

# Mountain Views News

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

VOLUME 20 NO. 6

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## ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN HARABEDIAN LAUNCHES HISTORIC LEGISLATION

(SACRAMENTO, CA) — Last week, Assemblymember John Harabedian (D - Pasadena) alongside Speaker Robert Rivas (D - Salinas) announced the launch of the Outcomes Review project featuring AB 238 (2025), a law designed to protect homeowners from foreclosure after the Los Angeles Wildfires by requiring mortgage servicers to offer up to a year of forbearance while families recover.

The Outcomes Review is part of a first-in-the-nation new Assembly tool focused on accountability and oversight, designed to take a closer look at how enacted laws are implemented and whether they are delivering for Californians.

The oversight process allows lawmakers to identify what is working, where barriers exist, and how outcomes can be strengthened.

“Wildfire survivors shouldn't have to fight their mortgage company while they're trying to rebuild their lives,” said Assemblymember Harabedian. “AB 238 was meant to provide real, immediate relief after disaster strikes. This Outcomes Review will help ensure the law is being followed and identify ways we can strengthen protections for families still at risk of losing their homes.”

“The Outcomes Review project reflects our Assembly's shared commitment to accountability and oversight,” said Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas. “I appreciate Assemblymember Harabedian for his willingness to ask the hard questions and dedication to making sure the laws we pass deliver results for Californians.”

Additional information and next steps will be announced as the Outcomes Review of AB 238 moves forward.

*Assemblymember John Harabedian, former Sierra Madre Mayor, now represents the 41st District composed of the cities of La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Bradbury, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Oak Hills, Piñon Hills and Phelan.*

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## LONGTIME BUSINESS LEADER RAFAEL VASQUEZ PASSES AWAY



Rafael Vasquez- May 30, 1939 – January 31, 2026.



Rafael Vasquez was a long-time Sierra Madre business owner and respected craftsman whose life's work centered on his furniture business and the community he loved. He began his career around 1980 with a small upholstery business known as Magdeleno's Upholstery, which later evolved into Rafael's Interiors. Through decades of dedicated work, Rafael became known for his skill in custom furniture design, fine upholstery, and furniture restoration. His craftsmanship, attention to detail, and commitment to quality earned him the trust and loyalty of countless clients throughout Sierra Madre and the surrounding areas. To most everyone in town, he was simply known as “Rafael.”

Rafael's work was more than a profession, it was his passion. He devoted long hours to his clients, often working late into the night to ensure furniture was completed in time for meaningful occasions such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. He took immense pride in his work and in the relationships, he built

with his customers, whom he deeply appreciated. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Rafael chose to retire, marking a significant transition after a lifetime of dedication to his craft.

Family and community were at the heart of Rafael's life. His daughters attended Alverno High School, and later his daughter Evie decided to live in Sierra Madre, continuing the family's strong ties to the town. Rafael was a devoted grandfather to Adam, Dylan, and Santi. He faithfully picked up Adam and Dylan from St. Rita School each day, often bringing them back to his shop until they were picked up. In doing so, he formed close friendships with teachers and staff and became affectionately known as “Adam and Dylan's grandpa.” After school, he loved treating his grandchildren to snacks at local favorites such as Sierra Madre Pizza Company, Subway, Starbucks, and Happy's, simple moments that became lasting memories.

Rafael's impact extended beyond his family and business. His grandsons honored him in their essays submitted for the Sierra Madre Civic Club college scholarship awards, reflecting the influence he had on their lives and the pride they felt in their grandfather. Sierra Madre, a small town known for its beautiful mountains, wildlife, and close-knit community was the perfect location for Rafael's Interiors, and Rafael cherished both the town and his wonderful clients.

Rafael Vasquez passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 31, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Evangelina; his daughters, Evie and Heidi; his sons-in-law, Jerry and Alfonso; and his three grandsons, Adam, Dylan, and Santi. His legacy lives on through his family, his craftsmanship, and the many lives he touched in Sierra Madre.

Funeral Service Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026  
Church: St Rita Catholic Church, 318 N. Baldwin Ave,  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
Time: Mass at 1pm: Viewing at 12 pm, Rosary at 12:30 pm  
Principal Celebrant: Fr. Tom Baker

Light Reception to follow at Gara Hall at St. Rita Church- 2-4pm

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SIERRA MADRE



### Coffee Chat Roadshow: Sierra Madre

Come meet the LA Fire Justice team, ask questions about our case against Edison, and discover support services that can help you and your community.

- Tuesday, February 10, 2026**
- 10:00 – 11:00 AM**
- Syndicate Coffee**  
18 W Sierra Madre Blvd #A,  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

RSVP

### Ongoing Meetings



#### Virtual Attorney Office Hours

##### Attorney Office Hours

- Wednesday Evenings
- 4:30 PM Pacific Time
- Virtual Meeting - Join Us on Zoom

Our attorneys will be hosting virtual office hours to discuss the Eaton Fire and our case against Southern California Edison. Click RSVP and receive the Zoom link to speak to our attorneys and get your questions answered.



#### Horas de Oficina Virtuales con un Abogado

##### Horas de Oficina Virtuales con un Abogado

- Todos los Martes
- 5:00-6:00 PM Hora del Pacifico
- Acompáñenos a Traves de Zoom

En este foro virtual recibirá respuestas directamente de un abogado de LA Fire Justice a todas sus preguntas relacionadas ante las pérdidas que usted y su familia sufrieron en el incendio Eaton.



##### Mental Health Monday

- 1st Monday of every month
- 6:00 PM
- Our Office  
221 E. Walnut St., Suite 100  
Pasadena, CA 91101

Join LA Fire Justice at Mental Health Monday, a Monthly Workshop Series to Help Families Heal.

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### MENTAL HEALTH MONDAY

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Scan to RSVP

MONDAYS  
6:00 - 7:00 PM

LAFJ OFFICE  
221 E. WALNUT ST., SUITE 100, PASADENA

FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

#### From Survival to Reflection: Reclaiming Calm

Learn how to slow your nervous system, process what you've been through, and find moments of steadiness after prolonged stress and uncertainty.

MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

#### Healing Beyond Words: Expressing Recovery Through Art

Using creative expression to explore emotions, release what's hard to name, and reconnect with yourself through nonverbal healing practices.

MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>

#### Money Stress & Mental Wellness:

##### Healing While Navigating Post-Fire Financial Recovery

Understanding how financial strain impacts mental health, and learning tools to manage anxiety, overwhelm, and decision fatigue during recovery.

APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>

#### The Gift of Stillness: Finding Peace In Uncertain Times

Exploring grounding techniques that help create a sense of safety, presence, and emotional rest when the future feels unclear.

Advertisement: Douglas Bauer, Law Office of Douglas Bauer, 221 E. Walnut St., Suite 100, Pasadena, CA 91101 is the attorney responsible for the content of this advertisement.



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## FROM FIRE DAMAGE TO FULLY RESTORED WE GUIDE YOU THROUGH IT

When the smoke clears, the recovery can be overwhelming. Whether it's soot or water damage, we manage the headache so you don't have to. We work directly with your insurance company, handling the documentation and details so you can focus on getting back to normal. From initial damage to rebuilding, we provide expert guidance every step of the way.



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## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Sun</b>	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows	50s
<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
<b>Tues:</b>	Cloudy	Hi	60s	Lows	50s
<b>Wed:</b>	Ptly Cloudy	Hi	60s	Lows	50s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 10 , 2026 5:30 pm

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).

Sierra Madre Public LIBRARY  
Read • Discover • Connect

## Sierra Madre Public Library

**Saturday, February 28**

Last day to return books via outdoor bookdrop

**February 2—May 31, 2026**

Library is closed for relocation

**June 6, 2026**

Grand Re-opening at 440 W Sierra Madre Blvd

**In the Meantime**

**Kanopy**

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

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

## MOUNT WILSON TRAIL RACE 2026: Free 15-week Training Program Begins

The 2026 Mount Wilson Trail Race Training Program begins today, Saturday, February 7, at 7:00 a.m. in Kersting Court and continues on Saturdays through May 23rd. The MWTR Training Program is offered at no charge and no pre-registration is required. Participants are welcome to attend any of the Saturday sessions. Anyone over 14 years of age is welcome to join the program, become a better runner, and get stronger, even if they do not plan to run this year’s MWTR.

Next Saturday’s session on 2/14/26 will be at Hahamongna Watershed Park located at 4550 Oak Grove Dr., Pasadena, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Meet in the lower lot by the softball field and disc golf course. This will be the First Time Trial on trail, with a distance of 3.1 miles recorded for each participant individually. Each Saturday session starts at 7:00 a.m. and each week’s session locations vary by week. For more information and the specific 15-week training program schedule, go to the Mount Wilson Trail Race

website: <https://www.mountwilsontrailrace.com/>. You can download the PDF for your personal use or to share with other interested parties.

Led by Coach Simon Cooper, this is a race specific 15-week training program consisting of leg and lung busting fun! There is also lots of group bonding and encouragement along the way. There is no requirement to register for the actual MWTR.

This year, the Mount Wilson Trail Race will be held Saturday, May 23, 2026, beginning at 7:30 a.m. in Kersting Court. Online registration only opens on Monday, March 2, 2026 @ 8:00 a.m. by going to the Mount Wilson Trail Race website (see link above) and using the MWTR registration link. MWTR registration costs \$80 for adults and \$42 for youth ages 14 – 17. All paid registrations receive a specially designed MWTR T-shirt and goodie bag. Registration is open until the 350 runner limit is reached and there is no in person MWTR registration.

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE: The Social Side by Deanne Davis

Deep thought to kick off February:

*“The more you think about something, the more power you give it. You can’t change THEM, but you can change you, which could be enough to create just the result you were hoping for.”*

*“If January is the month of change, February is the month of lasting change. January is for dreamers. February is for doers.” Marc Parent*

*“In February there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret.”  
“February is the month of love.”*

Yes, friends and neighbors, Valentine’s Day is just a couple of weeks away!

There are so many things I could write about here this week but I decided I would write about my dad. His birthday was Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. He would have been 105, I think. The picture today is his take on lemons. Many artists would have created a work such as this, perfect lemons with perfect leaves; but my dad added that special quirky touch: a small dragon. This is an exquisite oil painting that hangs in my house, along with many other pieces of his work. He was an incredibly gifted, prolific artist who was featured in many art shows, won many competitions, and my sister, Heidi, and I treasure his work. I expect he is still creating in heaven. I came across an essay he wrote many years ago, which is so “him.” I’ve shared this before, but I think you’ll enjoy reading it again.



“How to Become an Artist”  
By Kim Weed

“When I was about three years old I took to drawing some of the creatures around me such as spiders, grasshoppers, ants and flies. My mother, although no art lover, was interested in abnormal curiosities, so saved my premature efforts for a while but tossed them out when I was about seven as no longer being of interest. But my compulsion to draw never left and for the rest of my life I drew pictures. I don’t remember especially liking to draw, it was just that whenever I came into contact with paper and pencil I would instinctively start. There was barely perceptible improvement, but as time passed, I became the one in the classroom delegated to do the lettering, make the posters, etc. I caused me no end of annoyance and self-disgust that I really wasn’t very good at it, so tried to find out why by studying paperback books on cartooning, which actually did provide some of the answers. The one gift I had was being able to draw pictures that made others laugh, and for this reason some dimwitted individuals began keeping them, which was a terrific lift to my ego. When I told my parents I wished to be an artist or cartoonist, and they got through laughing, in some seriousness they asked me if I wanted to starve to death. I thought about it and decided that I would one day open up my own “fixit” shop for repairing broken things, which was, apparently, my sole talent.

When I was sixteen I took a chance and entered a statewide competition for a scholarship at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles by submitting a portfolio of my work. I thought it was a genuine miracle when I got the letter telling me I had won. I packed a bag, drew out my life savings of \$52, and headed for Los Angeles. For two years, on the edge of starvation, I attended Chouinard free of charge. At the ripe age of eighteen, I set myself up as a freelance illustrator and took in any kind of art work that came along, including animation, mural painting, gag cartooning, men’s fashions, paste-up and newspaper advertising illustration. It included meeting short deadlines, late hours, considerable humiliation and ego bashing, along with poverty, but I was able to keep from sinking, though barely.

As World War II loomed on the horizon, I got a fair paying job in an aircraft factory and never looked back. I was a sailor, aircraft mechanic, and after the war, thanks to the GI Bill, went to college and, in time, became an aerospace engineer, later an intelligence agent and traveled throughout the world. Now here comes the good part...

