m bad with numbers.” “I have a black thumb.” These statements feel like facts, but as a for-mer defense attorney I know that facts are subject to change. What if, Instead they’re just stories we’ve accepted without question?

These self-imposed labels might seem harmless when they apply to things we don’t care about. But watch what happens when “I’m bad at math” becomes a reason to avoid starting a business, or when “I’m not tech-savvy” prevents us from exploring new opportunities. Suddenly, these innocent-sounding beliefs are quietly shaping the boundaries of our lives.

When Everything I Touched Died

I used to believe I had a black thumb. Everything I touched seemed to wither and die. For years, this story kept me away from gardening entirely. Why try when failure seemed inevi-table?

But then I started questioning that narrative. Was I really cursed with plant-killing powers, or was I simply uninterested in learning what plants actually needed? The truth was un-comfortable but liberating: I hadn’t failed at gardening—I’d never really tried.

My transformation began with curiosity instead of resignation. Instead of assuming I was destined to kill plants, I approached them as living beings worth understanding. I re-searched their needs, paid attention to their signals, and most importantly, I allowed myself to care.

Today, I tend to a Meyer lemon tree, something the old “black thumb” version of me would never have dared attempt. When problems arise (and they do—citrus trees face real chal-lenges from pests and diseases), I no longer catastrophize. I breathe, research, seek help, and follow through. The woman who once killed houseplants now lovingly applies treat-ments to diseased leaves.

If you had told my younger self this story, I wouldn’t have believed you.

The Power of “What If?”

What if our perceived limitations are really reflections of where we’ve placed our interest and attention? What if lack of competence stems more from lack of confidence than lack of ability?

The stories we tell ourselves matter because they become the lens through which we see possibilities. When we believe we’re “bad at something,” we stop trying. When we stop try-ing, we never improve. The story becomes self-fulfilling prophecy.

But stories can be rewritten.

Your Turn to Question the Story

This week, notice the limiting stories you tell yourself. Pick one that matters to you—something that might be holding you back from an opportunity or experience you actually want.

Ask yourself:

- Is this story absolutely true?
- How does believing it serve me?
- What would be possible if I approached this area with curiosity instead of resignation?
- What’s one small step I could take to test this belief?

You don’t have to transform overnight. Start with curiosity. Start with caring. Start with trying.

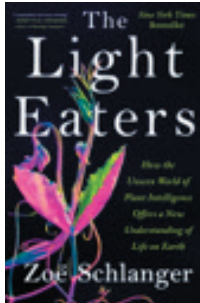
The most beautiful gardens begin with someone willing to plant a single seed, even with uncertain hands.

Lori A. Harris is an Award-winning Integrative Change and Transformational Coach. You can learn more about her at loriaharris.com

ALL THINGS

by Jeff Brown

THE LIGHT EATERS: HOW THE UNSEEN WORLD OF PLANT INTELLIGENCE OFFERS A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE ON EARTH



It takes tremendous biological creativity to be a plant. To survive and thrive while rooted in a single spot, plants have adapted ingenious methods of survival. In recent years, scientists have learned about their ability to communicate, recognize their kin and behave socially, hear sounds, morph their bodies to blend into their surroundings, store useful memories that inform their life cycle, and trick animals into behaving to their benefit—a fascinating display of plant behavior and sensory abilities, to name just a few remarkable talents.

The Light Eaters is a deep immersion into the drama of green life and the complexity of this wild and awe-inspiring world that challenges our very understanding of agency, consciousness, and intelligence. In this captivating exploration of plant intelligence, we see that plants, rather than imitate human intelligence, have perhaps formed a parallel system. What is intelligent life if not a vine that grows leaves to blend into the shrub on which it climbs, a flower that shapes its bloom to fit exactly the beak of its pollinator, a pea seedling that can hear water flowing and make its way toward it? She takes us across the globe, digging into her own memories and into the soil with the scientists who have spent their waking days studying these amazing entities up close.

What can we learn about life on Earth from the living things that thrive, adapt, consume, and accommodate simultaneously? More important, what do we owe these life forms once we come to understand their rich and varied abilities? Examining the latest epiphanies in botanical research, Schlanger spotlights the intellectual struggles among the researchers conceiving a wholly new view of their subject, offering a glimpse of a field in turmoil as plant scientists debate the tenets of ongoing discoveries and how insights into plant communication influence our understanding of what a plant is.

We need plants to survive. But what do they need us for—if at all? An eye-opening and informative look at the ecosystem we live in, this book challenges us to rethink the role of plants—and our own place—in the natural world, tackling the enthralling question of plant consciousness along the way.

