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VOLUME 19 NO. 45

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SIERRA MADRE SCHOOLS' PUSD REPORT CARD

*Despite Challenges, PUSD Programs
and Students Still Thrive*

By Kevin McGuire

Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) has undoubtedly had its fair share of challenges in recent years, from a \$71 million deficit looming to cutting over 90 certified positions to declining enrollment. However, they still manage to win awards, rank above average in California in some areas, and produce stellar students, both academically and athletically.

Sierra Madre City Council had a chance to take in many of the accomplishments of PUSD Schools and hear some of the success stories of their students, which are often overshadowed by struggles and bad press the District has endured.

SIERRA MADRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The principal of Sierra Madre Elementary School (SME), Dr. Jodi Marchesso, began the presentation to the City Council during their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. Dr. Marchesso has been in the principal's role since 2022.

According to Marchesso, SME is doubling its Transitional Kindergarten (TK) offerings, expanding the program to two classrooms this year. The TK program is a stepping stone for children who are not old enough for the traditional kindergarten program. The school now serves students from pre-K through 5th grade, with approximately 650 enrolled.

SME will also continue its partnership with the Western Justice Center, whose mission is to empower people to strengthen their communities by building the conflict-resolution skills and capacity of youth, educators, schools, and community partners, according to its website. This will be the 2nd year SME students will be able to participate in the Peer Mediation and Restorative Justice programs.

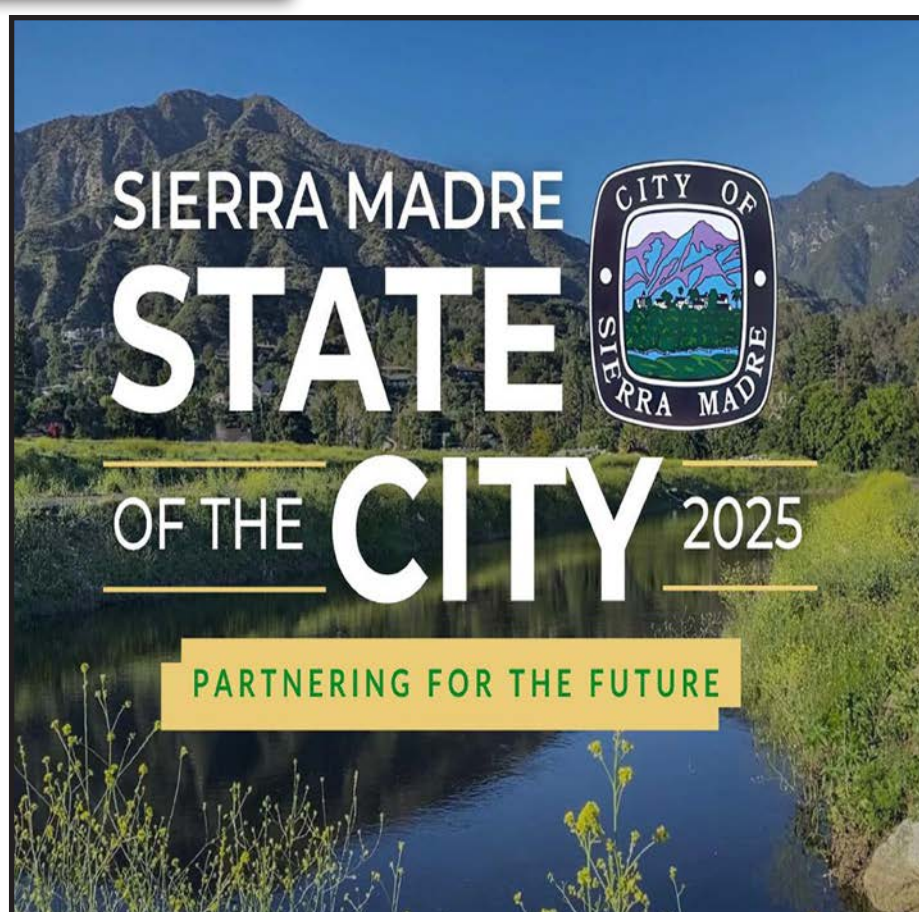
The Peer Mediation Invitational is a "summit that brings together students from across the region in the common pursuit of equity and justice." Restorative Justice is an interactive circle program that teaches the importance of communication, equality, and conflict resolution. Dr. Marchesso stated that these offerings by the Western Justice Center were instrumental in helping students cope with "the trauma that the community experienced in January" as a result of the losses experienced from the Eaton fire.

SME met the highest state standards for Math and English Language Arts (ELA), earning the highest rating of BLUE on the California School's Dashboard. It indicates a school's excellent performance on state measures like academic achievement, chronic absenteeism, and college/career readiness. The color is part of a five-color performance system ranging from blue (highest) to red (lowest), according to the California School's Dashboard website. As a result of its achievements, SME was recognized by the California Department of Education as a "Distinguished School" in 2025, an honor SME also received in 2023.

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Wednesday, November 5, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Memorial Park Bandshell
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd

Special Guest Performance by Sierra Madre Elementary School Choir

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SCHOOLS - continued from page 1

Dr. Marchesso thanked the City Council for listening to the school's and the public's concerns about adding a crossing guard, following several parent complaints to the City regarding dangerous driving near the school, especially at the intersection of Highland and Auburn Avenues, as covered in the September 13, 2025, issue of the Mountain Views News.

SIERRA MADRE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Garrett Newsom presented an update on Sierra Madre Middle School (SMMS), where he has served as principal since 2011 and is celebrating his 20th year at the school. Newsom highlighted the excellent growth SMMS students have had in both Reading and Math Assessments. Student growth was 189% in Reading and 175% in Math, the largest growth rates among any school in the district. PUSD Rotary Club has presented the "Teacher of Excellence" award to a SMMS teacher for three consecutive years. This year's recipient is History teacher, Lisabet Nepf.

The Middle School competed in the Math Field Day at the County level, the Science Olympiad at the State level, and History Day at the National level. SMMS also continues to work with the Western Justice Center for the second year in the Peer Mediation program.

Principal Newsom also touted some alumni successes during his presentation, including Katia Kelejian (Class of 2011), who is now managing a Chase Bank in Arcadia, and two other former students have returned to SMMS as a counselor and a teacher's aide. A third has signed his letter of intent to play basketball for Texas A&M (all unnamed). "Once a Hawk, always a Hawk," Newsom noted.

PUSD HIGH SCHOOLS

PUSD Chief Academic Officer Helen Chan Hill, Ed.D., gave an overview of PUSD Comprehensive High School options and offerings for parents to consider to make the transition to higher education as smooth as possible. Those include:

- Blair - Health Careers
- Marshall- Academy of Creative Industries
- Muir- Arts Media & Entertainment; Business & Entrepreneurship with Sports Management; Engineering & Environmental Studies
- Pasadena (PHS)- Development Technologies; Law & Public Service; Visual & Design; Graphic Communications.

In addition, there is the Center for Independent Study for students who seek individualized, customized pathways. "At every one of these schools, we have robust academics, lots of extracurricular options, and lots of family engagement opportunities and clubs for students. This is really where they are building their identities," Hill said.

Hill honed in on three "very special and unique things, unlike any other High Schools in our region." One, as Principal Newsom stated, is having PUSD students compete at the college level in athletics. Hill noted the importance of positioning students well for their careers or for college. Secondly, in Performance Arts, Hill praised the success of the All-Star Band, a 120-member ensemble that encompasses students from all four High Schools. Hill gave high praise to Karen Anderson, the Arts & Enrichment Coordinator for PUSD. "She has helped hone and build this program," Hill stated. The whole nation will get to see the All-Star Band perform during the 2027 Rose Parade. In addition, the All-Star Musical was performed at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The performances bring together all students, whether they are performing, working on stage sets, costumes, or part of the orchestra. The All-Star Musical started in 2023 with a production of "Into the Woods," and this year they put on a teen-themed production of "Hedestown."

Thirdly, Hill emphasized the College Career Academies and Internships, another unique feature of PUSD High Schools. In partnership with the Linked Learning Alliance, students take courses in their area of interest and can connect with industry partners, building networks. As a result, students can work with mentors who can offer them jobs, according to Hill. There is also the Think Tank & Assembly, whose mission is "to create and sustain a safe space for students to connect across campuses and provide multiple platforms through which they can share their stories and advocate for student representation in district decision-making structures," according to the PUSD website.

PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL

One of the newest members of the PUSD team is Eric Barba, Ed.D., who was announced as the new principal of Pasadena High School (PHS) in 2024. Barba highlighted some of PHS's signature programs, which include:

- Law and Public Service Academy
- Creative Arts Media and Design Academy
- Visual and Design Academy
- Graphic Communications Academy
- Dev Tech (formerly APP) Academy
- Advanced Placement (AP)- 23 Classes Offered
- French and Mandarin Dual Language Immersion
- Math Academy
- Pasadena Community College Classes on Campus (both during and after school).
- HIST 081- Mexican & American History
- ART 008- Mexican & Chicano History
- COMM 1000- Intro to Public Speaking
- ENGL 001A- Academic Reading & Writing (online)
- MUSC 021- Music Appreciation
- FIRE 001- Principles of Emergency Services
- KINT 005- First Aid Responding to Emergencies

Barba boasted that five current seniors qualified as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The seniors were selected based on their performance on the 2024 PSAT/NMSQT. Less than one percent of high school seniors nationwide qualify as semifinalists, according to Barba, and last year, two seniors qualified and one went on to win the scholarship. "We really have brilliant students at PHS," Barba stated.

Barba also emphasized the strength of the drama program and the renovations done to the Franco Black Box Theater, with more to come in the following year, and invited everyone to attend the presentation of "Clue" on November 5th, 6th, and 7th.

For more information about PUSD schools or to schedule a tour, please visit www.pusd.us.

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TAKE A WALK THROUGH HISTORY AND HONOR SIERRA MADRE VETERANS!
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 MEMORIAL PARK, SIERRA MADRE
9:00 am to 5:00 pm



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6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 50s
Mon:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 18, 2025 5:30 pm

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

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

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

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at foothillsmmedia.org/sier-ramadre and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum)..

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

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

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

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

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



Sierra Madre Public
LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

November 3 — November 8

Monday

Baby Rhyme Time — Library at 9:00am

Preschool Storytime — Library at 10:00am

Wednesday

Stitch & Share— Hart Park House at 5:30pm

Saturday

Sensory Play— Library from 9:00am— 9:30am. Registration required.

Sip & Shush— RT Rogers from 6:30pm—7:30pm. Registration requested.

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REMEMBRANCE

GEORGE EUGENE KOCH

George Eugene Koch, aged 95, passed away peacefully, Sunday, October 12, 2025, in his Sierra Madre home with his nurse practitioner, Renee Rillorta by his side.

George was born in Burbank on March 1, 1930 five months after the stock market crash of 1929. He was a true child of the Depression.

He grew up in Las Vegas along with the City. As a young teen, he had a job shining shoes, accidentally shining a pair of suede shoes. They belonged to Bugsy Seigel who shrugged it off with a, "kidn it is ok, everyone makes mistakes."

He graduated from UCLA with a business degree and quickly joined the Navy in the final states of the Korean Conflict. There he flew jets, but loved the regiment. Everything taken care of, his paychecks going straight into his savings account.

That saving habit would leave a legacy for his children and their children, as it gave him the means to buy a house on Grandview in Sierra Madre in 1958.

Married to Margarent Florence Lawlor for 67 years, they had three children, Denise, Traci and John. Marge preceded George in death in March of 2023.

He loved everything about money, saving it, investing it, talking about it. He even buried some of it in his backyard, no joke. He also love California sports: Dodgers, Lakers, Bruins, Shoemake, Native Diver, 52 bets at Santa Anita, always to show.

But mostly he loved his family, children and grandchildren, always with a graceful humor. He was a listener in a home full of talkers, always kind, gracious and nice.

George was also an insurance underwriting Supervisor for Allstate in Pasadena for 20 years.

He is survived by his children, Denise, Traci and John and his six grandchildren, Meg, Jo, Samantha, Melanie, Kameron and Lauren. And Renee, who served both Marge and George for five years, a treasured member of the family.