When it was no longer necessary to grub out a precarious living by drawing, it was suddenly a lot of fun, and I never stopped for the next fifty years, sometimes profitably, sometimes not. I was lucky enough to illustrate books, paint portraits, work in all the graphic media, enter competitions and paint hundreds of pictures just for fun, some of which won prizes, while others found their way into countries across the seas. So, when someone asks me how to become an artist, I have to say, “I don’t have the slightest idea or foggiest notion!”

My parents married too young, had no idea how to be married, soon had me, and divorced. I saw little of him during my youth but reconnected with him when I was in my 40’s, and we were close friends until he passed away. As he lived in Valley Center, in the hills above Escondido, we carried on a lively correspondence by mail. Yes, letters! With stamps and everything! I have all his letters to me in a folder which I will look into someday, but not just now. His art surrounds me with beauty and wit and I feel blessed. In 2000, when he was in his 80’s, my dad set off on a cruise around the world on a container ship, continuing a life filled with high adventure.

“At the end of the day, all you need is hope and strength.  
Hope that it will get better, and strength to hold on until it does.”  
“Hope is the only thing stronger than fear.”

And in a world where you can be anything...be kind.

My book page: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/): Deanne Davis  
I’ve been re-reading my book,  
“Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope”

It encouraged me, made me smile and reminded me that Hope is all around!  
It’s a pretty good book, even if I did write it!

You can find it on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/) and they’ll even send it to someone for you!

## SIERRA MADRE WELCOMES KELLER WILLIAMS



From left to right: Elijah DuMonde, Shelby Knight and Dave Knight , Chamber Representatives Mary Hoffman of The B.A.G. and Sierra Madre Mayor, Kris Lowe.  
Photo by Dirk Bolle

Catch breaking news at: [mtnviewsnews.com](http://mtnviewsnews.com)



# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Closures & Reminders for Lincoln & Washington Birthdays

In observance of Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays, City Hall and many City services will be closed Thursday and Monday, Feb. 16. Specific closures, exceptions and reminders are noted below.

The City Service Center (CSC) will be closed on Thursday and Monday, Feb. 16, and will reopen Friday and Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 8 a.m. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will occur as scheduled on both holidays. There will be no delay in pickup for residents.

Pasadena residents and businesses experiencing any power emergencies should call Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) at (626) 744-4673. For water-related emergencies, call (626) 744-4138. PWP's Customer Service Call Center will be closed Thursday and Monday, Feb. 16; however, customers can access their accounts and make payments through the automated phone system at (626) 744-4005 or online at PWPWeb.com.

The City's Municipal Services Payment Center and Parking Office will also be closed on Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays. All parking meters will be free and parking time limits will not be enforced. Violations for overnight parking restrictions, red curb parking and blocking fire hydrants will be issued. Parking meter enforcement resumes after each holiday on Friday, Feb. 13, and Tuesday, Feb. 17. Pasadena Transit and Dial-A-Ride buses will operate on their regular schedules.

The Housing Department will also be closed on Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays and will resume normal operations on Tuesday, February 17.

The Permit Center will be closed on Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays; however, many services will be available via Permit Center Online, where you can obtain subtrade permits and submit plans for new construction, tenant improvements, accessory dwelling units and additions. In-person operations will resume after each holiday on Friday, and Tuesday, Feb. 17.

All Pasadena Public Library branch sites will be closed Thursday and will reopen Friday, Feb. 13. Library branches will also be closed Sunday and Monday, Feb. 15 and 16, and will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 17.

All parks will be open for picnics, fun and play; however, no site reservations are being accepted for the holidays. Community and recreation centers will be closed to the public on Thursday and Monday, Feb. 16.

The Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) will be closed Thursday and Monday, Feb. 16. Upcoming vaccine clinics are scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18 and Monday, Feb. 23.

The Pasadena Police Department Records Front Counter and Property Section will be closed Thursday and Monday. For life-threatening emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergency assistance call (626) 744-4241. If you see something, report suspicious activity to the Police Department at (626) 744-4241.

## CITY OF PASADENA NAMES THE 2026 BLACK HISTORY FESTIVAL GRAND MARSHALS



The City of Pasadena and the Black History Planning Committee announced Monday that former Pasadena City College track and field athlete and coach Walt Butler will serve as the Grand Marshal for the 2026 Black History Festival Saturday, February 21 at Robinson Park. This year's theme is "Unifying the Culture & Protecting Our Freedom, Passing the Baton to the Next Generation."

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to committee members, Butler is a local sports legend in the community, having had a storied career in high school football and track and field at Pasadena High School and Pasadena City College, and has since been inducted into the Pasadena Sports Hall of Fame. He has long served his community, having helped youth and seniors as well as the local unhoused community by donating shoes from his own sporting goods store to those in need. In 2025,

Butler lost his Altadena home of over 60 years in the Eaton Fire, and despite having suffered such a devastating loss, he is ready to rebuild and help his community rebuild alongside him.

Alongside Butler, Dell and Dudley Stewart will serve as Community Grand Marshals, and the Youth Grand Marshals are Bobby Milton, Carlos Ferreira Gaxiola, Vaughn Cross, Malik Husaini, Danial Jamshidi, Christopher Baghdassarian, Luca Bonnici, and Alec Heberger they said.

"We are honored to have Walt Butler as our Grand Marshal for the 2026 Festival," shares Pixie Boyden, Committee Co-Chair. "He is a shining example of who we are as residents of Pasadena, and a testament to our community. While we still grapple with the long-term effects of the Eaton Fire, we are proud to bring back portions of our festival that were cancelled due to circumstances."

Serving as the emcee of the event will be local journalist James Farr, host of Conversation Live: Altadena Rising. Through his radio program, Farr has explored the deep roots of Altadena's Black community and its resilience in the wake of the Eaton Fire.

While the parade will not be present this year, the classic car show will make its return, adding to a heartwarming day filled with performances, activities, and much-needed



Walt Butler

support. Additionally, attendees can enjoy:

Youth Performances showcasing local middle and high school talent

Live Entertainment from artists representing Pasadena's vibrant cultural community

Food Trucks offering a diverse selection of delicious food options

Community Resource Booths staffed by numerous local organizations providing information, services, and support.

Robinson Park is located at 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave.

For more information visit: [cityofpasadena.net/event/black-history-festival](http://cityofpasadena.net/event/black-history-festival).

## Local Election Candidate Filing Period Opens Mon.

City officials announced that Notice had been given Monday for the Pasadena's Primary Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, June 2, for City Council Districts 3, 5, and 7. Nomination papers for candidates seeking these local City offices will be available during the period of Monday, February 9 through Friday, March 6, closing at 5 p.m., in the Office of the City Clerk, 100 North Garfield Avenue, Room S228, Pasadena. Candidates may receive and circulate nomination petitions to gather signatures of registered voters in order to have their names placed on the June 2nd ballot for Members of the City Council serving Districts 3, 5, and 7, each for a full four year term.

Identical Candidate Workshops will be conducted by the City Clerk staff in the City Clerk's Office, 100 North Garfield Avenue, Room S228, Pasadena, at 8 a.m. Monday, February 9 and 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 11. Appointments are also available by calling the City Clerk's Office at (626) 744-4124 or emailing: [CityClerk@CityOfPasadena.net](mailto:CityClerk@CityOfPasadena.net)

Election information is available on online at [CityOfPasadena.net/Elections](http://CityOfPasadena.net/Elections).

## SOUTH PASADENA POLICE DEPT. ANNOUNCES NEW POLICE CHIEF

The City of South Pasadena announced Monday the selection of Derek Elmore (pictured) as the new Police Chief of the South Pasadena Police Department. Chief Elmore brings more than 33 years of distinguished law enforcement experience, including nearly two decades in executive and command-level leadership roles with the Phoenix Police Department, one of the largest police departments in the nation. Elmore officially began his service the same day as his announcement.

Elmore most recently served as Commander of the Drug Enforcement Bureau for the Phoenix Police Department, overseeing complex investigations involving narcotics trafficking, human exploitation and trafficking, and coordinated efforts with local, state and federal partners. Previously, he served as Executive Assistant Chief, providing day-to-day executive oversight of a department comprising of approximately 2,500 sworn officers and more than 1,000 professional staff, with responsibility for nearly a \$1 billion operating budget.

Throughout his career, Elmore has demonstrated a strong commitment to collaborative leadership, organizational accountability, officer wellness, and building lasting community trust. His experience includes commanding the department's largest patrol precinct, serving more than 310,000 residents, overseeing professional standards and internal accountability systems, and working closely with city leadership, oversight entities, and labor organizations to foster fair and equitable practices. Notably, he negotiated and co-authored the first Memorandum of Understanding between the Phoenix Police Department and the City's Office of Accountability and



Transparency, strengthening cooperation and public confidence.

Elmore's leadership experience also includes managing complex, high-profile public safety operations. Elmore played a key role in public safety planning and staffing for Super Bowl LVII, ensuring uninterrupted patrol services, investigative operations, and protection of critical infrastructure.

Elmore is widely recognized for fostering open communication, encouraging innovation, and building strong partnerships with community organizations, faith-based groups, and civic leaders. He has played a key role in developing best practices in areas such as crime reduction strategies, First Amendment response, continuous improvement in policing, and cross-training to strengthen organizational resilience.

In addition to his operational experience, Elmore has contributed to the profession through teaching, mentorship, and national leadership development programs. He is a graduate of the Major Cities Chiefs Association Police Executive Leadership Institute and has received numerous awards, including the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Community Outreach and Training.

For more information visit: [southpasadenaca.gov](http://southpasadenaca.gov).

## Black History Month at the Senior Center continues with Musical Performance

Black History Month at the Pasadena Senior Center continues with a special musical performance by two members of the acclaimed 'DC6 Singers Collective,' part of the Cultural Thursdays event series on site at the Pasadena Senior Center on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m.

Marlaina Owens and Ronnie Ohannon of the DC6 Singers Collective, a group of dynamic vocalists, will be performing a diverse selection of music composed by and made famous through the contributions of Black artists at the celebratory event.

The event is free for

Pasadena Senior Center members and only \$5 for nonmembers. Reservations are suggested. To register or for more information, visit [pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorcenter.org), then click on Lectures & Classes, then Cultural Thursdays.

What's in a name? For the DC6 Singers Collective, it's more than just an identity, it's a story in itself. Born out of their debut performance in Washington D.C. at a prestigious State Department dinner, the name stuck, and the group now loves the fun irony of explaining how a Los Angeles-based ensemble came to be called "DC6."



**SIERRA MADRE  
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METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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Shop proceeds help support our Communities' Local Non-Profits & Scholarships



## NEWS BRIEFS

### SAN MARINO MURDER CHARGES FILED

A man was ordered last week to stand trial on murder and arson charges stemming from his wife's death at their San Marino home, with the judge ordering him to be taken into custody without bail.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Shelly Torrealba rejected a defense motion to dismiss the charges against Yoon ``Kevin" Lai stemming from his wife's Jan. 6, 2025, death, and allowed Deputy District Attorney Alexander Bott to add two special circumstance allegations -- murder for financial gain and murder while lying in wait -- that required Lai to be held without bail.

The District Attorney's Office is expected to decide later whether to seek the death penalty for Lai, who could otherwise face a potential life prison term without the possibility of parole if convicted as charged.

Lai, 62, was led out of the downtown Los Angeles courtroom after being handcuffed. He had been freed on \$2.25 million bond less than a week after his first court appearance on the charges stemming from the death of his 56-year-old wife, Irene Gaw-Lai, a doctor with whom he had twin teenage sons.

At Lai's first court appearance last year, Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney Habib Balian told a judge that authorities are alleging that Lai beat his wife to death and then tried to cover it up by setting the house on fire.

The prosecutor said the two had experienced ``some marital discord," telling the judge that cellular site data and surveillance video suggests the defendant was at the home shortly before the blaze.

Lai's attorney, James Tedford, countered that the county medical examiner's office has listed the woman's cause of death as ``undetermined." The defense lawyer -- who said his client has been in ``full cooperation with law enforcement" -- said there were electrical issues at the home, saying that ``more than likely we have an electrical fire."

In testimony last Monday, a sheriff's arson investigator who reviewed the evidence testified that he concluded ``someone intentionally set this fire" and noted that was also the conclusion of the original investigator who was among three people who were killed in an explosion last year.