Longlisted for the National Book Critics Circle Nonfiction Prize • Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize • Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zoë Schlanger is a staff writer at the Atlantic, where she covers climate change. She previously covered the environment at Quartz and Newsweek. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, the New York Review of Books, Time, NPR, and elsewhere. Schlanger was the recipient of a 2017 National Association of Science Writers reporting award. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

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STUART TOLCHIN



So, who or what am I afraid of or for. Well, there's plenty to go round but let's start with the personal stuff. I am initially afraid that I will not submit this attempt at an article in time to get it published.

Normally, I reserve Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings as the time to create the article and send it off to the editor by 11am Thursday morning.

There have been some time problems this week as my wife and I have been visiting my son every day while he has been in the hospital; but more about that later. This Wednesday morning, I had reserved my regular golf time and there I was on the course this morning. It was already a troublesome day as I felt guilty about playing golf while my son was in the hospital; but my amazingly caring and dutiful daughter was taking time out from her Legal Practice to spend the morning with him.

I should say at this time that playing this round of golf was particularly important to me as I feared it might be my last round. I am 82 years of age and have just survived a bout with Covid and am frankly having trouble getting around the course. Although using the electric cart I was unsteady as I walked from the cart to wherever it was that my ball had last landed. My partner kidded me for playing "bargain golf" by which he meant that I was taking 11 or 12 strokes on par 3 or 4 holes. My phone kept ringing as we played and I noted that the call was coming from Kaiser.

That call seemed important, so I answered. Unfortunately, my hearing aids did not assist me in understanding what the call was about, and I asked the caller to either text or phone my wife and let her know what was going on. When I finally wobbled home, being driven by my golfing partner, I learned that the call was important. A consultant appointment relating to my liver was scheduled for Thursday morning at 10 AM and my wife let me know that the appointment was very important. She wouldn't tell me much more, but I am frightened.

Much like my son, I have been having all sorts of digestive problems, and I am worried that the consulting doctor is going to talk about the need for surgery. My wife reminds me that at my age liver surgery is a very bad and dangerous idea and she strongly recommends it. So, what else can be done? At this point I should talk about what my son is going through. He has previously had two surgeries and on Monday he was transferred from the Nursing Facility to the Kaiser Baldwin Park Hospital.

At Baldwin Park a doctor informed us that "Aaron's life was in danger" and "life saving emergency surgery was required." Do you note those extremely frightening words. After surgery Aaron was returned to the post-operative room and looked at me and said, "Hi Daddy". Those two words were very reassuring. Aaron is being treated and seems much healthier than we ever expected. Life goes on but Aaron seems much more able to interact with us than he was prior to the last procedure. In fact, my wife noted Aaron reassuring a nurse by telling the nurse that Aaron knew the Nurse was trying to do a good job.

I fear I have lost my point, not only am I worried about my son and my medical condition but in addition to everything else we have car problems. Let's move on to what else seems more important. The News reports that all of humanity is being threatened by continuing rivalries within the world of Artificial Intelligence. As the billionaires compete, the rest of humanity is left increasingly vulnerable to the unrestricted power of technology.

I don't really pretend to understand the Science but I am very frightened. What will the future be like for our children and grandchildren. To me, playing golf and creating my weekly articles is part of a routine, almost a ritual that has kept me going since retirement. I fear I will be lost without this ritual and at the same time I am filled with fear for everyone else. I CARE about you and hope that we all CARE for each other. I do hope that I will be able to provide future articles containing hope and positive thoughts. I'll try not to be too afraid. I will do my best.

HOWARD Hays As I See It



"Thank you, President Trump!" – White House response to reporting of no Atlantic hurricanes this season

We have a president found guilty on 34 felony counts (31 more than Al Capone) and liable for sexual assault. Those the administration chooses to do business with, or bring into the family circle, have some pretty troubling rap sheets of their own.

J.J. Cafaro is from a family of shopping mall developers. He pled guilty to federal conspiracy and bribery charges, also to making illegal campaign contributions – bringing thousands of dollars in fines and years on probation. After giving hundreds of thousands to Donald Trump and Trump PACs, a company owned by his investment firm got a \$1.7 million no-bid contract on a system to clean up the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. With millions more in no-bid contracts subsequently awarded to other firms, the pool is still a mess.