WALKING SIERRA MADRE

The Social Side by Deanne Davis

"No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds... November!" Thomas Hood

"I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself than be crowded on a velvet cushion." Henry David Thoreau

"Some say Fall is the season when the leaves change. I say it's the season when my sweat pants never change." Katie Nicole Felton

"In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in a single morning." Cynthia Rylant

Today, November 1st, is the start of the holiday season. Yes, it is. Like it or not, we need to start planning all we need to do, want to do, don't want to do, for the next two months; because, December will follow November way quicker than we wish it would. So, what are we doing for Thanksgiving? Set that aside for the moment and move right into December. Make your gift list, friends and neighbors, and open up Amazon! My granddaughter, Jessie, will be 18 on November 16th. I have already hit Amazon hard for three pair of leggings, two really cute shirts and four books. As soon as all this arrives, I'll get out my gift bags and tissue paper and all I'll need is a card.

November abounds with birthdays: Daughter Leah, Son-in-law, Dave, Granddaughter Emily (the other Emily, not the one who lives up the street from me) and Amazon will be my go-to for these dear people, too.

This week my major goal is to remove and pack up the Halloween stuff that is all over my house. I'll leave the glass pumpkins but everything that looks like a jack-o-lantern has to go. We're all still picking up candy wrappers from Halloween, which was such a glorious time and Sierra Madre was even more outstanding this year than ever. We truly are Halloween City! The picture this week is one last totally sentimental goodbye to Halloween.

As you'll recall, in last week's Walking Sierra Madre I promised I would pass along Emma Gainsworth's prize winning Giant Pumpkin Cookie recipe. This being the one that brought her enough contest winnings to get out of her little shack in the pumpkin patch and attend the Culinary Institute of America in New York. You'll enjoy this recipe as it makes a lot of cookies, they are delicious and are splendid gift items.

GIANT PUMPKIN COOKIES

3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2-1/2 cups old fashioned oats (not instant)
1-3/4 tsp. baking soda
1-1/2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon (generous)
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/4 tsp. ground cloves

Combine all the above in a big bowl. Use your electric mixer to blend the following and then gradually add the flour mixture:

3-1/2 sticks butter, softened
1-3/4 cups white sugar
1-3/4 cups packed brown sugar
1 (15 oz) can Libby's 100% pure pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)
2 large eggs
1-3/4 tsp. vanilla extract

Stir in as many pecans, walnuts, dried cranberries or raisins as you'd like to have. This dough is happier and makes better cookies for you if you chill it overnight and then bake.

Drop 1/4 cup dough for each cookie onto greased baking sheet...remember these are GIANT Pumpkin Cookies! Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 14-16 minutes or until firm and lightly browned. Cool...Enjoy.

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis
There are treasures there! Trust me!
Including "Just Desserts" A Fall Fantasy of Pumpkins
"A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter"
Is also there, Loaded with Pumpkin Goodies!



Sierra Madre Woman's Club

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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Pasadena to Host Veterans Day Ceremony



The City of Pasadena's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is set to hold its annual Veterans Day Celebration at Pasadena City Hall.

City officials said, "This year's celebration is especially significant as it coincides with the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps."

Koko Panossian, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, reported this year's program will be led by Former Mayor William Paparian, serving as Master of Ceremonies. Paparian is a Captain (CA) Judge Advocate in the California State Guard. The keynote speaker is Associate Justice Eileen Moore, a decorated combat nurse who served in Vietnam with the Army Nurse Corps. Her honors include the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

In addition to our honored speakers, attendees can enjoy:

- Complimentary hot dogs served by Pasadena Fire Fighters Local 809

- Family-friendly activities and exhibits curated by Martin Severance Chapter, NSDAR
- Informational booths from the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, American Legion Posts 13 & 280, and the Rose Bowl Stadium

- A special flyover by the Condor Squadron at 11:11 a.m.

The program begins promptly at 10:30 a.m. and all are welcome.

Pasadena city hall is located 100 N. Garfield Ave.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net.

City Electric Vehicle Charging Fee Update

General Manager of Water and Power, David Reyes, announced Thursday in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2026 General Fee Schedule adopted by the City Council on June 16, Pasadena Water and Power ("PWP") will implement updated electric vehicle ("EV") charging rates at all City-owned Power Up Pasadena charging stations. Effective November 12 the new rates will be:

- \$0.25 per kilowatt-hour ("kWh") during off-peak hours
- \$0.30 per kWh during peak-hours (3 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

PWP is currently conducting a comprehensive electric rate study, which is expected to conclude in early 2026. The study will provide further recommendations for City Council consideration.

For more information about PWP's EV programs visit PWPweb.com.



Tournament Crowns Rose Queen Serena Guo

The Pasadena Tournament of Rose named Serena Guo as the 107th Rose Queen at the Announcement and Coronation ceremony. Tournament of Roses President Mark Leavens made the announcement Monday afternoon on the front steps of Tournament House in Pasadena.

According to Tournament officials Guo is a senior at Arcadia High School and lives in Arcadia. She is captain of the Congressional Debate Team, a member of the Arcadia Speech and Debate Team, and part of the Arcadia Varsity Volleyball Team. Serena serves as a school site leadership representative, student tutor and community volunteer at the Arcadia Public Library and Foothill Unity Center. She has also participated in legislative conferences advocating directly with state representatives. Passionate about law and public policy, Serena previously interned at a law firm to gain hands-on experience and hopes to pursue a career in law. She enjoys training pets, drawing, crocheting, and relaxing with a good Netflix show. Serena plans to study public policy with a minor in biomedical engineering at Stanford University, the University of Southern California or UC Berkeley. She is the daughter of Hui Zhou and Wei Guo and has

a younger sister, Alyssa.

The Rose Queen and Rose Court are cherished traditions of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, dating back to 1905, when Hallie Woods was selected as the first Rose Queen to ride in a horse-drawn carriage down Colorado Blvd. in the Rose Parade. From designing and making their own dresses in the early years to today's elegant gowns, the Rose Queen and Court have flourished over the decades, becoming a timeless symbol of Southern California's spirit and pride. The seven young ladies highlight the magic of teamwork, diversity and community spirit that define the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. Exemplifying leadership, integrity and service as they represent the organization throughout the year Tournament officials said.

During the coronation ceremony, Leavens crowned Rose Queen Serena Guo with a Mikimoto crown featuring more than 600 cultured pearls and six carats of diamonds (pictured).

The 2026 Rose Queen and the 2026 Rose Court will attend numerous community and media functions, serving as ambassadors of the Tournament of Roses, the Pasadena community, and the greater Los Angeles area. Each Rose Court

member will receive a \$7,500 educational scholarship from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses.

Photo by D.Lee/MVNews

Meeting for Brookside Stormwater Capture Project

The City of Pasadena, as the lead agency, announced they are holding a Public Information Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the La Casita Del Arroyo, to highlight and discuss the environmental process for the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project (Project) and seek input from the meeting attendees on the scope of issues the IS/MND should address.

Residents are encouraged to join City staff and the consultants for an opportunity to:

- Attend a presentation providing an update on the Project and next steps for implementation.
- Discuss the process for the California Environmental Quality Act's (CEQA's) IS/MND document.
- Connect with staff and Project team to discuss how the Project provides a comprehensive stormwater capture and treatment at the project site.

The Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project is proposed within the Rose Bowl Lot I parking lot, southeast of the intersection of Seco St. and North Arroyo Blvd., at 360 N. Arroyo Blvd. The Project aims to improve water quality by capturing and treating stormwater and dry weather runoff from the northwest portion of the City into a subsurface infiltration gallery while bringing community-focused improvements through above ground features. The Project will address critical water quality compliance goals in the Arroyo Seco and Los Angeles River and increase water supply for the City of Pasadena's Raymond Basin.

The La Casita Del Arroyo, is located 177 S. Arroyo Blvd.

For more information visit: bit.ly/BrooksideParkProject or contact the Stormwater Program Administrator at SWAdministrator@cityofpasadena.net.

South Pasadena's Annual Breakfast with Santa Returns



The South Pasadena Community Services Department is spreading holiday cheer as they announced Thursday the beloved annual Breakfast with Santa event on December 13, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the War Memorial Building. Ticket went on sale this morning.

City officials are inviting families to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast, festive entertainment, holiday crafts, and a chance to snap their own photo with Santa Claus. "It's the perfect way to kick off the season and make lasting memories with family

and friends."

Advanced registration is required, and all sales are final. Tickets are \$24 per person, while children ages 2 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased online at www.southpasadenaca.gov/ events.

Space is limited, and tickets sell quickly they advised.

For more information, please contact the Community Services Department at (626) 403-7380 or email specialevents@southpasadenaca.gov.

For more information about the City of South Pasadena, visit: southpasadenaca.gov.

Pasadena Playhouse Jingle & Mingle Holiday Celebration

Producing Artistic Director of Pasadena Playhouse, Danny Feldman, announced Thursday a holiday celebration for the community, Jingle & Mingle on Saturday, December 13. The event will be a festive, campus-wide community celebration transforming every corner of the theater into a joyful holiday experience. Guests of all ages can attend performances, make crafts, sing along, explore behind the scenes tours, and take family photos under the Playhouse's Christmas tree.

The artistic centerpiece of the day will be two ticketed performances given on the Playhouse Mainstage (a 1:00 PM Matinee and a 5:00 PM Evening Performance) featuring the Pasadena community—blending music, storytelling, and guest appearances as well as performances from the Playhouse's robust education programs. As Feldman recently relayed to the Los Angeles Times, "When we were making the bold choice of purchasing back this building, it wasn't just about restoring an old theater." Jingle & Mingle is

a celebration of community and a moment to come together in support of the arts.

Attendees can purchase \$15 tickets for either of the Holiday Concerts (1:00 PM or 5:00 PM) and/or RSVP for the FREE campus-wide Holiday Open House from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, which will feature tours, holiday crafts, family photo ops, and more. Jingle & Mingle will culminate in a grand-finale tree-lighting and snow moment in the historic Courtyard following the 5:00 PM performance. Tickets and RSVP information for all Jingle & Mingle activities are available now at pasadenaplayhouse.org/event/jingle-mingle.

Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the most prolific theaters in the country. The Playhouse has staged thousands of original productions since its founding in 1917 including premieres of works by Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Gloria Calderon Kellett and hundreds more.



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CLOSED SUNDAYS - JUNE THROUGH DECEMBER

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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

NEWS BRIEFS

ROSEBOWL LAWSUIT

PASADENA (CNS) - The city of Pasadena announced today it has filed a lawsuit that aims to hold UCLA to its lease agreement to play its home football games at the Rose Bowl, with the university believed to be exploring a possible move to SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.

"On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, the city of Pasadena took the unfortunate but necessary step of filing a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court to enforce a lease agreement between the Rose Bowl Stadium and UCLA," according to a statement from the city. "That lease agreement is unambiguous, explicitly stating there is no option for UCLA to terminate the lease prior to its expiration in 2044."

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

LA County Educators Named Among 2026 CA Teachers of the Year

Two Los Angeles County educators were among the five 2026 California Teachers of the Year announced Friday.

"These extraordinary educators represent the very best of our public schools and remind us that great teaching can change lives and strengthen entire school communities," state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said in a statement.

The 2026 California Teachers of the Year from L.A. County are: --Rene Romero, an 11th- and 12th-grade International Baccalaureate Language and Literature teacher at South Hills High School in the Covina Valley Unified School District. State officials said Romero "uses his own background as an English Learner from East Los Angeles to make sure that his classroom is an inclusive and supportive environment."

-- Heather Povinelli, a second-grade teacher at Bradoaks Elementary Science Academy in the Monrovia Unified School District. "As someone who has dwarfism, Dr. Povinelli uses her own disability as an opportunity to teach students about inclusion, equity, and belief in oneself," according to the state. "Through her doctoral research, Dr. Povinelli has highlighted specific strategies and practices used by dwarf teachers that can be applied by any teacher to more effectively reach every child."

The three other California Teachers of the Year are April Raguindin, a first-grade teacher at Dr. Douglas K. Fletcher Elementary School in the Bakersfield City School District in Kern County; Chrizia Dela Rosa, a ninth-grade mathematics teacher at Piedmont Hills High School in the East Side Union High School District in Santa Clara County; and Corina Martinez, a kindergarten teacher at Pioneer Elementary School in the Escondido Union School District in San Diego County.

Thurmond nominated Raguindin as California's representative for the National Teacher of the Year competition. She will compete against other state nominees, and the 2026 National Teacher of the Year will be announced in the spring.

The Teachers of the Year Program began in 1972 to honor outstanding educators and encourage others to enter the profession.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

Los Angeles County has released a list of services available to residents who may be affected by the ongoing federal government shutdown. Programs remain active across several departments, ensuring support for individuals, families, and pets throughout this period.