Lai's attorney asked the judge to dismiss the charges, saying he did not believe they had been proven. He argued that he didn't think the testimony was sufficient to ``rule out an electrical fire."

Bott countered that Lai's wife had filed for divorce in 2024 and the defendant was aware of what a divorce would cost him financially, with the prosecutor calling it a ``financially motivated murder" by the ``only person who could have started" two fires that were confined to the den in the family's home.

After a nearly two-day hearing, the judge said she found ``sufficient cause" to believe that Lai had committed the crimes.

Jocelyn Gaw testified Monday that her younger sister had filed twice for divorce and had accused her husband of having an affair, and had not withdrawn her divorce petition despite her husband agreeing to revoke a prenuptial agreement that was one of the conditions if the two were to reconcile. She said she is now the guardian of the couple's two sons.

The couple's next-door neighbor, Caroline ``Connie" Chappell Morris, testified that she initially observed what she thought was steam and later determined was a small stream of brown smoke coming from a portion of the house after she returned from the park, where she had been walking with a friend. She said she saw Lai ``peering out the door" and heard him ask, ``What's going on?"

``I say to him, 'Your house is on fire' and pointed to the back ...." she testified. She said Lai questioned where his wife was since her car was still there and she was supposed to pick up their sons, telling the judge that he eventually said he had to leave and pick them up while his wife was still missing. She said he subsequently returned without his sons, who showed up later.

In a statement released shortly after the case was filed, District Attorney Nathan Hochman said, ``The violent death of Dr. Irene Gaw-Lai is heartbreaking and deeply disturbing. She was not only a respected physician and business leader, but a mother who deserved safety and dignity in her home. We will not rest until the person responsible for this senseless tragedy is held fully accountable."

## SCOTTISH SINGER AND SONGWRITER JIM MALCOLM, WILL PLAY A CONCERT ON FEB.14 IN PASADENA

After performing with Pasadena Folk Music Society for more than twenty years, both with Old Blind Dogs and solo, Jim is extremely fond of our organization and the wonderful spirit of our audiences, and he's delighted to be coming back.

As both singer and songwriter, Jim Malcolm is one of the most distinctive voices in Scottish music, "one of the finest singing voices in Scotland in any style". He has a huge repertoire of songs from the Scottish tradition and is a noted interpreter of Robert Burns. These old songs are complemented by his own original and award-winning songs, which are at once completely modern and accessible, yet an authentic addition to the canon of Scottish music. Jim's between-song wit has developed to an art form all of its own and is not to be missed!

This concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Hill Ave. in Pasadena. Available through Eventbrite, advance tickets with fees are \$33.85 for adults and \$12.51 for Caltech students and younger students through high school.

The event is organized by volunteers of the Pasadena Folk Music Society, which has been presenting fine music at affordable prices for four decades.

For more information, see <https://pasadenafolkmusicsociety.org/events>

## SUPERVISOR BARGER ANNOUNCES \$10K REWARD FOLLOWING VANDALISM AT PASADENA JEWISH TEMPLE AND CENTER

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger announced today that Los Angeles County is now offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for the recent vandalism at the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center.

During today's Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Barger read in a motion to establish the reward. The motion received unanimous approval, reflecting the Board's shared commitment to ensuring accountability for acts that threaten public safety and target faith communities.

"This was a deeply disturbing act targeting a Jewish community that is still working to heal and rebuild," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "By establishing this reward, we are sending a clear message that intimidation will not be tolerated in Los Angeles County. I urge anyone with information--no matter how small it may seem--to come forward so those responsible can be held accountable. This community deserves answers and justice."

Supervisor Kathryn Barger stands alongside Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center congregants and community members during a commemoration of the Eaton Fire held last week. (Photo credit: Michael Owen Baker/LA County)

The Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, which was destroyed during the Eaton Fire in January 2025, was further traumatized this past weekend by vandalism and antisemitic graffiti. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is leading the investigation and has confirmed it is being treated as a potential hate crime.

Supervisor Barger has condemned the vandalism and pledged to closely monitor the investigation while standing ready to support both the affected community and law enforcement. The establishment of this reward builds on that commitment by encouraging members of the public to share information that could assist investigators.

Anyone with information related to this crime is urged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Altadena Station at (626) 798-1131. Tips may also be provided directly to the Sheriff's Department Major Crimes Bureau-Hate Crimes Task Force by contacting Detective Hodaya Doherty at [hhdohert@lasd.org](mailto:hhdohert@lasd.org) or calling the tip line at (562) 946-7893. Information can also be submitted anonymously through the Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers Hotline at (800) 222-TIPS (8477).



The newly installed "Altadena Forever" banner displayed on Lake Avenue. (Photo credit: Los Angeles County Public Works)

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger today spotlighted the unveiling of a new banner spanning Lake Avenue, commissioned by the Community Coalition for Altadena Recovery, as a powerful symbol of resilience.

The banner was designed by a local teenager who lost his home in the fire, transforming personal loss into a message of hope for the entire community.

"I am incredibly pleased and proud to see our community continue to rise together in the wake of the Eaton Fire," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "This banner is a reflection of the strength and creativity that define this community. It's a reminder that even in the hardest moments, hope and unity shine through."

The banner was installed today by Los Angeles County Public Works on Lake Avenue, between Morada Place and Alameda Street. Its display serves as both a tribute to those impacted by the wildfire and a visible sign of the community's determination to move forward together.

## ARCADIA AUDIT CONFIRMS STRONG FISCAL POSITION

<p><b>ARCADIA, CA – Independent auditors have completed their annual review of Arcadia's Fiscal Year 2024-25 financial results, reporting a positive ending result of \$4.6 million, significantly outperforming initial projections.</b></p> <p><b>By September 2024, the approval of five labor association agreements resulted in a projected deficit of \$2.2 million. However, by June 2025, updated forecasts indicated that a balanced budget was the most likely outcome. Consistent with prior years, actual results proved significantly more favorable than initial projections, which were supported by stronger revenues, disciplined spending, and routine timing and supply chain delays for certain capital projects.</b></p> <p><b>Arcadia's positive financial results were driven by favorable performance on both the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget. On the revenue side, tax collections exceeded projections by \$1.6 million, led by</b></p>	<p><b>higher collections on sales, utilities, property, and hotel stays. The fiscal year also reflects increased investment income, which contributed an additional \$1.3 million to the budget. Further revenue growth came from fees, fines, and charges for services, including approximately \$150,000 for code enforcement activity, \$150,000 for engineering services, \$300,000 in grant funds, and \$400,000 in reimbursements related to Fire Department Strike Team deployments.</b></p> <p><b>Budget savings were largely the result of normal capital project scheduling and supply chain delays, lower-than-anticipated personnel costs, and the deferral of a voluntary contribution to help stabilize employee pension costs. Capital and equipment spending totaled about \$2.5 million less than projected, with most of those costs being carried forward into the current fiscal year. Following the favorable results of the audit, the City will proceed with transferring the</b></p>	<p><b>\$1.0 million previously set aside to help smooth pension costs.</b></p> <p><b>Although the labor contracts initially signaled a challenging budget year, higher revenue growth and disciplined spending helped Arcadia turn a multimillion-dollar deficit into a \$4.6 million surplus. "Our employees are the foundation of Arcadia's success, and the City Council ensured that our labor agreements reflect their vital contributions to the community," said City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto. "Their foresight to invest in our workforce contributes to Arcadia's long-term vitality, helping our community remain a place where people want to live, work, and play."</b></p> <p><b>Arcadia's FY2024-25 financial audit will be posted to the City's website at <a href="http://ArcadiaCA.gov">ArcadiaCA.gov</a> in the coming weeks. Any questions about the audit can be directed to the Administrative Services Department at (626) 574-5424.</b></p>
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# EDUCATION AND YOUTH

## 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@acsions.com  
Principal: Cindy Harmon  
website: www.acsions.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.bcsions.org

**Clairbourn School**  
8400 Huntington Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91775  
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172  
FAX: 626-286-1528  
Marianne Ryan  
administration@clairbourn.org  
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

**Foothill Oaks Academy**  
822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 301-9809  
Principal: Nancy Lopez  
www.foothilloaksacademy.org  
office@foothilloaksacademy.org

**Frostig School**  
971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 791-1255  
Head of School: Jenny Janetzke  
Email: jenny@frostig.org

**The Gooden School**  
192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca.  
91024  
(626) 355-2410  
Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner  
website: www.goodenschool.org

**Holy Angels School**  
PK-8th Grade  
360 Campus Drive  
Arcadia, CA 91007  
626-447-6312  
office@holyangelsarcadia.org

Principal: Aimee Dyrek  
holyangelsarcadia.net

**High Point Academy**  
1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989  
website: www.highpointacademy.org

**La Salle College Preparatory**  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org  
Principal Ernest Siy

**Monrovia High School**  
325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA  
91016  
(626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson  
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

**Odyssey Charter School**  
725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001  
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill  
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

**Pasadena High School**  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba  
website: http://phs.pusd.us

**St. Rita Catholic School**  
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca.  
91024  
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.monroviashools.net

**Duarte Unified School District**  
1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010  
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Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us



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For questions email: cityclerk@sierramadrecalifornia.gov



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**Beth Copti – [bcopti@yahoo.com](mailto:bcopti@yahoo.com) - 626-627-9404**

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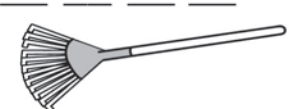

# Happy Valentine's Day!

O.K., O.K. so I'll be your pal.

I'll jump through hoops...er, hearts, if you'll be my Valentine!

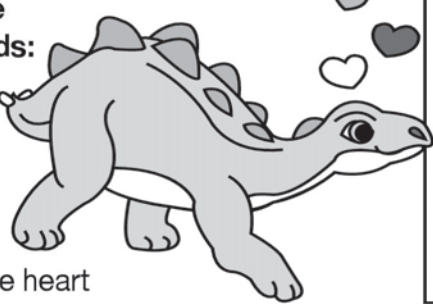
"Read" the picture and letter clues to fill in my puzzle. Use the sounds of the pictures to help. What is my secret message to you?

Be Mine!

B +  M + 

Hearty Puzzle!

- sweetheart
- central land area
- full of sorrow
- floor of fireplace
- deeply felt; sincere
- body's most important muscle; pumps blood
- has no feelings; cruel
- cheering
- strong; in good health
- a single pumping of the heart



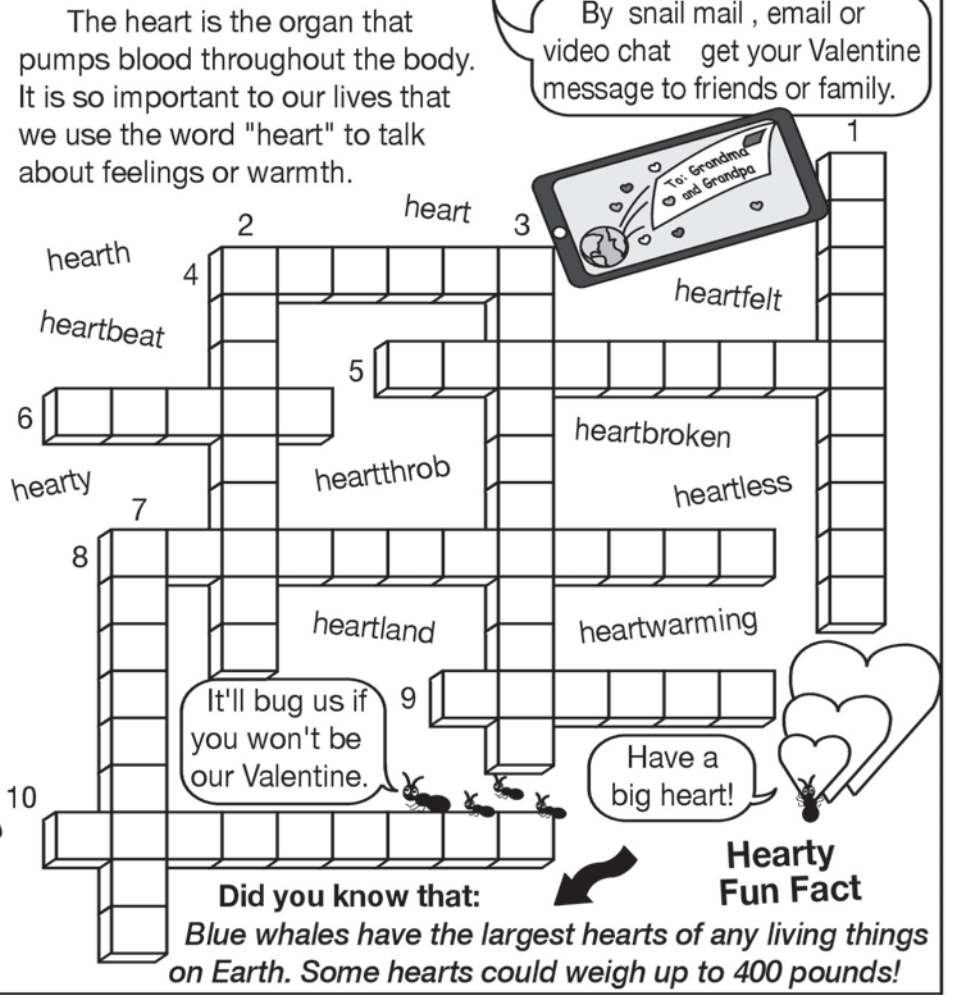
The heart is the organ that pumps blood throughout the body. It is so important to our lives that we use the word "heart" to talk about feelings or warmth.