Umar Kremlev was a teenage boxer in Russia, later convicted of extortion and battery. He was a member of the pro-Putin nationalist Night Wolves motorcycle gang, engaged in the Russian invasion of Crimea. Kremlev had connections with Healthy Fatherland, a group accused of stealing children from occupied Ukraine and shipping them to Russia for "rehabilitation". He made it up the ranks of Putin's oligarchy, becoming head of the International Boxing Federation. The International Olympic Committee revoked IBF's authority over Olympic boxing – citing ongoing corruption and inability to explain where all their money came from.

Donald Trump Jr.'s wedding last May was followed by a lavish party over two days, taking up two private islands in the Bahamas; islands renting for \$100K a night. There were private jets, helicopters, DJs, banquets, a \$70K fireworks display and guests wondering what was up with that small side-group of guys speaking mostly Russian. Turns out the whole thing was bankrolled by this Umar Kremlev, who supposedly became friends with Don Jr. a couple years earlier through shared interests in boxing and hunting. Brother Eric says he'd never heard of the guy. The President of the United States says he didn't know anything about it (though some speculate it might be why didn't attend his own son's wedding).

Don Jr.'s new bride Bettina Anderson assures, "Generosity doesn't automatically come with an agenda". But Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) notes, "I mean, as we see, these guys are in the pocket of everyone but the American people."

Now we learn about Alejandro Betancourt Lopez - a Venezuelan businessman involved in energy and investments. Through connections with a school buddy, his company scored no-bid contracts on a dozen projects totaling \$5B to address Venezuela's electricity crisis in 2009 – despite his company having no experience in electricity. The group Transparency Venezuela later found projects incomplete or otherwise botched, and that the \$5B charged should have been more like \$2.1B.

Betancourt's businesses expanded from oil in Venezuela to some 50 companies in 16 countries. He's also become an international target of corruption and money laundering investigations. In 2013, our US ambassador to Venezuela filed suit charging Betancourt with paying off Venezuelan officials for oil contracts. Money laundering charges have been led by Swiss prosecutors, with others brought by Spain, Andorra and the United States – with arrest warrants from both Spain and Switzerland. Betancourt now heads a company out of Barbados to exploit Venezuelan oil.

Reports came earlier this month that Secretary of State Marco Rubio pressured those European prosecutors to ease up on Betancourt, and had then-Deputy Attorney General Tod Blanche order Miami prosecutors to drop their own investigation into his money laundering. It turns out this guy dodging years of international investigations - including by our own Justice Department - into bribery, money laundering and corruption, now has a new partner – the United States.

Former National Security Advisor Elliott Abrams wrote, "Trump has allied the government with the most shadowy and repellent Venezuelan businessman he could find. We knew exactly what Betancourt stood for and kept him far away from the U.S. government. No longer." Economist Paul Krugman says it validates "everything the Latin American left has said about U.S. imperialism".

It's hard for guys like this to operate in free and open democracies. So, when we ousted Venezuela's dictator Nicolas Maduro last January, rather than bringing in opposition leaders to set the path towards democratic elections, we instead turned things over to Maduro's number-two – leaving the corrupt dictatorship in place. And, not surprisingly, nobody - neither the Venezuelan people nor our own representatives in D.C. - has been able to find out what's happened with the oil revenue, estimated at \$13 billion through July, generated in the months since Maduro's ouster. Last January, Trump talked about setting up an offshore account in Qatar (?).

Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado makes clear, "The wealth of our land does not belong to an illegitimate regime, it belongs to the Venezuelan people." Her sentiment echoes that heard seventy years ago in Iran, when we overthrew an elected leader to seize control of their oil resources – then for decades sustained a dictatorship to ensure we maintained that control. The legacy of those policies was the ongoing conflict and war we're in now. With what's happening in Venezuela, Trump seems determined to leave a similar legacy for the next generation, as well.

"Thank you, President Trump!"

PUT THE LIGHTS ON

FEAR

RICH JOHNSON



QUOTES AND REALLY DUMB THINGS*

Alright, truth be told, we have all done really dumb "things" in our lives.

Right now, me putting the word "things" into my column title is really dumb. The word should never, ever be written by a really good writer. Really good writers have told me that specifically. I responded promising some day when I'm a really good writer I will not use the word "things". But for this moment in time and the foreseeable future, "things" is or are in my vocabulary.

The word "things" according to Merriam-Webster is defined as: "a versatile noun used to describe physical objects, personal belongings, abstract ideas, or general situation..."

A perfect lead up to my column on dumb choices, mistakes, actions, ideas, stuff... you know really dumb things made by famous people.

When you or I make dumb choices we have a gift celebrities do not have... relative anonymity. Can you imagine for a minute being famous and having every public move you make scrutinized for newsworthy exploitation?