CalFresh & WIC: CalFresh benefits may experience delays, but recipients are encouraged to continue submitting required reports and renewals to avoid disruption. All California WIC offices remain open; furloughed or unpaid workers who are pregnant or have children under five are encouraged to apply online.

Food Assistance: More than 900 food pantries are available countywide through the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Visit the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank online or call 2-1-1 to find nearby locations. Free meal programs are also available for teens, youth, and seniors through County Parks.

Veterans Services: The County's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs offices remain open to assist veterans and their families. For help, call (877) 452-8387 or visit the Veteran's Services website.

Housing Assistance: Residents with housing concerns related to the shutdown can contact the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at (800) 593-8222 or visit their website for more information.

Aging & Disabilities: Seniors over 60 may qualify for free meals at local senior centers. For assistance, call the Information and Assistance Line at (800) 510-2020.

Pet Assistance: Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control offers support for pet owners in unincorporated areas and contract cities. Donations of pet food are also welcome at all County Animal Care Centers.

For additional resources and information, please dial 2-1-1 or visit the 2-1-1LA website.

THANK YOU SIERRA MADRE SEARCH AND RESCUE!



Last week the nation celebrated National First Responders Day and honored the dedication, skill, and sacrifice of first responders everywhere — including our own Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team volunteers.

For 74 years, SMSR has answered the call 24/7 to go anywhere in the wilderness someone needs help. In doing so, we're proud to work with our fellow first responders across Los Angeles County and beyond.

To our teammates past and present, and to all who serve on the front lines of emergencies — thank you for your commitment, courage, and compassion

In the photo above, the Team recently purchased 20 new fire shelters. These shelters are heat-reflective tents and are a lifesaving last resort if a member finds themselves overcome by flames and radiant heat during a wildland fire. Part of the SMSR's capability is to assist with search and evacuations during fire events, so these shelters are a vital safety tool.

Funding for this project was made possible with a grant in partnership with the California Fire Foundation.

MVN News/Photo courtesy SMSR

DEPUTY ART VALENZUELA RECOGNIZED WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Deputy Art Valenzuela has brought a unique perspective to his job in the City of Duarte. His former commander, Joe Fennell, shared that when Joe was assigned to their station, his perspective was one of "clean things up - arrest them".

Deputy Valenzuela listened, and then explained what resources were needed to begin to prevent youth crime in the first place. With Art's help and the DART (Duarte Area Resource Team) focusing on community outreach to kids in need, the juvenile arrest rate in Duarte has dropped 96% during Art's tenure of over 20 years.

Art was recognized with a Community Service Award from the Duarte Kiwanis Club at their annual Installation Dinner. Pictured from left – MIT Principal, Kevin Morris, City of Duarte Crime Specialist, Duarte Kiwanis President, Mercedes Ruiz, Deputy Art Valenzuela, City of Duarte Youth Program Consultant, Former LASD Commander, Joe Fennell.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com.



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

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

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

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VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 50

STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 4, 2025

The last day to register to vote for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election is October 20, 2025. All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election. Your county elections office began mailing ballots on October 6, 2025. Ballot drop-off locations opened on October 7, 2025. Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail, at a drop-off location, or your county elections office. To make sure your ballot is counted, return it early by mail, drop box, or vote center. If you mail it, do it early — or walk it into the post office and request a postmark. Vote centers open for early in-person voting in all Voter’s Choice Act counties beginning on October 25, 2025. Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 12, 2025.

PROP 50 AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS IN RESPONSE TO TEXAS’ PARTISAN REDISTRICTING. LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. SUMMARY

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature
Requires temporary use of new congressional district maps through 2030. Directs independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to resume enacting congressional district maps in 2031. Establishes policy supporting nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide. Fiscal Impact: One-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars statewide to update election materials to reflect new congressional district maps.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES

A YES vote on this measure means: The state would use new, legislatively drawn congressional district maps starting in 2026. California’s new maps would be used until the California Citizens Redistricting Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

NO

A NO vote on this measure means: Current congressional district maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) would continue to be used in California until the Commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

ARGUMENTS

PRO

Proposition 50—The Election Rigging Response Act—approves temporary, emergency congressional district maps to counter Donald Trump’s scheme to rig next year’s congressional election and reaffirms California’s commitment to independent, nonpartisan redistricting after the next census. Vote Yes on 50 for democracy in all 50 states. Learn more at StopElectionRigging.com.

CON

Prop. 50 was written by politicians, for politicians—dismantling safeguards that keep elections fair, removes requirements to keep local communities together, and eliminates voter protections that ban maps designed to favor political parties. Vote NO to protect fair elections and keep citizens—not politicians—in charge of redistricting.

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

BACKGROUND

U.S. CONGRESS
U.S. Congress. The U.S. Congress is the part of the federal government that makes laws. Congress has two parts: the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives (House). Each of the 50 states is represented by 2 senators, with 100 senators in total. The House has 435 members. The number of representatives in the House for each state depends on how many people live in that state. Each member in the House represents an area of the state called a congressional district. California currently has 52 congressional districts. Voters who live in each congressional district elect one member of the House every two years to represent them. The next election for all 435 representatives will be in 2026.

U.S. Census Counts States’ Populations Every Ten Years. The number of people living in an area goes up and down over time. Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts the number of people who live in the U.S. The last census was in 2020, and the next census is in 2030. This count is used to determine how many people live in each state and how many representatives in the House each state gets for the next ten years.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING
Each State Draws Congressional District Maps Following the U.S. Census. Every ten years, after the U.S. Census is completed, states draw new congressional district maps to reflect their number of House representatives and where people live. This process is called “redistricting.” Each state decides what process to use to draw its new district maps. When drawing new maps, each state must follow federal laws. For example, each congressional district in the state must represent about the same number of people.

States Typically Do Not Redistrict Sooner Than Every Ten Years. States typically only draw congressional district maps every ten years, unless a court orders changes to comply with the law. In August 2025, however, the Texas Legislature passed a bill to adopt new maps for the 2026 elections without a court order. Several other states also are considering changes to their maps before the 2026 elections.

Congressional Redistricting in California. State legislatures draw congressional district maps in most states, but some states use commissions to do this job. Before 2010, the California Legislature drew the state’s congressional district maps. In 2010, California voters gave this job to an independent commission known as the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission). The Commission includes 14 members: 5 Democratic members, 5 Republican members, and 4 members who are not registered with either of those political parties. When the Commission draws new congressional district maps, it must follow federal and state laws. For example, state law requires, among other things, the Commission to avoid splitting up neighborhoods or local communities of interest to the extent possible. State law also prohibits the Commission from considering political parties, current office holders, or people running for office when it draws the maps.

Current California Congressional Districts. The Commission drew the current maps for California’s 52 congressional districts. These maps were based on the 2020 U.S. Census and have been used since the 2022 congressional elections.

PROPOSAL

CALIFORNIA’S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS
Use Legislatively Drawn Congressional District Maps Until After the Next Census. Proposition 50 replaces California’s current congressional district maps with new, legislatively drawn maps. (The total number of districts would not change.) Proposition 50’s maps must follow federal law, but they are not required to follow the state requirements placed on the Commission. The state would use Proposition 50’s maps for congressional elections starting in 2026. The state would use these maps until the Commission draws new district maps, following the 2030 U.S. Census.

NATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING
Call for Change in Federal Law. Proposition 50 asks the U.S. Congress to change federal law and propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to require redistricting be done by “fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide.” Proposition 50 expresses voter support for this idea, but does not change federal law or require any particular action of Congress or the California Legislature.

FISCAL EFFECTS
Minor One-Time Costs to County and State Elections Officials. Counties run elections, and the state oversees them. Because most congressional districts in California would change at least some under the new maps, county and state elections officials would need to update election materials. This would result in one-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars statewide and one-time costs to the state of roughly \$200,000. The state amount is much less than one-tenth of 1 percent (0.1 percent) of the state’s roughly \$220 billion General Fund budget. (The General Fund is the account the state uses to pay for most public services, including education, health care, and prisons.)

CURRENT AND PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS

A description of the census blocks represented by each district in the proposed maps can be found at the following website:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB604

Visit sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/measure-contributions/2025-ballot-measure-contribution-totals for a list of committees primarily formed to support or oppose this measure.

Visit fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html to access the committee’s top 10 contributors.

SOURCE:

California Secretary of State - Elections Information

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 50 TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA’S VOICE AND OUR DEMOCRACY

This Fight Is About Far More Than District Boundaries

Ballots are arriving in mailboxes across Santa Barbara County right now, and with them comes one of the most important decisions Californians will make this year: Whether to approve Proposition 50 and defend the integrity of our democracy.

The stakes could not be higher. Across the country, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are redrawing congressional maps to entrench their power and silence communities like ours. Texas, Florida, and Ohio have already begun unprecedented mid-decade redistricting to seize additional seats in the House of Representatives. These are not routine adjustments based on population changes or court orders — they are blatantly partisan maneuvers designed to rig the game before the 2026 elections.

This fight is about far more than district boundaries. It is about who has power in America and whose voices count.

Trump and congressional Republicans have already shown what they’ll do when they control Washington:

- They denied wildfire relief to California communities after devastating blazes.
- They tried to strip millions of Americans of healthcare.
- They imposed reckless tariffs that raised prices and hurt working families.
- They weaponized immigration raids and terrorized neighborhoods up and down our state.

Now, they’re trying to cement those policies permanently through redistricting. If we allow them to gerrymander their way to a permanent majority, California’s priorities — clean energy, reproductive freedom, worker protections, affordable healthcare — will be on the chopping block.

California has always stood as a beacon of democracy, fairness, and inclusion. But when other states change the rules during the game, refusing to act is not neutrality — it’s surrender. Proposition 50 is California’s answer: a measured, transparent, voter-approved safeguard that ensures our state can protect fair representation in Congress.

What does Prop 50 do?

Prop 50 allows California to redraw our own congressional districts once, outside of the typical timeline — subject to approval by voters in a statewide election. This adjustment would apply only to the 2026, 2028, and 2030 elections. After that, the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission — created by voters and widely respected for its fairness — would resume its full duties following the next Census.

The measure does not eliminate or weaken the independent commission. Instead, it recognizes that we are living in a new and dangerous era of election manipulation. Prop 50 preserves the commission’s work while allowing California to defend itself when others break faith with democracy. Furthermore, Prop 50 calls on Congress to adopt a nationwide requirement for independent redistricting systems.

Prop 50 restores balance. It ensures that if Trump-aligned governors redraw lines to create more safe Republican seats, California can respond in kind — within the law, transparently, and with voter oversight. Critics claim Proposition 50 “overturns the will of the voters” who created the independent commission. That’s false. Prop 50 does not abolish the commission. It temporarily empowers voters themselves to approve a fair congressional map in our present extraordinary circumstances.

The commission will continue to exist, and its principles — transparency, fairness, diversity, and compliance with the Voting Rights Act — remain intact. The maps created under Prop 50 must still meet the same legal and ethical standards that guide the commission today.

Democracy depends on checks and balances — not on congressional and judicial acquiescence to a rogue president. Prop 50 is about maintaining that balance.

Why is it our job to fight back?

From civil rights to climate policy, California has never waited for Washington to act. We lead because we must.

Our state pioneered mail-in voting, automatic voter registration, and nonpartisan redistricting. Prop 50 is in that same spirit — a proactive step to safeguard our representation and strengthen democracy when it’s under direct attack.

The measure also reaffirms California’s support for independent redistricting nationwide and for full transparency in any future process. It contains a sunset clause ensuring that after 2030, the independent commission resumes control of redistricting.

In short: this is a one-time, voter-approved measure to protect fairness, not to undermine it.
What do we need to do?
This is a moment for resolve. California’s values — our diversity, our compassion, our commitment to fairness — are all under siege. Trump and his allies are redrawing the map of America to silence us. Proposition 50 gives us a lawful, democratic way to fight back.

So here’s what we’re asking you to do:
1) Check your mailbox for your ballot.
2) Vote YES on Proposition 50 and sign your envelope.



PROTECTING KIDS’ MENTAL HEALTH THIS SCHOOL YEAR

(StatePoint) From schoolwork and homework to friendships and extracurriculars to potentially dealing with difficult situations like bullying, there is a lot for kids to navigate during the school year.

Fortunately, efforts are being made to provide tools that help protect kids’ mental health—and parents and teachers can be proactive about getting involved.