By snail mail, email or video chat get your Valentine message to friends or family.

It'll bug us if you won't be our Valentine.

Have a big heart!

**Hearty Fun Fact**  
Did you know that: Blue whales have the largest hearts of any living things on Earth. Some hearts could weigh up to 400 pounds!





THE 1990s

ACROSS

DOWN

1. \*First cloned mammal

6. Fuel economy acronym

9. Land measure

13. Pascal of “The Mandalorian” fame

14. Second O in EVOO

15. a.k.a. sergeant fish or robalo

16. Plant fungus

17. \*”Titanic” star

18. \*”The \_\_\_\_ Whisperer” (1998)

19. \*PepsiCo offering

21. \*One of the Walsh twins, 90210

23. Long reef dweller

24. Reach a high

25. Color of passion

28. Agitate

30. Like Matryoshka inside Matryoshka

35. Gave the boot

37. Arab League member

39. One of Florida Keys

40. Summer month

41. Polished diamond surface

43. Safecracker

44. Lazybones

46. Before “saw” and “conquered”

47. Glitch

48. Watercraft

50. Remains repository

52. Like some martinis

53. Comfort

55. One in a pod

57. \* \_\_\_\_ bubble

60. \*The 1990s, a.k.a. post-\_\_\_\_ decade

64. Biblical patriarch

65. Sensitive subject?

67. “Bad news travels fast,” e.g.

68. \_\_\_\_ shopping cart

69. Father’s progeny

70. Trojan War epic

71. Difficult situation

72. Like jalapeño

73. So out it’s in

1. Design detail

2. München mister

3. Jittery

4. Irregularly notched

5. \*Harry of Privet Drive

6. Gangster’s gal

7. \*”American \_\_\_\_” (1999)

8. Geography class prop

9. Any minute, arch.

10. Cut at birth

11. Parks on a bus

12. \_\_\_\_ out a living

15. Israeli monetary unit

20. Remote in manner

22. Did a marathon, e.g.

24. Mollify

25. \*Assassinated Gandhi

26. Radiate

27. Small wooded hollows

29. \*Apple offering

31. Simon does what?

32. Influencer’s creation

33. Daytime moth

34. \*Snoop \_\_\_\_ Dogg

36. Coloring substances

38. Nautilus’ captain

42. Allegro or lento

45. Repeat an echo

49. Pathet \_\_\_\_

51. \*Fresh Prince’s town

54. \* \_\_\_\_ Mouth of “All Star” fame

56. Discombobulate

57. \*Jeff Bridges in “The Big Lebowski,” with The

58. Made in Vegas

59. Makes lace

60. One-tenth of a dime

61. \*” \_\_\_\_ Wait... Don’t Tell Me!” on NPR

62. Petri dish gel

63. Do over

64. Fruit spread

66. \* \_\_\_\_ Goo Dolls of “Name” fame

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Wistaria Shop Closes 6/1 - Thurs 9/4

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

OMINOUS, WAKE UP! WE OVERSLEPT AND WE'VE GOT A BUSY DAY!

WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME LEFT IN THE DAY, SO WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES?

YEP. NAPTIME IS PRIORITY ONE.





Peter A. Dills  
https://  
podlink/1116885432

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR... BUT SO IS THE RESERVATION LIST

The Super Bowl is behind us. The chicken wings are gone, the jerseys are folded, and now we shift from touchdowns to table settings.

Valentine's Day is coming. First things first — promise me you won't wait until the last second to make your reservation. Every year I hear it: "Peter, we couldn't get in anywhere!" That's not bad luck. That's bad planning.

My dad would've said, "The only thing worse than a bad table is no table at all."

### Stay In? Pop the Cork.

If you're staying home, no shame in that game. Grab a bottle of Taittinger Brut La Française, pick up some flowers, dim the lights, and suddenly your dining room feels like Paris. Clean the house. Put the phone away. Play a little music. Romance is about effort — not square footage. And yes, champagne still fixes almost everything.

### Dining Out: Here's Where I'd Look

Italian & Steak — Always a Winner  
Colombo's Italian Steakhouse & Jazz Club — old-school charm, red sauce, and that comfortable feeling like they've been hosting Valentine's dinners since Sinatra was on the radio. Taylor's Steakhouse — steak and a martini. Sometimes simple is sexy. The pride of La Canada

Now let's talk Sierra Madre.

Casa Del Rey delivers romance with a little flair. Great margaritas, lively energy, and a patio that can turn into something special under the right lighting. Don't underestimate Mexican cuisine on Valentine's — a good chile relleno and a quality tequila cocktail can absolutely set the mood.

And for a little nostalgic sweetness...

Twohey's Restaurant in South Pasadena brings that comfort factor. Cozy booths, classic American dishes, and desserts that practically demand two spoons. Valentine's doesn't always have to be white tablecloths — sometimes it's about sharing a slice of pie.

### A Word About Prix Fixe

Some special menus are fantastic. Others feel like a forced march through dishes you didn't order. If you see \$125 per person, make sure you're excited about what's coming to the table. Value still matters — even in love.

### Final Advice from Peter Dills

- Make the reservation early.
- Be kind to your server — it's their Super Bowl.
- Don't overcomplicate the evening.
- And please... don't be the person calling at 5:30 PM on February 14th asking for 7:00 PM. Whether you dine out or stay home with a bottle of Taittinger and flowers, the magic is in the details.

Romance, like a good restaurant, is about how you make someone feel. Check out my podcast this week I talk with Donna Baker and Her partner Gina Ammon talking Monrovia.

## THE TASTING ROOM SPARKLING WINE + VALENTINE'S DAY = PERFECTION

I'm Gustavo Lira, Tasting Room Manager and Wine Buyer at The Bottle Shop in Sierra Madre with another wine and spirits selection.

Valentine's Day is next week, and here's a gorgeous sparkling wine from Italy that will guarantee love is in the air, as well as in the glass.

The Gia Labriola Brut "Gia" NV is from the Prosecco region of Italy. Prosecco is not on the label since this wine is declassified, however, you are getting amazing quality for the price you pay. This sparkling wine is a blend of Bianchetta, Perrera, and Verdiso grapes. The vineyard extends from the hillside slopes around Conegliano and Valdobbiadene down to the banks of the Piave River, roughly 31 miles north of Venice. The Piave river contributes calcareous white stones which cover the soil and slowly release at night the heat accumulated during the day. This helps grape maturity and retains the freshness of the grapes. All vines are farmed under biodynamic principles and the winery is Certified Organic by the ICEA.



Transparent Wine Company collaborates with a rising young cellar master in the Venetian Prosecco country to create this unique sparkling wine. They wanted a long aged sparkling wine with real depth, and zero sugar. Furthermore, this wine comes from a single vineyard that is certified organic. A lot of the Prosecco in the US market is mass produced plonk from chemically farmed vineyards. Those grapes are machine harvested and then rushed through the wine-making process in a few short months. "Gia" is not done this way. Gia is special in that it is made from fruit that is hand-harvested, and the juice is vinified for 1.5 years. This results in a uniquely complex, balanced, and pure sparkling wine. It's clean, refreshing, zesty and has the right amount of bubbles. Yes, this would be a very enjoyable sparkling wine to drink on Valentine's Day, but I know I am going to drink this throughout the year!

The Gia Labriola Brut "Gia" NV is available at The Bottle Shop in Sierra Madre.

Please keep in mind all those who have suffered and are trying to rebuild from the Eaton Fire. Visit DeanMadreStrong.com to learn how you can continue to help those impacted by the Eaton Fire.

Until next time – Salud!



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## SENIORS & VALENTINE'S DAY: LOVE THAT GROWS RICHER WITH TIME

Valentine's Day isn't just for the young—it holds a special, often deeper meaning for seniors. With years of life experience behind them, older adults tend to view love not as a whirlwind of grand gestures, but as something steady, resilient, and deeply meaningful. For many seniors, Valentine's Day is a celebration of connection in all its forms: romantic love, friendship, family bonds, and even self-love.

Long-term couples often cherish the holiday as a reminder of shared memories and enduring commitment. A simple card, a favorite meal, or a quiet moment together can carry far more weight than extravagant gifts. After decades together, love is found in the small things—inside jokes, shared routines, and the comfort of knowing someone truly understands you.

For seniors who are single or widowed, Valentine's Day can still be an opportunity for joy and connection. Friendships become especially important later in life, and many seniors celebrate the day with friends, community gatherings, or social events. Senior centers and retirement communities often host dances, lunches, or themed activities that bring people together and foster a sense of belonging.

Valentine's Day can also be a time for reflection and self-care. Seniors may use the day to honor past loves, appreciate family members, or simply do something kind for themselves. Writing letters, looking

through photo albums, or sharing stories with loved ones can be a powerful way to celebrate a life rich with relationships.

Ultimately, Valentine's Day for seniors is less about hearts and chocolates and more about gratitude, companionship, and the lasting power of love.

It's a reminder that love doesn't fade with age—it deepens, evolves, and becomes even more meaningful over time.





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## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS\*



Tracy Verhoeven, Beatrice DaRe, Catherine Adde, Hilda Pittman, Anne-Marie Stockdale, Susan Henderson, Allie Attay, Ursula El-Tawansy, Gladys Moser, Sylvia Lorhan, Ana Ptanski, Winifred Swanson, Janet Gillespie, Marian DeMars, Vickie Vernon, Mary Beth Knox, Sharon Leffer.

\* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required



# YWCA

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## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

### WHAT HAPPENED TO GLOBAL WARMING?



For 30 years, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have lived here in Florida, enjoying the beautiful weather. The other morning, I got up, got my coffee, and sat down to begin the day. No sooner had I sat down than I felt cold and began to shiver, as I hadn't shivered in a long time. The temperature was below my appreciation. I don't like it when it is cold. The only cold I like is in my iced tea and ice cream.

About that time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into the room and said, "What happened to Global Warming?"

I was thinking the same thing at the time. We have heard about Global Warming for all this time, and now, all over the country, it is freezing, and snow is at an all-time high. If this is Global Warming, I need to see a psychiatrist.

Really, I do not understand what this Global Warming is all about. I hear it through the media, but I've reached a point where I question it. They will report one thing one day, and by the next day, it will be completely the opposite.

Handling cold weather is something I'm not very good at. I grew up in Pennsylvania, where we had lots of snow and cold weather. I loved it back then, but I was younger and could handle cold much better than I can today.

One result of getting older is that you can't handle cold. That's why people move to Florida. At least that is why we moved to Florida to get away from all that cold weather and snow.

A relative of mine who still lives up north asked me if I missed the cold, wintry, snowy weather. I told them, "Yes, I do miss all of that cold weather, and I plan to miss it the rest of my life."

In getting older, I have noticed that handling cold weather becomes more challenging. I heard it said here in Florida that when the temperature drops below your age, it is cold. When I first heard that, I chuckled, but I'm beginning to think it's somewhere close to being true.

Where people get the idea of a change in the weather is beyond me. This year, I'll turn 75, and as I look back through those years, there has been constant climate change. Spring leads into summer and summer into fall and fall into winter. That hasn't changed.

What has changed is my ability to handle cold weather. Once, I could handle 32°, but now I struggle with 50°. It can never be too hot for me, but it sure can be too cold.

As The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were sitting together, we had a shivering contest. I think she thought she could outshiver me, but I won that one. I can shiver like nobody you've ever seen. My shivering is to tell the cold to go north, where it belongs.