Possibly the most famous dumb quote by a celebrity was committed in 1981. Brooke Shields, possibly said the dumbest thing ever uttered in public when she took part in an anti-smoking campaign. She said, "Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

She didn't say anything wrong. In her case she managed to survive. She actually is a very classy lady.

In 2002 when boxer Mike Tyson was defeated by Lennox Lewis, he told a reporter who asked him what was next for him: "I don't know. I guess I'm gonna fade into Bolivian". Bolivian oblivion, what's the difference?"

By the way, don't ever bring up Mike's really dumb quote because he also said, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." Editor's note: "Yikes!"

Paris Hilton on her reality show "The Simple Life" once asked, "What's Walmart? Do they sell, like wall stuff?"

Mitt Romney, presidential candidate summed it all up: (read slowly): "I believe in an America where millions of Americans believe in an America that's the America millions of Americans believe in." (Got it?)

When Shaquille O'Neal visited Greece he was asked if he visited the Parthenon during his trip. Shaquille O'Neal responded: "I can't really remember the names of the clubs we went to." Nobody said a word.



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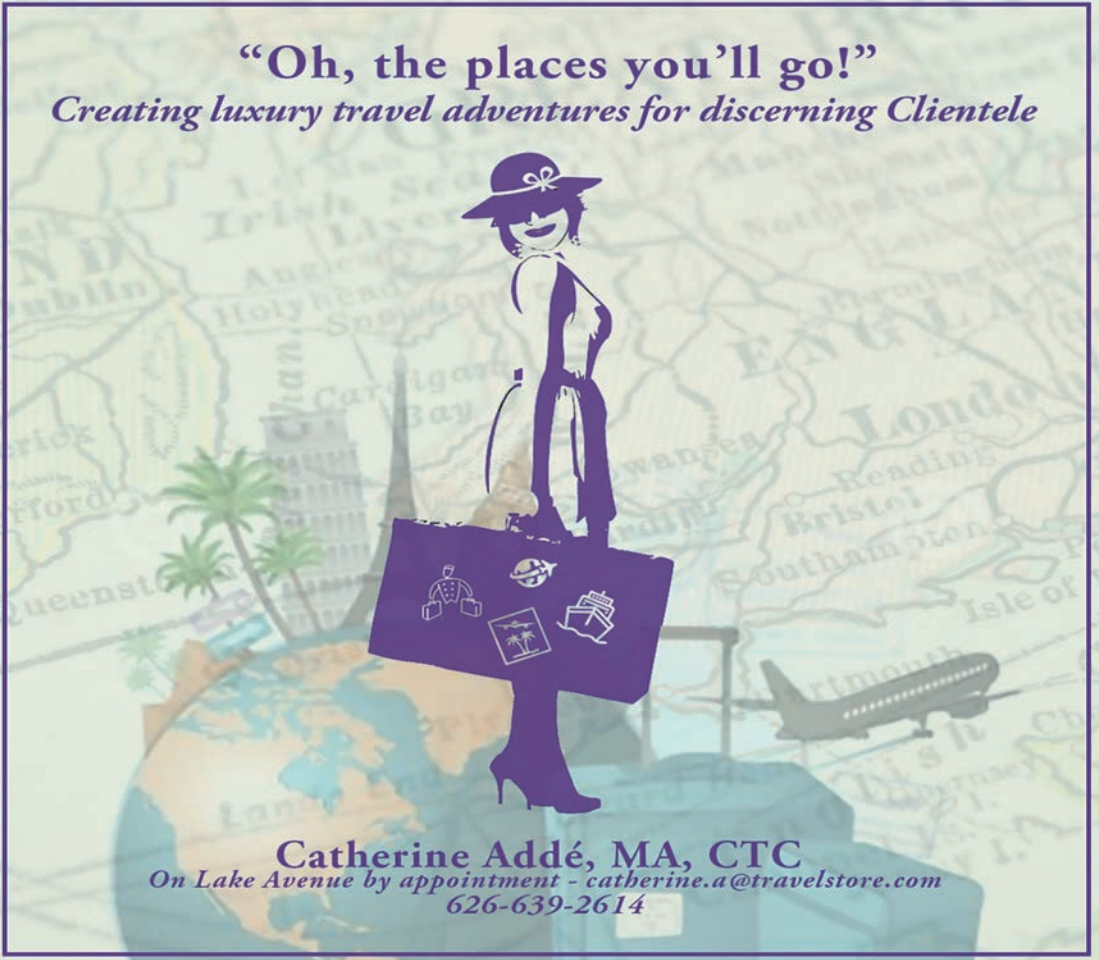
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