Preventing Bullying

Bullying is a direct cause of mental health issues and can be one of the major stressors kids face both at school and after hours due to the rise in cyberbullying. It’s important that children treat each other with compassion, as unkind words and actions can have devastating effects on the long-term wellbeing of classmates.

Celebrating 10 years, Pilot Pen’s “Erase Bullying for Good” initiative helps students, parents and teachers understand and stop bullying. Sales from Pilot’s FriXion Clicker erasable gel pens support STOMP Out Bullying, the nation’s leading nonprofit dedicated to this issue. In fact, Pilot’s contributions to anti-bullying organizations between 2015-2025 will equal over \$650,000, helping fund a variety of initiatives that are making communities a safer place for students.

The campaign recommends these tips to help erase bullying before it starts at your child’s school:

- Advocate for the adoption of bullying prevention programs. This might include special teacher and faculty training, peer mentoring and “Bullying Boxes,” where students can file anonymous reports of bullying.
- Institute wellness rooms, which are safe spaces where students experiencing distress can retreat and relax.
- Ensure your school actively celebrates both diversity and differences, and that all students are respected and valued. Establish programs that teach empathy, tolerance, kindness, acceptance and conflict resolution.
- Ask your school to establish internet use guidelines to educate students and help stop after-hours cyberbullying.
- Teach kids about the difference between being a bystander – someone who watches bullying happen – and being an upstander – someone who intervenes when bullying is taking place. Encourage them to be an upstander when it feels safe to do so and to report bullying when they witness it.

If you’re experiencing bullying, or if you have a friend, child or student who is, lean on resources designed to help. Pilot’s “Erase Bullying for Good” campaign and STOMP Out Bullying provide tools to help you react effectively to bullying when it happens and learn what to do next. To access these resources, visit powertotheopen.com/erase-bullying.

Navigating Emotions

It’s easy for students to get overwhelmed by the demands of their classes. Be sure that kids have the time and space outside of schoolwork to have fun, cultivate friendships and practice self-care.

Encourage hobbies like exercise, meditation, team sports and outlets for their creative expression like journaling, drawing and music. These activities can help kids build self-confidence and manage relationships; skills they need to be resilient in the face of stressful situations.

Parents can help by establishing open lines of communication and equipping kids with tools that can encourage them to express themselves more freely and help eliminate some homework-related frustration. FriXion erasable pens made with thermo-sensitive ink technology write smoothly and erase cleanly, giving students the power to write, erase and rewrite anything from term papers to poetry, without tedious rewrites and with less stress.

Cultivating kindness and compassion in communities and giving kids the tools they need to build their self-confidence helps protect students’ mental health and helps ensure everyone has a safe, healthy and successful school year.

PUZZLES FOR YOU

CROSSWORD

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NORTH & SOUTH POLES

- ACROSS

1. Impromptu (2 words)

6. Chop

9. Little bit, in Cancun

13. Luffa, alt. sp.

14. The day before

15. Rn, a health hazard

16. Surveyor’s maps

17. Black gunk

18. Run off, as in couple

19. *Mount ____, Earth’s southernmost active volcano

21. *Antarctica - world’s largest ____

23. A Bobbsey twin

24. Not to be broken?

25. Eyeball shape

28. Minimal distortion

30. *Polar bear, a ____ mammal

35. Goldfish or koi

37. Memorial Day solo

39. Red-dot pointer, e.g.

40. Purse to match a gown

41. *Amundsen-____ South Pole Station

43. Hipbones

44. Letter H, phonetically speaking

46. Biblical twin

47. Frog delicacy

48. Intellectual

50. Novice or beginner

52. Café alternative

53. You, in bygone era

55. Ciao, in the U.S.

57. *____ Nast, imagined Santa at North Pole

60. *The largest lake near South Pole

63. Hotel room option

64. *Barents or Laptev

66. Blackfin and bluefin

68. Remove location from digital map

69. Paul Simon’s former partner

70. Swelling

71. Monster’s loch

72. An affirmative

73. Button on electrical outlet
- DOWN

1. Mountain peak

2. Pineapple producer

3. Gray-haired

4. As a rule

5. The Clash: “Rock the ____”

6. Answer to “Shall we?” ____

7. Female gametes

8. Lost, in Marseille

9. Opposite of sun-kissed

10. Deodorant’s target

11. Native Egyptian, in Roman times

12. *How many sunsets in a year on either pole?

15. Close again, as in envelope

20. Yards and miles, e.g.

22. “Slippery” tree

24. Quick and clever reply

25. *North Pole “base”

26. Fraction, e.g.

27. Beastly person

29. Front of the head

31. Not top-shelf

32. Part of archipelago

33. Sound like Secretariat

34. Clear the whiteboard

36. Ancient Briton

38. Dog command

42. Supercharger

45. Glen Powell’s 2023 role, pl. (2 words)

49. Cuban dance step

51. Half-shell delicacy

54. English homework

56. Chopin’s composition

57. Ad jingle, e.g.

58. Shakira’s don’t lie

59. Milo’s adventurous canine friend

60. Giant kettles

61. Change for a five

62. Glacier’s deposit

63. *Midnight ____, opposite of polar night

65. Old-fashioned “before”

67. Aptitude test, acr.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy

200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

(626) 355-3463

Head of School: Joanne Harabedian

E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org

Arcadia Christian School

1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006

Preschool - TK - 8th Grade

626-574-8229/626-574-0805

Email: inquiry@acslions.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

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,

(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke

E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School

Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal

2660 East Orange Grove Blvd.

Pasadena, Ca 91107

626-793-2089

<https://school.abvmpasadena.org/>

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007

(626) 446-5588

Head of School: Tonya Beilstein

Kindergarten - 8th grade

website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School

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

(626) 355-3527

Preschool-TK-8th Grade

Principal: Jonathan Hawes

website: www.bcslions.org

Clairbourn School

8400 Huntington Drive

San Gabriel, CA 91775

Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172

FAX: 626-286-1528

E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy

822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010

(626) 301-9809

Principal: Nancy Lopez

www.foothilloaksacademy.org

office@foothilloaksacademy.org

Frostig School

971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107

(626) 791-1255

Head of School: Jenny Janetzke

Email: jenny@frostig.org

The Gooden School

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

(626) 355-2410

Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner

website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road

Pasadena, Ca. 91107

Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989

website: www.highpointacademy.org

La Salle College Preparatory

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.

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

Principal Ernest Siy

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016

(626) 471-2800 Principal: Darvin Jackson

Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Odyssey Charter School

725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001

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

website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.

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

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Principal: Jon McMaster (626) 355-6114

mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org

Website: www.st-ritaschool.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

(626) 355-1428

Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso

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

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom

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

Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd

Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166

www.waldenschool.net

Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107

(626) 797-0204

Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107

(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln

E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109

(626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us

Arcadia Unified School District

234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007

(626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net

Monrovia Unified School District

325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016

(626) 471-2000

Website: www.monroviaschools.net

Duarte Unified School District

1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010

(626)599-5000

Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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COMFORT FOOD, CALIFORNIA STYLE

By Peter Dills, L.A.'s King of Cuisine

As the San Gabriels wait for the snow (we hope) and the streets of Sierra Madre, Pasadena, and the surrounding cities finally cool down, November rolls in with its own rhythm. Halloween is a memory, Oktoberfest is behind us, and the holiday season is slowly knocking. But before you brace yourself for the sticker shock that often comes with hotel Thanksgiving dinners, let's talk about something I like to call California Comfort Food Season.

In the Elmer household, we rarely celebrated holidays right on schedule. My dad was often on assignment, traveling, or just busy. So Thanksgiving or Christmas might have happened a day early—or a day late. To us, it never mattered. We learned that a holiday isn't about the date; it's about the meal, the company, and a sense of calm that only comes when you aren't fighting crowds or paying \$100 for a plate of turkey. I've said it before and I'll say it again: if you can celebrate early (or late), do it. Less traffic, less stress, more joy.

Now that we've settled into comfort-food season, here are a few local favorites offering that familiar warmth of turkey and trimmings—without the mega-resort markup.

PLATE 38 – EAST PASADENA

While they won't be open on Thanksgiving Day, Plate 38 has rolled out a delicious Turkey Pot Pie through the holiday season. It's flaky, hearty, and filled with all the flavors we associate with the big day. Perfect for those who'd rather get their Thanksgiving fix early—or twice.

TWOHEY'S – SOUTH PASADENA

The pride of South Pasadena, Twohey's is once again stepping up for the holiday season with Thanksgiving Family Meals to go. Whether you don't want to cook all day or just need a little help rounding out your table, Twohey's has you covered. Expect all the classics—turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and of course, their famous gravy. Order early; this local favorite always sells out fast.

SMITTY'S GRILL – SOUTH LAKE, PASADENA

Smitty's knows how to make traditional American food shine. Their roast-turkey-style plates, when offered, come with all the comforting sides you crave. The atmosphere is warm, the service reliable, and it's the kind of spot where you can linger a little longer with family before the holiday rush hits.

TAYLOR'S STEAKHOUSE – LA CAÑADA

Known for their classic cuts, Taylor's often features a Hot Turkey Sandwich or seasonal roast-turkey plate around this time of year. Pair it with a martini, and suddenly the holiday stress fades into the background.

COLOMBO'S ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE – EAGLE ROCK

If you want a little music with your meal, Colombo's is always a good bet. Their kitchen occasionally serves up a turkey special during the holidays, and even when it doesn't, the hearty comfort dishes and lively atmosphere make you feel right at home.

Whatever your choice, comfort food is as much about feeling as flavor. It's about slowing down, filling up, and finding joy in the familiar.

And as you start scouting for that perfect turkey dinner, one word of advice—and it comes straight from experience. Don't be surprised if a restaurant asks for a credit card to hold your reservation. Sadly, too many people book three spots and show up to just one, leaving the others with empty tables and lost income. Remember, these places are working hard to make your holiday special. If you're lucky enough to get a seat, treat it like gold—and tip your server accordingly.

In Summary: November is for comfort, gratitude, and good manners. Whether you celebrate early, late, or somewhere in between, the best meals are about heart—not hype. Call ahead to me selections, things can change !!

Email me thechefknows@yahoo.com and my podcast is perfect for you hungry hunters

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HOW LONG SHOULD YOU KEEP FOOD IN THE REFRIGERATOR?

Knowing how long foods stay fresh in the refrigerator is an important part of keeping your kitchen safe and reducing waste. Many people store items far longer than recommended, which can lead to foodborne illnesses or spoiled meals. Understanding basic time guide-lines can help households stay healthy while stretching their groceries further.



Most leftovers, whether homemade meals or restaurant takeout, should be eaten within three to four days. After this window, bacteria can begin to grow even if the food still smells fine. Soups, casseroles, pasta dishes, and cooked meats all fall into this category. It's helpful to label containers with the date they were stored to keep track more easily.

Raw meats have shorter refrigerator lives. Raw poultry should only be kept for one to two days, while raw beef, pork, and lamb may last three to five days. Ground meats spoil faster than whole cuts, so they belong on the lower end of the range. Fish and seafood are even more delicate and should ideally be cooked within one to two days of purchase. If you don't plan to use them quickly, freezing is the safer option.

Eggs last longer than many people realize. A carton of eggs can safely remain in the refrigerator for three to five weeks beyond the purchase date, as long as they stay refrigerated. Hard-boiled eggs, however, only last one week once cooked.

Dairy products vary, but most milk stays fresh about a week after opening, while yogurt is usually fine for one to two weeks. Cheese depends on type: hard cheeses can last up to a month, but soft cheeses spoil faster and should be eaten within one week after opening.

Keeping a clean refrigerator, using airtight storage, and freezing items when in doubt can help reduce waste and ensure safe eating. When food safety is concerned, when in doubt, throw it out.

BEST ONLINE WILL MAKERS

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend some good online resources for writing a simple will? I'm 70 and divorced and want to get my affairs organized, but I hate paying a high-priced attorney fee if I can do it myself. Don't Have Much



Dear Don't,

Having a last will and testament is an important document to have because it ensures that your money and property will be distributed to the people you want to receive it after your death. Currently, fewer than one-third of American adults have prepared a will.

If you die without a will, your estate will be settled in accordance with state law. Details vary by state, but assets typically are distributed using a hierarchy of survivors. Assets go first to a spouse, then to children, then your siblings, and so on.