It puzzles me why these scientific organizations spend all their money and time on figuring out how old the Earth is, and that the climate is changing. Don't they have something better to spend their time and money on?

As we were shivering together, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I reflected on our times up north, where we experienced all the cold and snow. She grew up in New York, where there was much more snow than in Pennsylvania. One thing I have learned about running away from the cold is that it is healthier for me to stay warm than to get cold. I love to be warm. But I don't love shivering in the cold as though I have nothing else to do.

Maybe one of these days I'll become accustomed to the cold here in Florida. But until that time, I'm not a very happy camper with all of this cold.

I want to sue the weather broadcasters because I think it's their responsibility for all of this cold weather that I'm experiencing. Why can't they get on their media platform and say, "It's going to be a perfect day today, enjoy it." But no, they have to say it's going to be colder today than yesterday.

Why can't all these weather broadcasters across the country get together and plan perfect weather every day? No more cold, or snow, or rain, but everything would be absolutely perfect. I could handle that.

Of course, I know that if the weather were perfect every day, all of those people would lose their job. However, I'm willing to take the chance.

I'm old enough to know nothing is perfect, except The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Besides her, nothing in this world is perfect.

If everything in the world were perfect, what would I have to complain about? As I shivered in my chair over a cup of hot coffee, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Nothing in this world is perfect. My hope rests in the transforming power of God, grounded in God's perfect will.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnsnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnsnyderministries.com).

## DO I NEED TO FILE A TAX RETURN THIS YEAR?

Dear Savvy Senior,  
What are the IRS income tax filing requirements for retirees this tax season? I didn't file a tax return last year because my income was below the filing threshold, but I got a part-time job in 2025, so I'm wondering if I need to file this year.  
Semi-retired Joe



Dear Joe,  
Whether you need to file a federal income tax return this year depends on several factors: how much you earned in 2025, the source of your income, your age, and your filing status.

Here's a quick guide to this year's IRS filing thresholds. For most people, it's straightforward: if your gross income (all taxable income, excluding Social Security benefits unless you're married and filing separately) is below the threshold for your filing status and age, you generally do not need to file. But if it's over, you will.

#### 2025 IRS Federal Filing Thresholds:

Single: \$15,750 (\$17,750 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2026).  
Married filing jointly: \$31,500 (\$33,100 if one spouse is 65 or older; or \$34,700 if you're both over 65).  
Married filing separately: \$5 at any age.  
Head of household: \$23,625 (\$25,625 if 65 or older).  
Qualifying surviving spouse: \$31,500 (\$33,100 if 65 or older).

For a detailed breakdown, including taxable vs. nontaxable income, you can request a free copy of the IRS "1040 and 1040-SR Instructions for Tax Year 2025" by calling 800-829-3676, or view it online at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf).

#### Check Here Too

Be aware that there are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirements. For example, if you earned more than \$400 from self-employment in 2025, owe any taxes on an IRA, Health Savings Account or an alternative minimum tax, or get premium tax credits because you, your spouse or a dependent is enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace plan, you'll need to file.

You may also need to file if you're receiving Social Security benefits, and one-half of your benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest exceeds \$25,000, or \$32,000 if you're married and filing jointly.

To figure all this out, the IRS offers an online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at [IRS.gov/help/ita](https://www.irs.gov/help/ita) – click on "Filing Requirements – Do I need to file a tax return?" Or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.

#### Check Your State

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before assuming you're off the hook. A complete list of state tax agencies is available at [Taxadmin.org/ita-members](https://taxadmin.org/ita-members).

#### Tax Prep Help

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can Free File at [IRS.gov/efile](https://www.irs.gov/efile), which is a partnership program between the IRS and tax software companies. Your 2025 adjusted gross income must be below \$89,000 to qualify.

If you need some help with your tax returns, the IRS sponsored Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit [IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep](https://www.irs.gov/efile) to locate services near you.

You can also get help through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service at [AARP.org/findtaxhelp](https://www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp) or call 888-227-7669. You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

Send your questions or comments to [questions@savvysenior.org](mailto:questions@savvysenior.org), or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.



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*[Nyerges is an educator and author. His many books can be seen at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com).]*

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY**  
Black History month is February, and Monday is the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. If, as scientists have affirmed, we are all “from Africa,” should we not relish and cherish this history that we all share?

Much has been said and written about Martin Luther King Jr., and so today I want to focus upon Malcolm X, one of the most acute thinkers and focused individuals of the Civil Rights movement. I think he was widely misunderstood, perhaps for obvious reasons.

Since it is impossible to do a complete biography of Malcolm X in a short article, I suggest you read the entry about him in “Black American History for Dummies” book. Also, I always feel that you learn more about a person by listening to what that person says, and does, vs. what others say about him or her. Much of what people “believe” about Malcolm X was from newspaper articles where he was described as a militant, a radical, a racist. Though we could objectively agree that that is partly true, keep in mind that Malcolm Little underwent a profound transformation, and began to change his more radical views as well. It would be very instructive to watch any of the number of interviews that Malcolm X gave to the media, which can be found on YouTube.

He was born Malcolm Little on May 19, 1925 in Nebraska, and was gunned down on February 21, 1965 at age 39.

When Malcolm was six, his father died in a streetcar accident, with rumors circulating that Earl Little had actually been murdered. After his father’s death, and his mother’s hospitalization, Malcolm spent his adolescence years in a series of foster homes, or living with relatives. He got involved in criminal activities, and in 1946 was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1946 for larceny, and breaking and entering. While he was in prison, he was exposed to the teaching of the Nation of Islam through fellow convict John Bembry, who Malcolm X later described as “the first man I had ever seen command total respect ... with words”. Under Bembry’s tutelage, Malcolm developed a voracious appetite for reading.

After he joined the NOI, he adopted the name Malcolm X, X symbolizing the fact that his “real” African ancestral surname was lost. After his parole in 1952, he quickly became one of the organization’s most influential leaders. As an articulate well-spoken man, he became the public face of NOI for over a decade, advocating for black empowerment and separation of black and white Americans. He was, beginning in 1950, kept under surveillance by the FBI, as he rose through the NOI ranks, establishing a few NOI Temples, and eventually became the leader of Temple 7 in Harlem.

Besides his skill as a speaker, Malcolm X had an impressive physical presence. One writer described him as “powerfully built”, and another as “mesmerizingly handsome ... and always spotlessly well-groomed”.

*Hinton Johnson incident*

The American public first became aware of Malcolm X in 1957, after Hinton Johnson, a Nation of Islam member, was beaten by two New York City police officers. Alerted by a witness as to what had taken place, Malcolm X and a small group of Muslims went to the police station and demanded to see Johnson. When a crowd grew to about five hundred, the police allowed Malcolm X to speak with Johnson. Afterward, Malcolm X insisted on arranging for an ambulance to take Johnson to Harlem Hospital. Malcolm later asked the crowd of hundreds to go home, and they did. One police officer told the New York Amsterdam News: “No one man should have that much power.” Within a month the New York City Police Department arranged to keep Malcolm X under surveillance; soon the police department assigned undercover officers to infiltrate the Nation of Islam.

Malcolm X was the quintessential NOI spokesman for pro-Black themes, and even separation of the races, themes that were largely based upon the teachings of NOI leader, Elijah Muhammad. After he took a journey to Mecca, he began to grow disillusioned with the Nation of Islam, as well as with its leader Elijah Muhammad, who had impregnated several young girls in the NOI. Malcolm X subsequently embraced Sunni Islam. After a brief period of travel across Africa, he publicly renounced the Nation of Islam and founded the Islamic Muslim Mosque, Inc. Needless to say, Malcolm’s popularity had eclipsed that of Elijah Muhammad, and tensions increased between Malcolm X and NOI. His home was firebombed on February 14, 1965, and on February 21, 1965, while giving a speech at the Audubon Ballroom, Malcolm X was shot dead. Three men were convicted who were members of the NOI, though that point has long been debated as well.

Many of the accusations of Malcolm X being racist and anti-white were from his early days, with his slogans such as “by any means necessary.” Malcolm was not a pacifist, and he believed that any man attacked should have the right to defend himself.

Most of Malcolm X’s controversial views were severely modified after he became a Sunni Muslim, and realized that Islam in the world was quite pan-racial, and not at all like the U.S.-based NOI. During Black History Month, it would be worthwhile to study some of the details of the lives of black leaders, and to attempt to understand these events from a black point of view. To those who believe that slavery in the Americas and the aftermath was not really all that bad, I encourage you to read “American Holocaust” by David Stannard. It was bad – and it was far worse than you ever imagined.

**TIPS FOR TEACHING AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS**

When it comes to dog training, the old adage “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks” can often feel discouraging. However, the truth is that age doesn’t have to be a barrier to learning. In fact, many senior dogs are not only capable of learning new commands but can also thrive with a little patience and the right approach. Here are some effective tips to get you started on teaching your older furry friend some new tricks!

*Understanding Your Old Dog’s Needs*

Before you dive into training sessions, it’s essential to understand your dog’s physical and emotional needs. Older dogs may have different energy levels, cognitive abilities, and health conditions compared to their younger counterparts.

- Physical Limitations: Be sensitive to any mobility issues your dog may have. Short training sessions with frequent breaks can help keep them engaged without overexerting them.
- Mental Stimulation: Just like humans, dogs can benefit

from mental exercises. Engaging their minds can help keep cognitive decline at bay.

- Emotional Support: An older dog might also have different emotional needs. They may require more reassurance and a calm environment to feel secure while learning. Ensure your dog has a comfortable space to learn and relax, especially if they have joint issues or arthritis.

*Setting the Stage for Success*

The right environment can significantly impact your dog’s ability to learn. Set up your training area to be free from distractions. A quiet room or a backyard with minimal noise can help your dog focus on the task at hand.

- Choose the Right Time: Pick a time when your dog is alert and not too tired or hungry. A well-rested dog is more likely to engage positively.
- Gather Supplies: Have treats, toys, or any other rewards handy. Using positive reinforcement can significantly enhance your dog’s willingness to learn.
- Be Patient: Remember

that older dogs may take longer to grasp new concepts. Stay calm and encouraging, and celebrate even the small victories. Positive reinforcement, such as treats or praise, is more effective than negative punishment when training dogs of any age.

*Start with the Basics*

When teaching an old dog new tricks, it’s often best to start with basic commands that they might already know. Commands like “sit,” “stay,” and “come” are not only essential for good behavior but also serve as a foundation for more advanced tricks.

- Use Clear Commands: Use one-word commands that are distinct and easy to understand. Consistency is key!
- Visual Cues: Older dogs might appreciate visual cues, such as hand signals, in addition to verbal commands. This can make it easier for them to understand what you want.
- Practice Regularly: Short, frequent training sessions (about 5-10 minutes) are often more effective than longer sessions. Make it a regular part of your routine for the best results.

**Katnip News!**

**MEET DARLING DOTTIE**  
Valentine’s Day is just around the corner, and here’s a little sweet-heart for you!  
  
Dottie is a small, affectionate, and playful female. She loves to snuggle with her siblings, and she likes to hide under a skirt. Dottie is known for her distinguishing eyebrows, which is definitely a "girl thing!" She loves to be brushed, and will quietly call you over to brush her on her favorite scratch mat, which will go with her when she’s adopted, of course.



Very sweet girl!  
**Dottie**



Dottie needs to be adopted with one of her siblings that you’ve already met here: Ollie, Rocky, or Sammy. Dottie always greets you with a meow when you reach for her, and will purr quietly when petted. She also loves to eat, and will run from her eating spot to you meowing for you to hurry with the food. It’s adorable. Apply at <https://www.life-lineforpets.org/mindys-kittens.html> or scan the qr code. Choose one or two of these purr-fect, loving hearts for Valentine’s Day and fur-ever!

**Pet of the Week**  
Arlo is a calm, loving pup with a soft heart and an easygoing spirit. He may get a little stressed in new situations (car rides and rainy days aren’t his favorite!), but he handles it all with quiet patience and a gentle outlook. Once he settles in, Arlo loves to relax, explore, and soak up the peaceful moments.