You also need to be aware that certain accounts take precedence over a will. If you jointly own a home or a bank account, for example, the house, and the funds in the account, will go to the joint holder, even if your will directs otherwise. Similarly, retirement accounts and life insurance policies are distributed to the beneficiaries you designate, so it is important to keep them up to date too.

Online Will Makers

If you have a simple, straightforward estate and an uncomplicated family situation, writing your own will – with the help of a good online will making program – is a viable alternative to hiring an attorney and much cheaper. Like tax software, these online tools will guide you through a series of questions and will insert your answers into a will for you, and it usually takes less than 30 minutes from start to finish.

Some of the highest-rated do-it-yourself options include the Quicken WillMaker & Trust 2025 downloadable software (WillMaker.com) that starts at \$109 and is valid in every state except Louisiana; Trust & Will (TrustandWill.com) which charges \$199 for an individual will-based estate plan; and LegalZoom (LegalZoom.com), which offers will-based estate plans for \$129 or \$149 if you'd like assistance from an independent attorney.

Or, if that's more than you're able or willing to pay, two good options that will let you make your will for free are FreeWill.com or DoYourOwnWill.com.

When to Hire a Lawyer

If you have considerable financial assets or a complex family situation, like a blended family or a child with special needs, it would be smart for you to seek professional advice. An experienced lawyer can make sure you cover all your bases, which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA.org) and the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC.org) websites are good resources that have directories to help you find someone in your area.

Costs will vary depending on your location and the complexity of your situation, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$200 and \$1,000 to get your will made. To help you save, shop around and get price quotes from several different firms. And before you meet with an attorney, make a detailed list of your assets and accounts to help make your visit more efficient.

Where to Store it?

Once your will is written, the best place to keep it is either in a fireproof safe or file cabinet at home, in a safe deposit box in your bank or online. But make sure your executor knows where it is and has access to it. Or, if a professional prepares your will, keep the original document at your lawyer's office. Also, be sure to update your will if your family or financial circumstances change, or if you move to another state.

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

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OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

IT'S MY PAIN - I'LL USE IT IF I WANT TO

When I think I've turned a page to a new chapter in my life, I realize there is nothing new in life. I'm referring to pain. I cannot remember a time in my life when I didn't have some pain.

In the years of my naivety, I never imagined that when I got older, I would experience more pain. Nevertheless, pain has become my daily friend.

I thought I had gotten through all my pain and was beginning to relax for an entire week. The only pain I had was being a pain in the neck to someone around me.

It was on a Monday night, I was in bed sleeping, and just after midnight, I awoke, and my right wrist was in a lot of pain. I couldn't move it for fear of pain. I got up, took some Tylenol, and went back to bed. When I woke up in the morning, the pain was worse than before the Tylenol.

I really didn't know what happened because I couldn't remember hitting my wrist on anything during the night. The pain was real, but the source of the pain was unknown.

When I got up in the morning, I went into the kitchen and informed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage about the pain in my hand. She took great interest and wanted to do whatever she could to help me get rid of all that pain. Of course, the first thing she did was to give me Tylenol.

That did not work, and by late afternoon, the pain was worse than before. It was then that she decided I needed to go to the Urgent Care for some medical help. Throughout the long years of our marital bliss, I have learned one great lesson: "Don't argue with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage." So, she drove me down to the Urgent Care for treatment around 7:30 PM.

I went in, signed up, and then we waited only 90 minutes in the waiting room. During that time, the wrist was getting worse, and the pain was not letting up.

I always take The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage with me to any doctor visits I have, because she takes the doctor's words very literally. I, on the other hand, paraphrase what the doctor says, which, when I get home, doesn't make any sense at all. Finally, we were ushered in to see the doctor. They did X-rays on my arm and some other surgical things that I was not quite sure of. Then, the doctor pulled out her needle and prepped my arm for a shot.

While preparing that shot, I noticed she was grinning. That made me realize that the shot was going to hurt like crazy. And boy, did it hurt, and I almost shouted in pain, which made her smile more.

The doctor diagnosed my situation and prescribed some medication, and then gave me an arm bracelet to help ease the pain in my arm.

We finally left Urgent Care about 10:30 and headed for home.

Before I went to bed, I had to take off the bracelet, and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had to put some medication the doctor recommended to deal with the pain. I didn't have much sleep that night.

In the morning, I got up, and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had to examine my arm to see how it was. She then gave me more Tylenol to deal with the pain and helped put on my arm bracelet.

It was a busy day for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She had her regular duties and had little time to sit down and rest. But, she took time to stop what she was going and examine my arm. She would always ask, "How is your arm doing now?"

My constant reply was, "It's doing fine." Of course, she never believed me.

Since this was my pain, I decided to take advantage of it. I would get The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to bring me some coffee when I needed it, maybe a snack, and she would jump to the service.

But then a crazy thought entered my mind. Believe me, my mind is well accustomed to crazy thoughts.

Before she came in to give me the next Tylenol, I switched the arm bracelet from my right arm to my left arm to see if she would notice. I know, it's a very crazy thing to do, but then that is my MO.

She came in and said, "Let me see your arm."

I lifted up my left arm so she could look at it, and she examined it very carefully and then said, "It's starting to look better. I hope the pain is also going away." And then she went back to the kitchen to her work.

I chuckled quite a bit as I put the bracelet back on my right arm where it belongs. If I'm going to have pain, I'm going to use it for some pleasure on my part. I just hope I don't get caught.

As I was reading my Bible, I came across an interesting verse. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). My physical pain is nothing compared to God's grace in me each day.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com

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[Nyerges is the author of "Nuts and Berries of California," which includes a chapter on toyon. He leads ethno-botanical walks. For more information, contact him at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com.]

IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET BACK TO THE ROOTS OF HALLOWE'EN?

What is Halloween all about?

Why has the day that was once called All Hallows Eve devolved into a day of fun and fear? Wasn't it once regarded as a Holy Day? So how was this day recognized before it was all commercialized into a scary night? Is it possible to discover the roots of this day, and observe it in its original fashion today?

How can we answer these questions? We'd need to dig up whatever historical facts to show how this day was commemorated before 1700, more or less. Though it's hard to be 100% certain, we can assume that "commercialization" didn't really exist in 1700, and all the European and some American commemorations before that year probably retained some semblance of what the day was all about, originally.

So, first, let's begin with the day.

It is believed that the ancient Celts observed something called a "Samhain festival" towards the end of October. Says the World Book Encyclopedia. "The Celts believed that the dead could walk among the living at this time. During Samhain, the living could visit with the dead. Elements of the customs can be traced to a Druid ceremony in pre-Christian times. The Celts had festivals for two major gods—a sun god and a god of the dead (called Samhain), whose festival was held on November 1, the beginning of the Celtic New Year.

This day, or period, was to mark the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter.

Samhain (pronounced "sow-in," which means "summer's end," or the name of a god, or both) is seen by some Wiccans as a time to celebrate the lives of those who have died, and it often involves paying respect to ancestors, family members, elders of the faith, friends, pets and other loved ones who have died. In some rituals the spirits of the dead are invited to attend the festivities.

Various sorts of activities done on Samhain have been described over the centuries. In Ireland, Samhain was a time to take stock of the herds and food supplies. Cattle were brought to the winter pastures after six months in the higher summer pastures. Then, the people chose which animals to slaughter before the winter. After the slaughter of the animals, there would be feasting. And obviously, if you aren't an animal-raising farmer, how would you celebrate this aspect, except for the feasting?

The Catholic Church was aware of all the so-called "pagan" observances, and had their own day to commemorate the dead, May 13. This began in 609 or 610 A.D., when Pope Boniface the 4th dedicated the Pantheon—the Roman temple of all the gods—to Mary and all the martyrs. Later that date was changed by Pope Gregory III (731-741 A.D.), who dedicated a chapel in Rome to all the saints and ordered that they be honored on November 1. It's unclear precisely why the date was changed, but likely it was to over-shadow the pre-existing Samhain, so called "pagan," commemorations.

In the 11th century, November 2nd was assigned as "All Souls' Day" in commemoration of the dead. So this began the use of the term Halloween's Eve, or Halloween for October 31.

Halloween customs are similar to the observance of Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, commonly practiced in Mexico and which can be traced to early Aztec times. Apparently, this "day of the dead" was originally commemorated in Mexico in May, and was changed to November 2 sometime after Spanish contact, possibly to correspond with the "Christian" tradition.

FOOD and GIFTING

Trick or treating in modern times goes back to leaving food and wine for roaming dead spirits and ghosts. The custom was referred to as "going a-souling" and was eventually practiced only by the children who would visit the houses in their neighborhoods and be given gifts of ale, food and money. It was believed the spirits of the dead returned to visit their old homes during this time, so in ancient times, people left food out for them and arranged chairs so that the dead would be able to rest.

Treats called "soul cakes" were given out in memory of the departed. The Middle Age practice of souling — going door to door begging for food in return for

prayers — became popular and is even referenced by William Shakespeare in 1593. This is obviously the root of the modern "trick or treating" for mini Snickers bars, a practice no doubt loved by every dentist.

Seasonal foods such as apples and nuts were often used in the Samhain rituals. Apples were peeled, the peel tossed over the shoulder, and its shape examined to see if it formed the first letter of the future spouse's name. Nuts were roasted on the hearth and then interpreted — if the nuts stayed together, so would the couple. Egg whites were dropped in water, and the shapes foretold the number of future children. Children would also chase crows and divine some of these things from the number of birds or the direction they flew.

COSTUMES

Celts would wear masks when they left their homes during the night hours during Samhain days, because they hoped they would avoid being recognized by the ghosts and be mistaken merely for fellow ghosts.

"Mumming" and "Guising" were a part of Samhain from at least the 16th century and was recorded in parts of Ireland, Scotland, Mann and Wales. It involved people going from house to house in costume (or in disguise), usually reciting songs or verses in exchange for food. It is suggested that it evolved from a tradition whereby people impersonated the souls of the dead, and received offerings on their behalf. Impersonating these spirits or souls was also believed to protect oneself from them. One researcher suggests that the ancient festival included people in masks or costumes representing these spirits, and that the modern custom came directly from this.

PARADES

Pagan Celtic priestesses and their followers would roam the countryside, chanting songs in order to frighten away the evil spirits thought to be out on Halloween night. I wonder how that could be practiced in your neighborhood?

FIRES

Bonfires were a big part of the festival in many areas of western Europe. Bonfires were typically lit on hilltops at Samhain where everyone could see them, and there were rituals involving them. We concluded that a small, safe backyard fire might be a good addition to celebrating the day, though we were pretty sure that local fire departments would take a very dim view if fires were built on local hilltops!

Bonfires comes from the root, "bone-fires" because the priests sacrificed animals and supposedly even people in an attempt to appease the sun god, while also looking for future omens. The fire was said to be a type of sympathetic magic, where the fire mimicked the sun, which has the power to hold back the darkness of winter. Burning the fires was also believed to be a way of banishing evil, at least symbolically.

The belief that the souls of the dead return home on one night of the year seems to have ancient origins and is found in many cultures throughout the world.

CONCLUSION

So what should we conclude from all this? Is there an ideal way to commemorate this ancient day, and still avoid the trappings of commercialization? Is it even possible in today's world?

I like the way that the Day of the Dead is commemorated. There are altars with pictures of the dearly departed, and plates of good food. Candles are lit, rather than a big bonfire which the local fire department would frown upon. Families gather, and talk in respectful tones about their departed relatives. Yes, of course, even the Day of the Dead has turned into wild partying in some quarters, but if you seek a return to roots of the ancient commemoration of the dead, perhaps begin here.

Begin with family or neighborhood gatherings. Prepare a good meal, and keep in the mind the foods that your beloved departed enjoyed. This is not necessarily because you think their spirits will come to eat (last I checked, ghosts don't need to eat), but because having, for example, your mother's favorite dish will give you another reason to talk about your mother, and to remember all the good things she did. This is at least a start, and it elevates our day of ghoulish and pointless fear-mongering into one that reconnects us with our roots.

Katnip News!



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Rocky is very sweet, very playful, and very cuddly. He loves attention and will be your constant companion—whether it's for fun, snuggles, or simply hanging out. Rocky will go wherever you are. He has a substantial husky tail that is so handsome. He loves people, and wants to be your best friend. He still purrs whenever touched, and he also loves to be brushed.



We prefer kittens to be adopted in pairs unless there's already a young feline friend at home. Don't miss your chance to bring this purr-monster home!

See more of him and his siblings and apply to meet Rocky today at <https://www.lifelineforpets.org/mindys-kittens.html> or use the qr code.