In his foster home, Arlo is a total sweetheart — respectful, well-mannered, and happy to simply be near his people. He enjoys sniffing around new spaces, naps on soft carpets, and meeting new friends with a calm, steady confidence. He’s also a great student: he’s started practicing crate time, learning loose-leash walking, and adjusting beautifully to new routines. Arlo is the kind of dog who just wants to feel safe, warm, and loved. If you’re looking for a mellow, affectionate companion who will quietly brighten your days, Arlo might be the perfect match. And, he is available for a 10-day adoption trial! The adoption fee for dogs is \$150. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

Walk-in adoptions are available every day from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. View photos of adoptable pets at [pasadenahumane.org](http://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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*Engaging Tricks to Teach*

Once your dog has mastered the basics, you can move on to more engaging tricks that can provide both mental and physical stimulation.

- Shake Hands: This simple trick is both fun and easy for most dogs. Start by having your dog sit, and gently lift one of their paws while saying “shake.” Reward them with a treat when they comply.
- Roll Over: For those dogs who are a bit more agile, rolling over can be a fun challenge. Start with your dog lying down, then use a treat to guide their head to the side until they are in a rolling position.
- Play Dead: This classic trick can be amusing for both you and your audience. Once your dog is comfortable lying down, gently roll them onto their side while saying “bang” or “play dead.” Reward them for staying in that position.

Training should always be a fun and positive experience for both you and your dog. If your dog seems frustrated, take a break and try again later.

*Overcoming Challenges*

Sometimes, despite your best efforts, you may encounter challenges during training. Here are some strategies to help you navigate these obstacles.

- Health Check: If your dog seems uninterested or is having trouble learning, it may be wise to consult your veterinarian to rule out any underlying health issues.
- Mix It Up: If your dog isn’t responding well to a particular command, try switching it up with a different trick or method. Variety can keep things fresh and exciting.
- Stay Positive: Dogs can pick up on our emotions. Maintaining a positive attitude can help encourage your dog. Celebrate their efforts, no matter how small.

*Building a Strong Bond*

Training isn’t just about teaching commands; it’s also an opportunity to strengthen the bond between you and your dog. Spend quality time together, whether through training sessions, play, or just cuddling on the couch.

- Make It a Game: Turn training into a fun game. Use toys or interactive puzzles that

challenge your dog mentally while rewarding them with treats.

- Regular Playtime: Engage in regular play sessions to build trust and familiarity. This will make training easier and more enjoyable for both of you.
- Stay Consistent: Consistency in commands and rewards will help your dog understand what you expect from them, making learning much smoother.

Incorporating play into training helps keep your dog motivated and excited to learn.

*Conclusion: Never Stop Learning Together*

No matter your dog’s age, the journey of learning should be a joyful one. Teaching your old dog new tricks not only enhances their quality of life but also promotes a deeper connection between you and your beloved companion. Remember that patience, positivity, and persistence are your best friends in this endeavor. With these tips, you’re well on your way to unlocking a world of new experiences, not just for your dog but for yourself as well.

*From: [petspiration.com](http://petspiration.com)*



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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](mailto:michele@kid-fit.com). Visit her Facebook page at: [michelesfitness](https://www.facebook.com/michelesfitness) Visit her Facebook page at: [michelesfitness](https://www.facebook.com/michelesfitness).

Falling is one of the leading causes of serious injury and death for older adults. But here's something that surprises most people: it's not the fall itself that's often deadly—it's being unable to get back up. Being stuck on the floor can cause dehydration, low blood pressure, hypothermia, or even heart problems. Hours can turn into a life-threatening situation. And all of this could be prevented with a skill that takes just a few minutes to practice each day.

Each year in the United States, more than 36 million older adults fall, leading to about 3 million emergency department visits and 1 million hospitalizations for injuries like broken bones and head trauma. About 32,000 people aged 65 and older die from fall-related causes annually, making falls the leading cause of injury deaths in this age group.

Public health evidence clearly shows that many falls — including those leading to death — are preventable. It's all about learning how to get up from the floor safely. Simple yet so many people never think about it. They assume it will happen naturally if they fall, or that someone will always be there to help. The truth is you can't always rely on that. Even if someone comes, waiting for help while stuck can make injuries worse and slow down recovery.

The good news? It's easy to prevent this risk. Anyone can learn, no matter their age. It's not about being young, super strong, or flexible. It's about knowing the steps and practicing them.

Here's how you can do it:  
Method 1: Hands-and-Knees with One Leg Forward.

- Start on a soft surface. Use a carpet or exercise mat. Begin by lying on your side. Bend your knees slightly and use your arms to push up. Move into a hands-and-knees position.

## FALL PROOF

- Transition to kneeling. From hands-and-knees, bring one knee forward so you're in a half-kneeling or lunge position. This gives you a stable stance to stand safely.
  - Push to stand. Press through your front leg (your stronger leg) and rise to a standing position, using a chair or counter for extra support if needed.
- Method 2: Hands-and-Knees, Feet Together, Using a Chair or Wall
- Start on hands and knees. Kneel on a carpet or mat with your knees under your hips.
  - Move your hands forward and rest them on a sturdy chair, table, or against a wall.
  - Lift both knees slightly. Keep your feet side by side on the floor. Lift your knees a little off the ground so your weight shifts toward your hands.
  - Push with hands and feet. Press down through your hands and feet to lift your hips upward, keeping your feet together.
  - Shift weight to feet and stand. Continue pushing until fully upright. Pause and stabilize before walking.

Both methods are safe, effective and easy to learn. Some people may find one easier than the other depending on knee, hip, or back comfort. The key is daily practice. Start slowly, repeat a few times each day, and soon it will feel natural.

If these two methods are too tough to do, start with building strength and balance with these easy exercises:

- Leg strength: Sit-to-stand exercises or gentle squats from a chair.
- Core strength: Simple planks or seated twists. A strong core helps your balance and ability to push off the floor.
- Balance: Shift weight from one leg to the other or practice standing on one foot while holding a counter.

Being able to rise from the floor keeps you independent, safe, and in control of your life. It also gives peace of mind to family and caregivers. Knowing that you can handle a fall on your own reduces stress for everyone and encourages regular movement, which strengthens your body even further.

Don't wait until it's too late. Treat learning this skill as part of your daily health routine, just like brushing your teeth or taking a walk. The time you invest in practicing could save your life—or the life of someone you love.

It's all about being prepared. Falling is part of life, but staying on the floor doesn't have to be. Roll, kneel, rise, and repeat. Soon, getting up from the floor will feel normal—and it could be the difference between independence and serious risk. It just takes a little thought and a minute or two of daily practice.

## UNLOCK YOUR LIFE



Lori A. Harris

### IF I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE

We tell ourselves elaborate stories about why certain things can't happen. Not now. Not for me. Not with my circumstances.

But here's what I've learned from three decades in courtrooms and coaching sessions: the word "impossible" is usually just fear wearing a very convincing, but thin disguise.

So let me ask you something: If you didn't think it was impossible, what would you do?

Would you finally write that book? Launch that business? Have that conversation? Make that career change? Book that trip? Set that boundary?

In the question, there is another question: what do I really want? What am I afraid to even know or try?

Notice what just happened in your body when you read those questions. Did your chest tighten? Did you immediately start listing reasons why it won't work? That's your nervous system trying to keep you safe by keeping you small.

I spent years representing people whose circumstances truly were impossible: youth trapped in systems, survivors of trafficking, and clients facing capital charges. I learned to distinguish between actual impossibility and the kind we manufacture to protect ourselves from disappointment.

Most of what we call impossible is actually just unfamiliar.

The difference matters because the unfamiliar can be learned. Unfamiliarity can be practiced. Unfamiliar can become your new normal if you're willing to stay in the discomfort long enough for your nervous system to catch up to your vision. We can learn to talk to ourselves differently. We can train ourselves to process that discomfort differently. What if that feeling I'm experiencing is the excitement of trying something new? What if this feeling is what growth feels like?

So here's your assignment this week: Write down what you'd do if you didn't think it was impossible. Don't edit. Don't explain. Don't justify. Just write it.

Then ask yourself: What's one action I could take this week that moves me 1% closer to that vision?

Not 50%. Not even 10%. Just 1%.

Because impossible things don't usually happen all at once. They happen in a thousand small moments when you choose the unfamiliar over the comfortable. When you choose your vision over your fear.

A 1% move could be doing the research on day one. On day two, it might be making a list; on day three, it might be making the first phone call or sending the first email. Don't try to tackle the whole thing at once.

Start by letting yourself know...that thing that's on your heart.

What's your impossible thing? And what's your 1% action this week?

Guess what? Doing the impossible is fun.

Lori A. Harris is an award-winning coach and podcaster. You can learn more about her at [loriaharris.com](http://loriaharris.com).

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## ALL THINGS by Jeff Brown

### THE POWER OF NOW:

***A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment***  
by Eckhart Tolle

The claim that there is only the now challenges one of our deepest assumptions: that time exists as a sequence of equally real moments stretching behind and ahead of us. We speak as if the past is fixed and stored somewhere, and the future is waiting to arrive. But when examined carefully, neither the past nor the future is ever actually present in reality. Only the now is.

The past exists solely as memory, evidence, and influence appearing in the present moment. A memory of yesterday is not yesterday itself—it is a thought arising now. A photograph from decades ago is not the past preserved; it is a present object triggering present perceptions. Even historical facts are accessed only through current records and interpretations. The past has no independent existence outside of these present traces. It does not exist anywhere we can point to; it is reconstructed, again and again, in the now.

The future is even more clearly unreal in a literal sense. No one has ever experienced the future. What we call the future consists of predictions, plans, anxieties, and hopes—mental images occurring now. When the “future” finally happens, it does not arrive as the future. It arrives as another present moment. The future is always anticipated but never encountered.

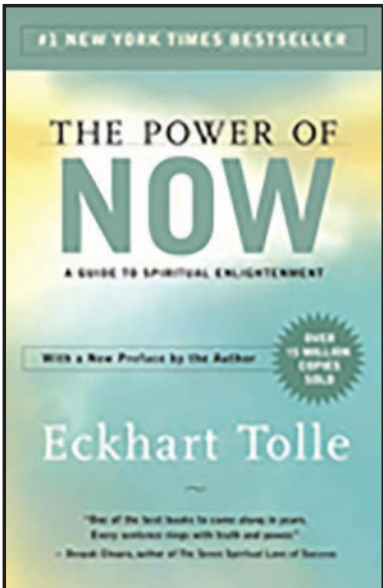
From this perspective, time is not a thing that flows. It is a concept the mind uses to make sense of change. Reality itself does not move from one moment to another; rather, it continually is this moment, constantly transforming. Change does not require past and future to exist as places. A flame flickers, a body ages, a thought dissolves—all of this happens in the present, without ever leaving it.

Importantly, saying there is only the now does not mean nothing matters or that causes and consequences are illusions. It means causes are present conditions shaped by prior states, and consequences are future-present states shaped by current ones. The chain exists, but every link appears only now.

Everything real—every sensation, decision, emotion, and event—has always occurred in the same place: this moment. There has never been an experience outside of it, and there never will be. The now is not a slice of time. It is the only stage on which reality ever appears.

So when not living & attached to the conceptual world of past and future but open completely to the reality around and within us we can then feel connected with everything there is, where true happiness lies.

Eckhart Tolle has many videos on YouTube & his books can be ordered at Fables & Fancies Bookstore in Sierra Madre.



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## 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  
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Rich Johnson  
Rev. James Snyder  
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Deanne Davis  
Despina Arouzman  
Jeff Brown  
Marc Garlett  
Keely Toten  
Dan Golden  
Rebecca Wright  
Hail Hamilton  
Joan Schmidt  
LaQuetta Shamblee

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Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

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



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### Mountain Views News Mission Statement

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

## STUART TOLCHIN



A friend just gave me a book entitled FALL-OUT by Peter Watson who introduced me to the term "compartmentalization." The book deals with the American creation of the atomic bomb and its aftermath and consequences. The thesis of the book is that the Manhattan Project overseen by General Leslie Groves, a military man and James Robert Oppenheimer, a scientist was created for the purpose of defeating Germany during the Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Initially it was believed that the Germans were far ahead in the race to create the super-bomb that could vanquish the rest of the world.

The book explains that General Groves became aware that Germany was far from creating a bomb and was no longer even attempting to do so but General Groves kept this information a secret. Why? The author speculates that he liked the importance of his job and if there was no need for the bomb, there would be no more job. Although Americans had been told that the dropping of the bombs upon Japan would save the lives of Americans who otherwise would be forced to go into Japan and fight. This was a lie. The bombs were dropped as a statement of potential American power to intimidate Russia, our ally at the time.

Of course, this policy backfired as the Russians and others have now developed and threaten to use their bombs which may well start a probable destructive world conflict. The book emphasizes that the scientists were kept away from information that might probably have resulted in their leaving the project. Discussions of moral implications and consequences were suppressed. In retrospect explanations have been made that so much effort had gone into the creation of the bomb that scientists just wanted to see it through to the end like any other scientific problem and other questions were unnecessary. They just wanted to do their job which only involved science and not morality.

I am interested in this whole policy of "compartmentalization" because it clarifies what matters. Why are people starving when there is enough food for every-

## PUT THE LIGHTS ON IS IT ALWAYS BEST TO GO ALONG TO GO ALONG?

one? Why are disease rampant when there should be medical services available? Why are there continuing wars? Why in America is there legalized gambling that impinges all sports, and why is there an epidemic of drug use and depression? Why are preventive medical procedures suppressed so that companies can make billions from continuing treatments?

The answer for me is similar to the reasoning of General Groves. The people on top of the strong countries profit from what they are doing, and the less strong countries go along to get along to avoid problems. Prime Minister Carney explained that the weaker, less strong countries can no longer go along. He explained that this policy no longer works, and we can no longer cooperate in the name of security.

All of this reminds me of my granddaughter's sentence after attending her first day of pre-School. "I hate single file" she said. Do you understand the significance of that statement? From the very beginning we are told to cooperate and to pretend that we want to do what we are expected to do. In a children's book entitled ON A BEAM OF LIGHT, the behavior of the young Albert Einstein is described. He was always asking so many questions that some of his teachers told him he was a disruption to his class. "They said he would never amount to anything unless he learned to behave like all the other students.

Well, I'm certainly no Albert Einstein but in elementary School I was called the "question man" and was skipped ahead two grades so teachers could get me out of their classroom. Now at almost 82 I keep asking questions and rarely cooperate; but my life has been fine. It is time for all of us who care to stop cooperating and protest and boycott and do whatever we can to let the ruling billionaires know we will not cooperate anymore. The myth that everything is going to be all right is just a myth. The truth is that things have never been all right. As prime Minister Carney said the power we have to combat the great powers is "honesty." Honesty and a refusal to accept what should not be accepted is our weapon, a weapon more powerful than the atomic bomb and the hydrogen bomb which never should have come into existence. Honestly!



vorite recent posts, mainly from X:

To the remark, "Why did she freak out? All she had to do was comply", Ace responds; "This is genuinely what right wingers believe. The one held at gunpoint must remain completely calm and rational. But if the cop gets spooked by an acorn falling on the roof of a car, then he gets to unload on you because he 'feared for his life'."

President Trump on Denmark's claim to ownership of Greenland: "The fact that they landed a boat there 500 years ago doesn't mean they own the land." Ash responds, "So the same goes for white Americans then no?"

Vice President JD Vance says, "Denmark hasn't done a good job at keeping Greenland safe." Mayra asks, "Just out of curiosity when was the last time that a Greenlander was shot dead by a masked agent of their own government?"

Department of Homeland Security posts a warning; "Do not bring your baby to a violent riot." Ace asks, "Why? Are you going to shoot them?"

The White House posts a Make America Healthy Again message; "WE ARE ENDING THE WAR ON PROTEIN". Micah wants to know, "Who the hell was waging a war on protein???"

Neil Renic posts, "I miss the evil billionaires who'd try to buy their way into heaven by funding massive public libraries."

JJ in NH reflects on Trump's first term; "I preferred when his stupidest idea was the wall."

Andy Kim posts; "We here in Jersey know Trump's track record of crash and burn property management. We can't let him do to the Kennedy Center what he did to Atlantic City."

On that subject, JFK's grandson Jack Schlossberg posts: "Trump can take the Kennedy Center for himself. He can change the name, shut the doors, and demolish the building. He can try to kill JFK. But JFK is kept alive by us now rising up to remove Donald Trump, bring him to justice, and restore the freedoms generations fought for." The UFC match on the White House lawn is apparently still on, though.

And the news last week:

It's reported that Trump and family pocketed \$4 billion from his first year back in office. Abu Dhabi royals put \$500 million into Trump's crypto firm and then, months later, UAE is granted access to advanced US chips - despite being flagged for national security concerns. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche explains that money going to Trump ultimately benefits the American people. Former DHS attorneys blasted the current

## RICH JOHNSON

### ON BEING A ROCKSTAR & A COLUMNIST



If you ever get the opportunity to risk making a fool of yourself, seriously consider taking the chance. No, I'm not suggesting you

attempt something incredibly stupid or dangerous. Just funny. Seriously into my seventh decade, I couldn't be happier writing a weekly newspaper column and performing in a rock and roll band.

The secret to success? Finding a need and filling it. We rarely hear about failures in figuring out what the public wants. And we don't often hear about major blunders. And there are blunders out there. Let me share a few big ones.

In 2013 Burger King introduced a menu item that was a healthy alternative to traditional French fries. The product was marketed as "Satisfries". In other words, healthy fries. Clever... but! More expensive and much less tasty. Lasted all the way up until 2014.

In 2016, Keurig coming off the success of single use pod coffee systems introduced the Keurig KOLD. A pod based soft drink version of the Keurig coffee making system. Initial problem was it cost several dollars to make one 8 oz drink. Still, Coca Cola invested \$1 billion dollars into the idea. Oh, and by the way, the machine made a lot of noise, was massive in size, tended to overheat and was over \$300 per unit.

Do you remember when McDonalds introduced their Mozzarella Sticks. One problem: There was no cheese in the Mozzarella Sticks. They first came in 2016 and left in 2016 Mama mia!!

The New Coke: Rule here is don't tamper with success. Someone at Coca Cola thought making a sweeter Coke would be a good idea. Didn't work and 77 days after New Coke's release the company quietly brought back the original Coke, now called "Coke Classic".

Ever hear of diet beer? Lol. In 1941 Coors began selling a diet beer. Lasted about a year. No one was interested

## FLOWERS Christine



ICE has been out of control over the past few months, and particularly since the beginning of this year. Over the three decades I've been practicing immigration law, I've never seen the level of chaos and division, fomented by the rhetoric of Donald Trump's DHS and front woman Kristi Noem and the Dark Prince of D.C., Stephen Miller.

The lies about "domestic terrorists" like Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse. It should repel everyone who saw the videos of his murder. They shot him while he was facedown, immobile, likely taking his last breaths.

If you are capable of justifying that, you should skip over the rest of my column because I write in a language you don't understand. Yes, he had a gun, with a license to carry. Foolish of him to bring it to a volatile situation, one where other people also had guns and the legal authority to use them.

And there is another video of him engaging with ICE agents in a violent manner, attacking their vehicles and screaming expletives. That bit of phone camera verite shows us that he was not a martyr. He was not an angel.

He was far from perfect, and clearly a man with anger issues. The people who leaked that video have the same sort of agenda as the activists who film ICE, hoping to catch them in these moments of unrest. Everyone has their motives, and don't be fooled by the folks who turn these Anti-ICE stalkers into patriots.

They are people exercising a constitutional right to place their philosophical enemies in a bad light. This talk of transparency and "keeping them honest" is cover for people who, in their homes use expletives that rhyme with "Duck? Nice!"

I am someone who has been very busy these past months, heading to court to represent clients who, by every metric, deserve to be granted asylum but who, because of Trump's manipulation of due process, are being ordered deported. Under Biden, Obama, Bush, Clinton and even in some cases Trump 1, they had a chance to avoid the hell they'd fled.

I have represented women who have had their private parts butchered out of tribal custom, who have been shot at by their husbands, children who have been sexually abused by their grandfathers, young evangelical preachers who were threatened with death by gangs, young Catholic women beaten into a miscarriage by their boyfriends, angered that they would not get an abortion.

I have represented young gay men, brutalized by the police, political dissidents from Albania, Muslim men who built schools for girls and were shot at

in "diet" beer. Failed miserably. Then, in 1973 Miller Brewery experimented with Miller Lite. Didn't say a word about the low calories. Instead, it was marketed as great tasting and LESS FILLING".

I have some history with this topic. I married an Australian in 1985. Made my first trip down under in 1989. Met the "Relties" (relatives) for the first time. Let's just say you don't show up empty-handed. We had to make the mandatory stop at the local "Bottle-O" (liquor store) and pick up a case of "bevviies". I went to the counter and asked if they had "light" beer. "What's that...for children?" chimed the cashier. No such thing as light beer in Australia back then. I later found out from "me" father in law there were two kinds of beer: "Good and better"!

If you ever go down under (and you should, its wonderful), surprise your hosts and ask where the nearest "Mac-cas" is. That's the nickname for McDonald's. A "servo" is a gas station. We might call a overly curious person as being nosy, the Australians would call them a "stickybeak".

Guys, don't put your foot in your mouth. If a pretty lady wants to meet you at the beach and tells you she'll be wearing her thongs, don't show up in a "speedo". "Thongs" down under are what we call "flip-flops".

An "ankle-biter" is a small child, "Choc A Bloc" means full. This is really important: A toilet is called a "Dunny" down under. "Good on ya mate" means good work.

If you want to be perceived as a good communicator let me leave you with a few suggestions. First, in any conversation you should be listening as much if not more than you are talking.

When you are listening, LISTEN. Do not sit there quietly preparing your rebuttal to what's being said. Your mental absence and distraction shows.

The less you say in a conversation the smarter your conversational partner will think you are.

by the Taliban.

I have represented Lebanese police officers tortured by Syrians, Iranian dissidents, victims of torture in Guinea, and so many others they blend together in a fog of anguish before my eyes. These are the ones who won asylum, before Noem and Miller and Bondi and the judges started shutting the gates.

I write this so you know that I am not the sort of person who thinks Alex Pretti caused his own death, or that Renee Goode aimed for Agent Ross.

I write this as someone who watches in horror as people paid to pick up the criminals instead target little children with backpacks while their fathers run in justifiable fear.

I write this as someone who taught herself how to file habeas petitions at the ripe old age of 64 after years of never having to, because immigration judges used to follow the law.

Now, they make it up and higher authorities need to correct their tragic errors.

But I also write this as someone who is tired of the canonization of people who deliberately insert themselves into law enforcement operations.

Alex Pretti and the women he was defending frustrated Border Patrol agents who were trying to apprehend a man credibly accused of domestic violence and allowed that criminal to escape. And this is not an isolated incident. I have had to thread my way through protesters to accompany clients into ICE check-ins. These protests do nothing to calm the fears of people who are trying to comply with the law.

The singers, and the women and men with arms linked and whistling may think they are like the brave men and women who crossed the Edmund Pettus bridge, but they are not. They can protest. That is their constitutional right. But obstruction, trespass, threats, kicking the tail lights of cars and other narcissistic expressions of protagonism add to the climate of fear already ginned up by the bigots in the White House.

It is simply the same form of hostility displayed by incompetent Noem and arrogant Miller, just directed at different targets.

ICE needs to stop terrorizing immigrant communities with their raids and their lack of professionalism.

These are not the agents I have known and respected for decades. These are untrained amateurs playing with their shiny toys and the power they've been given to the tune of billions of dollars. But the people who hate ICE need a reality check: They're not as righteous as they've been told they are by CNN.