Pet of the Week

Meet Gertrude, Pasadena Humane's 10-year-old Cane Corso sweetheart! Gertrude is a gentle soul who wants just one thing in life: to be close to you. This lovely lady is a world-class hand-holder - she'll place her big paw in your hand and happily keep it there for as long as you'll let her.

Since arriving in her foster home, Gertrude has shown herself to be affectionate, calm, and endlessly loyal. She loves following her foster parents from room to room with quiet devotion. She's happiest when being petted, and if the pets stop, she's quick to offer a polite paw as a reminder for more love. She also enjoys slow morning walks and soaking up all the attention she can get.



Gertrude is ready to thrive in a home of her very own. If you're looking for a loyal companion who'll hold your hand through it all - literally and figuratively - Gertrude is your girl.

During November's Adopt a Senior Pet Month, all adoption fees are waived for dogs and cats five years and older, just like Gertrude!

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

Walk-in adoptions are available every day from 10:00 – 5:00. View photos of adoptable pets at pasadenahumane.org.

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

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Use portion control

Holiday servings are often huge. Aim for half the amount you usually eat. Fill half your plate with vegetables, a quarter with protein, and a quarter with your favorite indulgence. You can enjoy everything without feeling stuffed. Another trick is to serve yourself last. By the time everyone else is on their second round, you'll be just finishing up your meal and can stop along with them. Giving your body time to register fullness can also prevent overeating.



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.

NO GUILT HOLIDAYS

You can already sense it. Christmas decorations in the stores already. Leftover Halloween candy. Pumpkin spice everywhere. The holidays are coming fast, and you're not looking forward to overeating, feeling crummy, or gaining extra weight. That's a common worry. If you do nothing, those fears can easily come true. But there are ways to control what you eat and how much, if you start planning now.

Make a simple plan

Planning doesn't mean giving up favorite treats. It means making choices ahead of time. Look at your holiday calendar and see which meals or parties might tempt you the most. Then decide how to handle them. Maybe you'll have one slice of pie instead of two, or pair a high-calorie dish with lots of vegetables. Small choices like these add up over the season.

Eat regular meals and snacks

Skipping meals to "save calories" usually backfires. You get too hungry and end up overeating. Keep a normal routine with breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Eating meals with protein, fiber, and healthy fats helps you feel full and reduces cravings. Even during busy days, try to eat something balanced instead of letting yourself starve until the next party or big dinner.

Keep fruit in sight

Having a bowl of your favorite fruit where you can see it is an easy trick. Try to eat at least four pieces of fruit every day before reaching for sweets or high-calorie snacks. Fruit is filling, healthy, and satisfies sweet cravings in a smart way. Grapes, apples, berries, or citrus can all work, and having them ready to eat makes healthy choices easier.

Don't deprive yourself

Trying to skip all treats usually backfires. Allow yourself a small amount of the foods you love and eat them slowly. Mindful eating—paying attention to taste and texture—helps you feel satisfied with less. If you savor each bite instead of rushing, you may notice you need less than you thought.

Stay active

Exercise often gets pushed aside during the holidays, but even short activity helps. Hike after meals, stretch in the morning, or walk the dog. Moving your body burns calories, reduces stress, and can even help you enjoy food more without guilt. If possible, involve family and friends in activity, like a neighborhood walk or a quick game in the yard.

Drink plenty of water

Holiday drinks like eggnog, specialty coffee, or cocktails can add lots of calories. Drinking water before meals can help you feel full and reduce unnecessary snacking. Even sparkling water with a splash of juice or a slice of fruit can feel festive while keeping calories low.

Watch your mindset

Holidays can be stressful. Emotional eating is normal, but being aware of it helps. Take breaks, breathe deeply, or go for a short walk instead of reaching for food. One indulgent meal doesn't ruin your overall progress! Small daily habits matter most. Try to focus on enjoyment and connection rather than stress and guilt.

Try the "80/20" rule

Follow your healthy routine 80% of the time and allow flexibility 20% of the time. This balance reduces guilt. If you overeat at one meal, focus on the next meal or day. One day won't undo all your hard work. This approach helps you enjoy treats without feeling out of control.

Plan for parties

Bring a healthy dish to share, so there's at least one option you enjoy. Take a small snack before you go to avoid being too hungry. Include active fun in family events, like scenic walks or simple games. Planning ahead makes it easier to enjoy the occasion without overeating.

Focus on progress, not perfection

Set realistic goals. Celebrate small wins, like leaving food on your plate, moving every day, or enjoying a treat without guilt. Mindful choices now build habits that last well past the holidays. Remember, the holidays are meant to be enjoyed, not endured.

With a little planning, the holidays can be fun without ruining your health. By using just a few of these tips, you can feel good, stay energized, and still enjoy all the holiday foods you love.

ALL THINGS

by Jeff Brown

THE GENIUS BAT: THE SECRET LIFE OF THE ONLY FLYING MAMMAL

by Yossi Yovel

An awe-inspiring tour of bat world by the world's leading expert

With nearly 1500 species, bats account for more than twenty percent of mammalian species. The most successful and most diverse group of mammals, bats come in different sizes, shapes, and colors, from the tiny bumblebee bat to the giant golden-crowned flying fox. Some bats eat fruit and nectar; others eat frogs, scorpions, or fish. Vampire bats feed on blood. Bats are the only mammals that can fly; their fingers have elongated through evolution to become wings with a unique, super-flexible skin membrane stretched between them. Their robust immune system is one of the reasons for their extreme longevity. A tiny bat can live for forty years.

Yossi Yovel, an ecologist and a neurobiologist, is passionate about deciphering the secrets of bats, including using AI to decipher their communication. In The Genius Bat, he brings to vivid life these amazing creatures as well as the obsessive and sometimes eccentric people who study them—bat scientists. From muddy rainforests to star-covered night deserts, from guest houses in Thailand to museum drawers full of fossils in New York, this is an eye-opening and entertaining account of a mighty mammal.

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UNLOCK YOUR LIFE

ARE YOU BRINGING EYORE or SNOOPY ENERGY INTO THE ROOM?

Characters from our childhood have a curious way of following us into adulthood. Years ago, people kept gifting me Eeyore, the gloomy donkey from Winnie the Pooh. I didn't understand it at the time, but looking back, it reflected something I couldn't yet see in myself.

I was an exhausted, defensive, and frustrated lawyer. I thought my unhappiness was caused by everyone around me. But the truth I eventually had to face was simple and uncomfortable: I was responsible for the energy I brought into every room.

Then there's my guy, Snoopy, the joyful beagle from Peanuts. Snoopy represents play, possibility, and full-body delight. The day I passed the bar exam, I imagined myself as Snoopy: head back, feet dancing, heart wide open. That image became my symbol of what was possible.

Both Characters Live in Me

Here's what I've learned: I didn't leave Eeyore behind and become Snoopy. Both versions live in me as an adult. Some days I wake up heavy with worry. Other days I bounce out of bed ready to dance. The difference now isn't which one shows up—it's that I notice which one is at the wheel.

And when I notice? I get to choose.

That's the power of awareness. It transforms us from passengers in our own lives to drivers. We stop asking "Why is this happening to me?" and start asking "How do I want to show up with this?"

The Mirror Effect

When we walk into a space, people feel our energy before we even speak. Our body language, our sighs, our tone, they all broadcast our internal state. Those Eeyore gifts weren't meant to be cruel. They were mirrors. And mirrors, though sometimes painful, are essential for growth.

Now I bring more awareness to my daily activities and choices. I notice when Eeyore shows up: the complaining, the heavy sighs, the "here we go again" attitude. I don't judge it or try to suppress it. I simply notice it and ask: "Is this who I want to be in this moment? Is this the energy I want to give and receive?" Sometimes the answer is: "Yes, I need to honor this heaviness right now." And that's okay. But most of the time, awareness gives me the opportunity to choose differently.

Recognizing Your Energy

So how do you know which energy you're bringing? Start by noticing these signs:

Eeyore Energy feels like:

- Complaining before problem-solving
- Focusing on what's wrong before acknowledging what's right
- Feeling tired despite adequate sleep
- Using phrases like "Of course this happened to me" or "Nothing ever works out"
- Heavy sighs and slumped posture
- Life is happening TO you

Snoopy Energy feels like:

- Leading with curiosity instead of judgment
- Finding small delights even in ordinary moments
- Feeling energized by possibility
- Using phrases like "Let's try this" or "What could be good about this?"
- Open body language and genuine smiles
- Life is happening WITH you

Neither is wrong. Both are human. The question is: Which one do you want driving today?

We Are All Responsible for Who We're Becoming

Here's the truth that changed my life: We are all responsible for who we are becoming. Not who we were yesterday, not who we were an hour ago, but who we are becoming right now, in this moment.

This isn't about self-blame. It's about recognizing your power. When I believed life was happening TO me, I was a victim of circumstance. The moment I understood that life happens WITH me, I became a co-creator. You can't control what happens to you, but you absolutely control what you do with it. You control the meaning you make. You control the energy you bring. You control who you're becoming in response to life's challenges.

The Power of Choice

Every moment offers a choice:

- Will you meet this difficult conversation with defensiveness or curiosity?
- Will you enter this meeting carrying yesterday's frustration or to day's possibility?
- Will you greet your family with the stress of your commute or the relief of being home?
- Will you let one disappointment define your entire day or acknowledge it and choose what comes next?

These aren't small choices. These are the choices that build a life. These are the choices that determine who you're becoming. I still have my Eeyore days and plenty of them. But now I recognize them. I notice when I'm dragging the weight of worry into a room. I feel it when my shoulders are up to my ears and my jaw is clenched. And in that noticing, a gap opens up. A space where I can choose.

Sometimes I choose to stay in Eeyore mode for a while because that's what I need. But it's a conscious choice, not an unconscious habit. And when I'm ready, I choose differently.

Three Steps to Bring Awareness to Your Energy

1. Notice Without Judgment

Throughout your day, pause and ask: "Which character is driving right now?" Don't judge it—just notice it. You might even say to yourself: "I'm in Eeyore mode right now" or "Snoopy is here today."

Set three alarms on your phone labeled: "Energy Check." When they go off, take 30 seconds to notice your mood, your thoughts, your physical tension. Awareness is always the first step.

2. Ask: "Is This Who I Want to Be Right Now?"

Once you notice which energy you're carrying, ask yourself: "Is this who I want to be in this moment? Is this the energy I want to create with?"

Not "Is this good or bad?" but "Is this aligned with who I'm becoming?"

Sometimes the answer is yes, you need to honor where you are. But often, the simple act of asking creates the possibility of choosing differently.

3. Make One Conscious Choice

If you decide you want to shift, make one small, conscious choice:

- Stand up and stretch your body
- Step outside for two minutes
- Take three deep breaths
- Call someone who makes you laugh
- Put on a song that lifts your spirit
- Write down three things that are going right

One conscious choice creates momentum. It reminds you that you're not a passenger—you're the driver.

Living the Life You Love Through Daily Reflection

Each evening this week, reflect on these questions:

- Which energy showed up most today, Eeyore or Snoopy?
- When did I notice it? What made me aware?
- In what moments did I consciously choose my energy?
- What would need to change for me to wake up excited about my life?
- If I were living a life I truly loved, what would be different?
- Who am I becoming through my daily choices?

Write down your answers. Be honest. The life you're living right now is the result of thousands of small choices. The beautiful truth? You get to make different choices starting right now.

Life Is Not Happening To Us, It's Happening With Us

Today, I ask myself and my clients: Which character are you living like? Eeyore, believing life is a burden? Or Snoopy, partnering with life as it unfolds?

When we shift from "life is happening TO me" to "life is happening WITH me," everything changes. We stop being victims and become participants. We stop reacting and start responding. We stop enduring and start creating. This doesn't mean life gets easier. It means we get stronger in how we meet it.

Energy is contagious. When we choose awareness, we create possibility. When we take re-sponsibility for who we're becoming, we inspire others to do the same. Your children notice. Your colleagues notice. Your partner notices. You become a living example that we don't have to be controlled by our moods—we can work with them.

Your Assignment This Week

Choose one of these practices:

- The Morning Intention: Before getting out of bed, ask: "Which energy do I want to bring into today?" Visualize yourself embodying that energy. Notice how this changes your morning.
- The Energy Interrupt: When you catch yourself in Eeyore mode and want to shift, physically interrupt it. Stand up, shake your body, or splash cold water on your face. Then ask: "How would Snoopy meet this moment?"
- The Evening Reflection: Each night, write down one moment when you consciously chose your energy. Celebrate that choice. This builds your awareness muscle.