*Christine Flowers is a Philadelphian who loves the Eagles but can leave the cheesesteaks. She writes about anything that will likely annoy the majority of people, and in her spare time practices immigration law (which is bound to annoy at least some people.)*



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](mailto:editor@mtnviewsnews.com) Website: [www.mtnviewsnews.com](http://www.mtnviewsnews.com)



FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT  
File No. 2026003527

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT File No. 2025-282684  
The following person(s) is (are)  
doing business as: BONNY  
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4433 S. ALAMEDA ST. A-62B,  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90058. Full  
name of registrant(s) is (are)  
ROSA CATALINA VIDES, 44333 S.  
S. ALAMEDA ST. A-62B, LOS  
ANGELES, CA 90058. This  
Business is conducted by: AN  
INDIVIDUAL. Signed; ROSA  
CATALINA VIDES/OWNER. This  
statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of Los Angeles County on  
12/22/2025. The registrant(s) has  
(have) commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious  
business name or names listed  
above on 06/2011. NOTICE- This  
Fictitious Name Statement expires  
five years from the date it was filed

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT File No. 2026-012252  
The following person(s) is (are)  
doing business as: MASSFLOW  
BODY SHOP, J.M. RENT A  
CAR, 4509 FIRESTONE BLVD,  
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. Full  
name of registrant(s) is (are)  
MORALES MASSFLOW, INC.,  
4509 FIRESTONE BLVD, SOUTH  
GATE, CA 90280. This Business is  
conducted by: A CORPORATION.  
Signed: WALTER SAUL PEREZ  
MORALES/CEO. This statement  
was filed with the County Clerk of  
Los Angeles County on 01/16/2026.  
The registrant(s) has (have)  
commenced to transact business  
under the fictitious business name  
or names listed above on N/A.  
NOTICE- This Fictitious Name  
Statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the County Clerk. A new Fictitious  
Business Name Statement must  
be filed prior to that date. The  
filing of this statement does not of  
itself authorize the use in this state  
of a Fictitious Business Name in  
violation of the rights of another  
under Federal, State, or common  
law (See section 14411 et seq.  
Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News/  
JDC  
Dates Pub: JAN 24, 31, FEB 07, 14,  
2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
 STATEMENT File No. 2026-015952  
 The following person(s) is (are)  
 doing business as: SHABAT  
 BUSINESS SERVICES, 10233  
 EIGHT ST, VICTORVILLE, CA  
 92392. Full name of registrant(s)  
 is (are) GLORIA B HERNANDEZ,  
 10233 EIGHT ST, VICTORVILLE,  
 CA 92392. This Business is  
 conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
 Signed: GLORIA B HERNANDEZ/  
 OWNER. This statement was  
 filed with the County Clerk of Los  
 Angeles County on 01/22/2026. The  
 registrant(s) has (have) commenced  
 to transact business under the

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-001195  
The following person(s) is  
(are) doing business as: ALAM  
JEWELERS, 18500 PIONEER BLVD  
SUITE A, ARTESIA, CA 90701.  
Full name of registrant(s) is (are)  
MOHAMMED JAHANGIR ALAM,  
18500 PIONEER BLVD SUITE A,  
ARTESIA, CA 90701. This Business  
is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
Signed: MOHAMMED JAHANGIR  
ALAM/OWNER. This statement  
was filed with the County Clerk of  
Los Angeles County on 01/05/2026.  
The registrant(s) has (have)  
commenced to transact business  
under the fictitious business name  
or names listed above on N/A.  
NOTICE- This Fictitious Name  
Statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the County Clerk. A new Fictitious  
Business Name Statement must  
be filed prior to that date. The  
filing of this statement does not of  
itself authorize the use in this state  
of a Fictitious Business Name in  
violation of the rights of another  
under Federal, State, or common  
law (See section 14411 et seq.  
Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News/  
JDC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-006925  
The following person(s) is (are)  
doing business as: GOLDEN NAILS



SALON, 8017 ½ FLORENCE AVE., DOWNEY, CA 90240. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) VIVIAN NGOC NGUYEN, 8017 ½ FLORENCE AVE., DOWNEY, CA 90240. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed; VIVIAN NGOC NGUYEN/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/12/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2026. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 07, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-008243  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GOODA ENTERPRIZE, 2203 W 152ND ST, COMPTON, CA 90220. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RICHARD VALO, 2203 W 152ND ST, COMPTON, CA 90220, HENRY MEJIA, 8603 E LIVE OAK ST, SAN GABRIEL, CA 91776. This Business is conducted by:

COPARTNERS. Signed; RICHARD VALO/GENERAL PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/13/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2026. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 07, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-006918  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: JAYDEN MEXICAN PRODUCE, 1174 ½ E 21ST STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90011. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ALDEGUNDO CRISPIN-DAMIAN, 1174 ½ E 21ST STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90011. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed; ALDEGUNDO CRISPIN-DAMIAN/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/12/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business

under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2025. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 07, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-003624  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: KAIROS FAITH CRAFTER CONTRACTOR, VANEGAS UNITED PLUMBING, 924 S HOBART BLVD APT 504, LOS ANGELES, CA 90006. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MATIAS DANIEL VANEGAS, 924 S HOBART BLVD APT 504. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed; MATIAS DANIEL VANEGAS/OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/07/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/2025. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk.

A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 07, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-001430  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: OGD PAINTING, 6901 PERRY RD, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RUDY OMAR ESCOBAR NAJERA, 6901 PERRY RD, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201, KARLA GOMEZ, 6901 PERRY RD, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201. This Business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed; RUDY OMAR ESCOBAR NAJERA/GENERAL PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/05/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business

Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 07, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-008174  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: RODRICK ORLANDO SMITH TRUST, 1701 NORTH PAULSEN AVE, COMPTON, CA 90222. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RODRICK ORLANDO SMITH, TRUSTEE, 1701 NORTH PAULSEN AVE, COMPTON, CA 90222. This Business is conducted by: A TRUST. Signed; RODRICK ORLANDO SMITH/TRUSTEE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/13/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC

Dates Pub: JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 07, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No. 2026-007154  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WRC REMODELING SERVICES INC, 11324 CALIFORNIA AVE, LYNWOOD, CA 90262. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) WRC REMODELING SERVICES INC, 11324 CALIFORNIA AVE, LYNWOOD, CA 90262. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed; WILLIAN EDUARDO RIOS PABLO/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/12/2026. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 07, 2026

SUMMONS  
(CITACIÓN JUDICIAL)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

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

ALTADENA WILDFIRE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING DISTRICT,

Plaintiff,

v.

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

Defendant.

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

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE VALIDATION OF: all proceedings conducted by each of the Altadena Wildfire Recovery Infrastructure Financing District Public Financing Authority, which serves as the governing body of the District (the “District Board”), and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles relating to: (i) the formation of the Altadena Wildfire Recovery Infrastructure Financing District (“District”); (ii) the Adoption of the Infrastructure Financing Plan (“IFP”) for the District; and (iii) the Allocation of Taxes to the District; (iv) the authority of the District to issue bonds secured by the taxes allocated to the District pursuant to the IFP; and (v) all other matters and proceedings related thereto have until March 5, 2026 to appear and file a written answer to the complaint at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/>), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose your rights, default will be entered against you upon application by the plaintiff, and the plaintiff may apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint. Contesting the legality or validity of this matter will not subject you to punitive action, such as wage garnishment or seizure of your real or personal property.

You may seek the advice of an attorney in any matter connected with the complaint or this summons. Such an attorney should be consulted promptly so that your pleading may be filed or entered within the time required by this summons. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/>), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court’s lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The District has brought this action to determine the validity of the formation of the Altadena Wildfire Recovery Infrastructure Financing District (“District”); (ii) the Adoption of the Infrastructure Financing Plan (“IFP”) for the District; and (iii) the Allocation of Taxes to the District; (iv) the authority of the District to issue bonds secured by the taxes allocated to District pursuant to the IFP; and (v) all other matters and proceedings related thereto.

(EN ESPANOL)

TODAS LAS PERSONAS INTERESADAS EN LA VALIDACIÓN DE: todos los procedimientos llevados a cabo por cada una de las Autoridades de Financiación Pública del Distrito de Financiación de Infraestructuras para la Recuperación tras el Incendio Forestal de Altadena, que actúa como mesa directiva del Distrito (la “Mesa Directiva del Distrito”), y el Consejo de Supervisores del Condado de Los Angeles en relación con: (i) la constitución del Distrito de Financiación de Infraestructuras para la Recuperación tras el Incendio Forestal de Altadena (“Distrito”); (ii) la adopción del Plan de Financiación de Infraestructuras (“IFP”, por sus siglas en inglés) para el Distrito; y (iii) la asignación e impuestos al Distrito; (iv) la autoridad del Distrito para expedir bonos garantizados por los impuestos asignados al Distrito de conformidad con el IFP; y (v) todos los demás asuntos y procedimientos relacionados con los mismos tienen hasta el 5 de marzo, 2026 para comparecer y presentar una respuesta a la demanda por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de AutoAyuda de las Cortes de California (<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/>), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte más cercana a usted. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder sus derechos y el demandante podrá solicitar al tribunal el remedio solicitado en la demanda. Impugnar la legalidad o validez de este caso no le expondrá a medidas punitivas, como la confiscación de su salario o de sus bienes o su propiedad personal.

Puede buscar el consejo de un abogado en cualquier asunto relacionado con la queja o esta citación judicial. Debería consultar a dicho abogado puntualmente de modo que su alegato pueda presentarse o registrarse dentro del tiempo requerido por esta citación judicial. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programado servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. El Distrito ha presentado esta demanda para determinar la validez de la constitución del Distrito de Financiación de Infraestructuras para la Recuperación tras el Incendio Forestal de Altadena (“Distrito”); (ii) la adopción del Plan de Financiación de Infraestructuras (“IFP”, por sus siglas en inglés) para el Distrito; y (iii) la asignación de impuestos al Distrito; (iv) la autoridad del Distrito para expedir bonos garantizados por los impuestos asignados al Distrito de conformidad con el IFP; y (v) todos los demás asuntos y procedimientos relacionados con ello.

CASE INFORMATION  
(INFORMACIÓN DEL CASO)

1. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):  
Superior Court of the State of California  
County of Los Angeles – Central District (Stanley Mosk Courthouse)  
111 N. Hill Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3014

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

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

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

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

PETER M. BOLLINGER  
MICHAEL S. BUENNAGEL  
DEBBIE Y. CHO  
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County of Los Angeles  
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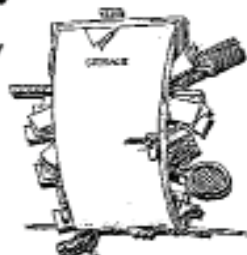
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# February Events Around Town!

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### One Time Events

**February 8**  
**Historic Old Pasadena Walking Tour – Dayton Street**  
Explore the rich history of Dayton Street and Pasadena's earliest Black-owned businesses. 10am – 11:30am

**February 14**  
**A Vintage Valentine at the Queen Anne Cottage**  
Enjoy an elegant afternoon sipping champagne and discovering Victorian secrets of courtship. 2 – 4pm

**February 14**  
**Romance Along the Arroyo – A Valentine's Day Event**  
The Gamble House and Pasadena Museum of History celebrate Valentine's Day in vintage style with romantic music, treats and more. 4pm – 7pm

**February 18**  
**Little Songbirds at Descanso Gardens**  
Join the Pasadena Conservatory of Music for a nature-themed musical story time. 10am – 11am

**February 21**  
**Floriography Wreath Family Workshop at the Arboretum**  
Hands-on family workshop on Victorian art of sending messages through flowers. 2pm – 3:30pm

**February 21**  
**Black History Festival in Robinson Park, Pasadena**  
This festival offers live performances, community booths and more. 10am – 3pm

**February 22**  
**Lunar New Year Festival in Downtown Arcadia**  
Lunar New Year Festival with a day of tradition, food and community spirit. 11am – 4pm

**February 26**  
**Caltech History and Architectural Tour**  
Explore Caltech's historic original campus and its architectural footprint on the community. 10:30am

**February 28 - 9am – 2pm**  
**Lunar New Year at the Arboretum**  
Family crafts, cabbage planting, live performances, red envelope seed giveaway and food trucks.

### Ongoing Events

**January 23 – February 6**  
**Dine LA Restaurant Week**  
Enjoy special Dine LA lunch and dinner menus at hundreds of participating local restaurants.

**February 5 – 16**  
**Circus Vargas Presents "Masquerade" at Santa Anita Park**  
The circus comes to Arcadia with a spellbinding journey of pure artistry and family fun.

**February 8 – March 8**  
**Richard III at A Noise Within**  
A thrilling drama - one of Shakespeare's most iconic explorations of corruption, control, and power.

**February 11 – March 8**  
**Amadeus at Pasadena Playhouse**  
Unforgettable musical show about the riveting rivalry between composers Salieri and Mozart.

**February 13, 14**  
**Adult Night Hike: Bawdy Botany at the Arboretum**  
Learn about the history, folklore and botany that influence the way we celebrate love. 7:30pm – 9:pm

**February 13 – 16**  
**Great Backyard Bird Count at Descanso Gardens**  
Join in a world-wide bird count to help scientists better understand and help birds.

**February 21, 22**  
**Lunar New Year Festival at The Huntington**  
Enjoy a family-friendly event filled with crafts, live performances, floral arts and more. 10am – 5pm

**February 21, 22**  
**Lunar New Year at Santa Anita Park**  
Authentic Chinese cultural shows, family activities, delicious food, shopping and more. 10:30am



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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](mailto:editor@mtnviewsnews.com) Website: [www.mtnviewsnews.com](http://www.mtnviewsnews.com)