Who Are You Becoming?

Each day offers a chance to notice, to choose, and to show up as the version of ourselves we're proud of. Both Eeyore and Snoopy live in all of us. The question isn't which one to eliminate, it's which one you want to partner with today.

We are all responsible for who we are becoming. Not through perfection, but through awareness. Not through judgment, but through choice. Not by waiting for life to change, but by changing how we meet life.

Who are you becoming? More importantly: Who do you choose to become today?

Life is not happening to you. It's happening with you. And that changes everything.

Lori Harris works with leaders and professionals seeking joyful transformation. Learn more at loriaharris.com.

Mountain Views News 80 W Sierra Madre Blvd. No. 327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 Office: 626.355.2737 Fax: 626.609.3285 Email: editor@mtnviewsnews.com Website: www.mtnviewsnews.com

MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS

PUBLISHER/ EDITOR
Susan Henderson

PASADENA CITY EDITOR

Dean Lee

SALES

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

WEBMASTER
John Avery

DISTRIBUTION
Peter Lamendola

CONTRIBUTORS

Lori A. Harris
Michele Kidd
Stuart Tolchin
Harvey Hyde
Audrey Swanson
Meghan Malooley
Mary Lou Caldwell
Kevin McGuire
Chris Leclerc
Dinah Chong Watkins
Howard Hays
Paul Carpenter
Kim Clymer-Kelley
Christopher Nyerges
Peter Dills
Rich Johnson
Rev. James Snyder
Katie Hopkins
Deanne Davis
Despina Arouzman
Jeff Brown
Marc Garlett
Keely Toten
Dan Golden
Rebecca Wright
Hail Hamilton
Joan Schmidt
LaQuetta Shamblee

Mountain Views News has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case number GS004724: for the City of Sierra Madre; in Court Case GS005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. GS006989 and is published every Saturday at 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., No. 327, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copy-righted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the Mountain Views News and may be published in part or whole.

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Mountain Views News is wholly owned by Grace Lorraine Publications, and reserves the right to refuse publication of advertisements and other materials submitted for publication.

Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

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



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Association

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STUART TOLCHIN



PUT THE LIGHTS ON
MAYBE IT'S ALL ABOUT ME BUT THAT IS
THE BEST ANYONE CAN DO.

In my article last week, I described the No Kings Demonstration in Sierra Madre on October 18. Well, a lot has happened to me since then. At the demonstration I met a neighbor who drove me up the hill back to my house and invited her into my house to admire the view from our deck and to chat for a while with my wife, son, and I. Well, our conversation has had consequences which may lead to some significant changes in my life. The jury is still out as to how lasting these changes will be; but let me try to explain.

Even before the protest began, I had phoned the editor of this paper asking if it would be helpful if I wrote a report about the protest in addition to my weekly article. She simply said go ahead and gave me no page limit or further direction. So, I wrote my version of a report on the demonstration which was probably more about me than about the demonstration. A friend of mine to whom I send my articles replied after his receipt of the article by characterizing it as being in my usual "hyper-personal style" but had good things to say about it, nevertheless.

I thought about the "hyper-personal" description, and it bothered me a bit. Other readers have commented that I always seem to be writing about myself. Frankly, I don't agree or sympathize with the comments. I believe we have all been educated to assume that the reportage including the reportage of history comes from an all-knowing objective source. Truthfully, up until the recent advent of AI everything that we have ever read derived from the perceptions and experiences and influences of affecting an actual living subjective human being. Somehow, we never learn that in school, but instead when taking a test or writing an essay, we believe it is our job to parrot back what we have read as if it was the Gospel truth.

Well, that is not what I try to do in my articles. I only wish to present the truth according to Stuart which up until now that personal kind of presentation is the best that anyone could ever do. Now perhaps the material received from AI will be something different; but AI will still have problems. Although it is hard to think of AI as something other than a person it still is at best a gathering of multiple individual non-objective human perspectives which is something different from perceiving truth with the Eye of God if you know what I mean and I hope you do.

All this talk about perception and objectivity relates to the conversation I had with my neighbor concerning my desire to cope with the world rather than being a dissatisfied, confused, passive-observer. She encouraged me to join her in volunteering in a Community Outreach Effort to monitor ICE in their attempted detentions of Day laborers who are being detained for no reason other than the color of their skin or their accents. Yes, we have all heard of this going on but, unless you see it, it really is hard to believe.

My daughter is an active Immigration Attorney who is working to protect and defend and obtain release for people who have been detained. The only advice she gave me was to tell people not to run because the attempt to run will hamper their release as they will be considered flight risks. Today all I did was shadow my neighbor and meet other volunteers. I was very impressed by who they were and what they were doing. Many of the volunteers I met were Cal Tech Graduates and Students. Several of the volunteers were ex-High-School Student Body Presidents. That tells me something about them. I also learned that the volunteers had little time to chat with each other as they all had specific monitoring duties to perform.

All the volunteers seemed very dedicated and well- organized but, being me, I asked questions anyway. I need to know who I am talking to and where they come from and why they do what they do. Perhaps I will be a nuisance to the other volunteers, but I hope not. I hope to be more than an observer, to help and learn. This only my first day but in my future articles I will do my best to accurately and objectively share with you what I see. I hope to gain and share some understanding which will assist in maintaining sanity during these unprecedented, at least in my lifetime, crazy times.

AT ALL TIMES REMEMBER GO DODGERS!

We all have many priorities.



HOWARD Hays As I See It

"Not liking someone's tariffs is not an emergency. It's an abuse of the emergency power, and it's Congress abdicating their traditional role in taxes." – Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)

I received much-appreciated comment over a column that ran a couple of weeks ago, which was basically a collection of online (X, Bluesky) observations from others. Chatting with folks at the No Kings rally, that was the one they brought up. My wife suggested it's because I had little to do with writing it, but whatever – I've since found a few more of those to share.

But first, a topic I don't think I've addressed before: restoration of biodiversity, along with the fact I think wolves are awesome. I was drawn to an article about restoring their populations, specifically in Colorado, in accordance with a program passed by voters there five years ago. Their populations had dwindled, but now were being restored. Apex predators can make a difference in ways not readily apparent. In Yellowstone, for instance, studies showed how not having as many elk around munching on saplings helps young forests thrive.

But now that program has been halted by the federal government. The male gray wolves used in the repopulation program were coming from British Columbia and, according to federal directives, we're no longer supposed to get things from Canada. President Trump is mad at them. And the U.S. states that have wolves of their own don't want to give them up.

What really made Trump mad is that Ontario, during the opening games of the World Series, ran an ad of Ronald Reagan making clear his anti-tariff views ("the way to prosperity for all nations is rejecting protectionist legislation and promoting fair and free competition"). When the ad broke, before Game One, Trump cut off negotiations with Canada. And then when it ran again during Game Two, he slapped an additional 10% tariff on them.

Charlie Sykes pointed out that more than anything, Trump's complaining reminded everyone of Reagan's advocacy of free trade. Trump also accused Canada of trying to influence a matter currently before the Supreme Court. In what Trump described as "one of the most important cases in the history of our country", the Court is to rule on whether Trump can be allowed to usurp Congress' responsibility for tariffs in a "national emergency". Now Trump suggests that Ontario's running an ad, reminding people that Reagan was a free-trader, constitutes a "national emergency".

MeidasTouch described the situation as, "Trump says he's increasing tariffs on imports of Canadian goods by 10% because Ontario's commercial that accurately used Ronald Reagan's words about tariffs made him sad." Tax analyst Erica York asked, "are hurt feelings also now a national emergency?"

Now some of those other online observations from last week:

From NYC Mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani – "I know some of you have expressed concerns about my age. You are worried about a 33-year-old becoming mayor of New York City. . . That's why this weekend I'll be making a change. I'm turning 34."

In response to Trump's revoking visas for citizens of Argentina, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Germany and Paraguay for comments on Charlie Kirk, Jordan posts – "Free speech is when you are punished for criticizing the president's favorite podcaster."

When that racist, misogynist, Hitler- and rape-endorsing group chat among "young" Republicans was revealed, Vice President Vance dismissed it as, "young boys – they tell edgy, offensive jokes. That's what kids do." Cristela Alonzo responded, "So young girls are adult enough to carry babies full term against their wishes but these people in their 30s that spewed racist (crap) are kids? This math is wild."

There's the news item, "EPA canceled \$20M flood grant for Alaska Native village as 'wasteful DEI spending'; months later, floods destroyed homes". Jack Cocchiarella responds, "Cancelling \$20 million to Alaska while wasting BILLIONS on Israel and Argentina. Trump is America last."

Warren Gunnels lists a number of personal wealth figures: "Elon Musk Wealth 2012: \$2 billion / 2025: \$486 billion; Larry Ellison Wealth 2009: \$23 billion / 2025: \$370 billion; Mark Zuckerberg Wealth 2008: \$1.5 billion / 2025: \$245 billion; Jeff Bezos Wealth 1998: \$1.6 billion / 2025: \$233 billion; Minimum Wage 2009: \$7.25 / 2025: \$7.25. Obscene."

To President Trump's statement, "I do not think any president has ever ended a war. One war. I did eight of them," poster Spiro's Ghost responds, "I feel like we are all living in a giant mental hospital with him."

Richard Hanania reports, "The Trump Administration has frozen or cut \$27 billion in funding in Democrat districts, compared to \$739 million in Republican districts. These are open abuses of power occurring daily that would've been unthinkable under any other administration." Don Winslow reacts, "How is this not a huge news story????!!!"

Returning to the subject from above, according to @AntiTrumpCanada, Trump "jacks up tariffs the way toddlers throw blocks – pure tantrum energy. Every time he's humiliated, the world pays a surcharge for his hurt feelings. Canada's too busy acting like a democracy to give a (darn)."

As I write this, Canada's also busy watching the Blue Jays. And I'm hoping wolves up in British Columbia might still someday be able to enjoy our beautiful Colorado Rockies. They're awesome. YES on 50.

RICH JOHNSON

WHAT IS IN A NAME?



I've never tried to hide the day of my birth. When I reveal that tidbit of information, many of you will nod your head in affirmation. Knowing that I was born on Halloween will make many of you (or at least 6 of you) say, "But, of course".

My twin sister and I were born on October 31st. Yep... Halloween! People almost as famous as I am that were born on Halloween include, Chaing Kai-Shek, Dale Evans, Dan Rather, Michael Landon, John Candy and Jane Pauley. Sadly Walter Matthau, Henry Winkler, Charles Atlas and Burt Lancaster missed out by a day or two.

Speaking of fellow celebrities, I don't know what it is about my cohorts who come up with the strangest names for their children. I avoided that dubious trap by naming my son Alex and my daughter Olivia. With their mother's approval, Other famous people's offspring did not fare as well:

Frank Zappa may have started the trend to go outside traditional names by referring to his daughter as "Moon Unit". And then naming his son "Dweezil". Magician/Comedian Penn Jillette named his daughter "Moxie CrimeFighter Jillette". Michael Jackson's brother Jermaine named his son "Jermajesty Jackson". Singer John Mellancamp named his offspring "Speck Wildhorse Mellencamp" (don't know if "Speck" is a boy or a girl). Rapper and entertainer Cardi B named her daughter "Kulture Kiari Cephus Almanzar". Beyonce and Jay-Z named their son "Sir Carter". And their daughter "Blue Ivy Carter".

Kanye West and Kim Kardashian agreed on the name of their daughter, "North West". Their little boy they named "Saint West". Bob Geldof, Irish rocker/philanthropist named his daughters "Fifi Trixibelle" and "Pixie". English actress Kate Winslet named her little boy "Bear Blaze Winslet". Australian actress Rachel Griffiths named her little boy "Banjo Patrick Taylor". Gwen Stefani named her little girl "Zuma Nesta Rock". And actress Alicia Silverstone calls her little boy "Bear Blu Jarecki". Speaking of Alicias, Alicia Keys named her two children "Egypt Daoud" and "Genesis Ali". Nicolas Cage named his son "Kal-El" Coppola Cage. (Kal-El) is Superman's Kryptonian name in case you were interested.

I'll close this scintillating information with the first names of Sylvester Stallone's kids. "Sage", "Sistine", "Scarlet", "Sophia", "Seargeoh". FYI, Seargeoh, by the way, is a boy.

If you run into any of the following celebrities, greet them with their actual first names. If you see Jamie Foxx, say to him "Hi Eric". Paul McCartney more accurately should be referred to as "James" or "Jimmy". Carmen Electra should be greeted as "Tara Patrick".

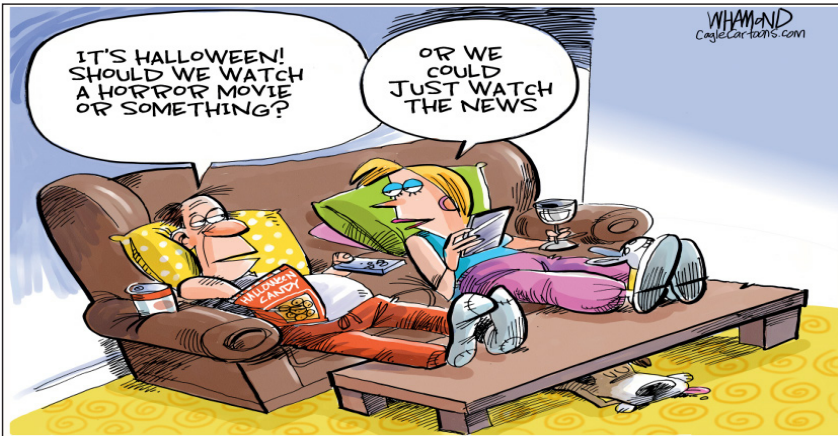
If you run into Brad Pitt, greet him as "William" or "Bill". Of course, you can probably guess that Whoopi Goldberg is not her given name. She may be a distant relative of mine as her real name is "Caryn Johnson".

If you were suspicious of rapper Cardi B's name not being her given name you would be right. Her true name is "Belcalis Almanzar". And you may find this hard to believe but Portia de Rossi was born "Amanda Lee Rogers".

And finally, Spike Lee's real first name is "Shelton". His mom gave him his nickname saying he was a "tough baby".

If the last thing you want to do this Thanksgiving is make Thanksgiving dinner at home I can recommend two excellent options. My two favorite restaurants, Nano's (Sierra Madre) and Moffett's (Arcadia) are offering complete Thanksgiving Dinners for pickup.

Nano's phone number if you are interested is (626) 325-3334. And Moffett's phone number is (626) 447-4670.



1 MILLION LIKES by Paul the Cyberian

“This Does Seem Familiar – The AI Bubble”

There are more than a few topics dominating AI talk this week, but one of them is an oldie but not-so-goodie that we really hoped we'd have learned something from the last time it happened.

In short, the AI Bubble refers to the current situation where the major players in AI (like OpenAI, Oracle, Nvidia, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, Intel, et al.) seem to have formed a circle of shared money, effectively driving up their own estimated value. They do this by committing to buy and sell the resources they need to each other, along with various profit-sharing agreements.

In almost any other business, this might not cause public alarm. However, here, we're dealing with estimated values that total in the hundreds of billions of dollars. That figure has been estimated to be as high as \$391 billion as of late 2025. This growth has been especially profitable for shareholders, with at least 20 billionaires connected to AI adding around \$450 billion to their private fortunes in 2025. There is truly plenty of gold to be had for those on the winning side of the deal.

For the general public, the US Taxpayer and Stakeholder who support this financial engineering marvel, it might be a while before those fat dividend checks are delivered.

Private land deals for existing or planned datacenters come with the added cost of increased competition for water resources where these new datacenters will be located. It's estimated that a medium-sized datacenter uses up to 5 million gallons of drinking water for cooling. The resulting strain on the existing electrical grid, and the need for expansion, will be passed on to residential consumers in the form of higher rates for the same, or less, usage. A mid-range datacenter needs 33 megawatts of continuous power daily - enough to power 19,800 to 26,400 homes for a year.

At this point, we're starting to get a clear picture of the size of the investments, and the size of the profits from all of this high-tech activity. Now, back to the bubble part.

The part that really hurts is the burst. Millions of homeowners can tell us what happened during the 2008 crash and the resulting market correction. It hurt bad. Its effects rippled across many economic sectors.

While the current bubble may be largely contained to the tech sector, the nature of AI has already begun to change many areas of our daily lives. The wild enthusiasm of the two bubbles appears very similar, and the cause for special alarm in this instance is wholly warranted.

The question that needs to be answered is simple: "Just what are we getting for all of this?"

14 HALLOWEEN IN SIERRA MADRE

Mountain Views News Saturday, November 1, 2025

SIERRA MADRE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS

Sponsored by the City of Sierra Madre and the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club

Family / Group

1st Place: Jojo and Genevieve
2nd Place: The Lamar Family (Troy and Michelle)
3rd Place: The Almonte Family

Infant – 2 Years Old

1st Place: The Goleman Family
2nd Place: Gianna Sujan
3rd Place: The Anyanwu Family

3 – 4 Years Old

1st Place: Sophia Blu
2nd Place: Sophia C.
3rd Place: Isaac

5 – 7 Years Old

1st Place: Gracie Mackintosh
2nd Place: Aiden and Aston W.
3rd Place: Auggie Cross

8 – 12 Years Old

1st Place: Margot J.
2nd Place: Samuel V.
3rd Place: Finley L.

13 – 17 Years Old

1st Place: Alexander Fink
2nd Place: Leilah James
3rd Place: Grace Moran

Pet Category

1st Place: Hudson
2nd Place: Malani
3rd Place: Dakota

Halloween is a very special day in Sierra Madre starting with the Costume Parade and including Trick or Treating on Alegria, Downtown and throughout the city. All Photos by Dirk Bolle.



SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB ANNOUNCES 2025 HALLOWEEN WINDOW PAINTING CONTEST WINNERS

The Sierra Madre Civic Club proudly announces the winners of this year's Halloween Window Painting Contest, a community tradition celebrating creativity, teamwork, and festive spirit. Dozens of local youth transformed downtown shop windows into colorful Halloween displays.

After careful judging, the winners for each age category are as follows:

Ages 9–10

1st Place: Window #6A at Casa Del Rey - Martinez, Dittu
2nd Place: Window #6B at Casa Del Rey - Morrison, Buchan
3rd Place: Window #33A at Pax Pharmacy 2 - Cole, Marquez

Ages 11–12

1st Place: Window #30A at Pantorium - Modarres, Viramontes, Ward
2nd Place: Window #31A at Sierra Madre Library - Goday, Ibarra

3rd Place: Window #15B at Cancer Support Community - Chan, Cueto

Ages 13–14

1st Place: Window #12A at Homework Club - Wright, Carone, Tully, Terzyan
2nd Place: Window #24A at Only Place in Town - Chan, Osaki, Zhao
3rd Place: Window #26A at Coffee jpg - Reinhardt, Reinhardt

Ages 15–17

1st Place: Window #21A at Bottleshop - Kinne, Carvalho
2nd Place: Window #16A at Syndicate - Arellano, Gutierrez, Torres, Orellano
3rd Place: Window #17A at Century 21 - Gabrielsson, Raab

The Sierra Madre Civic Club thanks all participating artists, local businesses who donated their windows, and the many volunteers who helped make this annual event a success. Each painted window showcased the creativity and imagination of Sierra Madre's youth, making downtown a festive destination for residents and visitors alike.

For more information about Civic Club events or to get involved in community activities, please visit www.sierramadrecivicclub.org.

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November Events Around Town!

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One Time Events

November 1
Bones, Skulls, and Marigolds at the Arboretum - Celebrate the Day of the Dead as you paint skulls & examine bones. 4pm – 5:30pm

November 1
Flower Arranging: Fall Succulents at The Huntington - Make a stunning autumnal floral design. 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm

November 1
Pasadena Walking Film Tour – Learn about the movies and TV shows filmed here. 10am – 12pm

November 8
Pasadena Symphony and Pops: Symphonie Fantastique! At Ambassador Auditorium - Berlioz's symphonic storytelling, Ravel's Piano Concerto, Jim Self's Tour de Force. 2pm and 8pm

November 9
Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Performs at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium - A unique "Viola Celebration" includes works by Beethoven, Mozart and more. 3:30pm – 5pm

November 15
Drone Art Show at the Rose Bowl – Enjoy timeless masterpieces as over 500 synchronized drones light up the sky. 7pm

November 22
Nutcracker! A Magical Christmas Ballet at Pasadena Civic Auditorium - This holiday ballet with an international cast. 3pm and 7pm

Ongoing Events

November 1, 2
Día de los Muertos at Kidspace Museum - Join in a celebration of life that includes music, dance, and art.

November 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
hahahahahahaha at the Pasadena Playhouse - This wildly unpredictable solo comedy show delivers side-splitting theater.

November 2
Pasadena City College Flea Market - Over 400 vendors attend the PCC Market. 8am – 3pm

November 3, 10
Music in the Rose Garden at The Huntington - Enjoy live performances by musicians while strolling through the Rose Garden. 1pm – 3pm

November 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20
Broadway Gamble Ramble at the Gamble House – Dance, theatre, and narrative reflecting the evolution of Broadway. 7pm

November 9
Rose Bowl Flea Market - The world's most unusual flea market.

November 13, 14, 15
A Christmas Carol at Arcadia Performing Arts Center – A modern adaptation presented by the award-winning Arcadia Stage Theater Program.

November 16 – January 4
Enchanted Forest of Light at Descanso Gardens – The garden is transformed into whimsical, and dramatic botanical artscapes.

November 29 – December 24
Los Angeles Christmas Market at ROWDTLA - This open-air market blends European holiday traditions with a cool LA twist.

November 29, 30, December 6, 7, 13, 14
A Victorian Holiday at the Queen Anne Cottage - Step back in time with Victorian entertainment, themed refreshments, crafts, and a holiday marketplace. 11am – 2pm

November 21 – December 28
Enchant Christmas LA at Santa Anita Park - Experience a light-maze, ice-skating trail, artisan markets, and plenty of food and drink options.


November 30 – December 24
A Christmas Carol at A Noise Within - This timeless story of redemption is filled with music, merriment, and good cheer.



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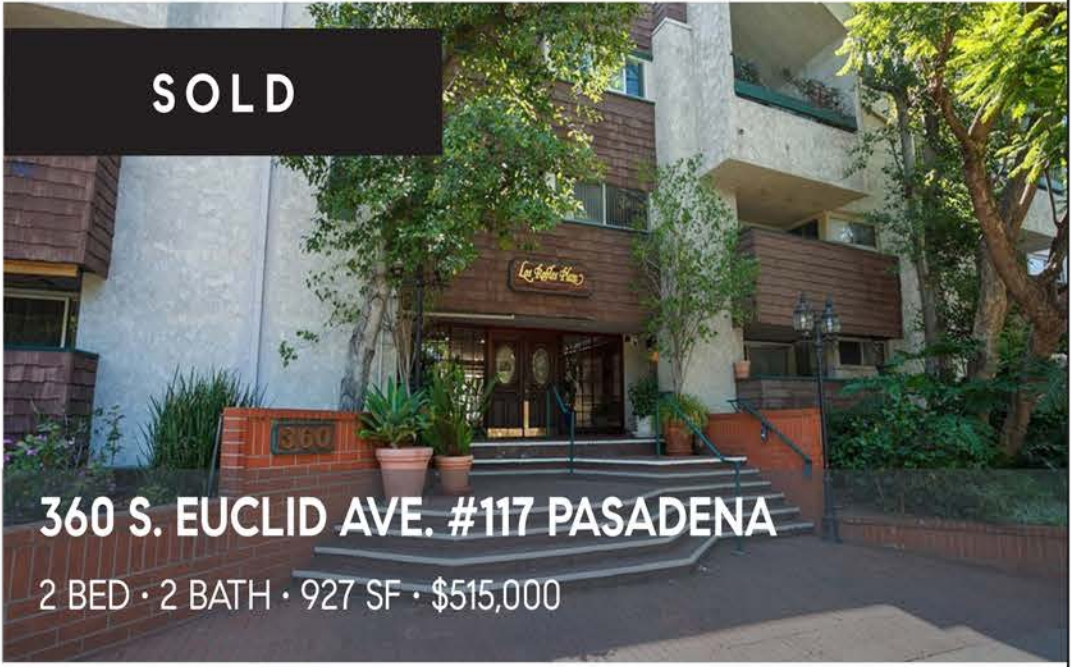
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2437 FLORENCE AVENUE, ARCADIA

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5026 FLORINDA AVENUE, TEMPLE CITY

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