



## Open for business

After a two-year hiatus, the new and improved Los Angeles County Fair opened May 5 and runs through May 30. The move from summer to spring means cooler daytime temperatures. And 2022 is a big year reflected in the theme "Back to our Roots" to celebrate the fair's 100th anniversary. Of course, rides at The Carnival, above, will be open day and night for kids of all ages. COURIER photo/Peter Weinberger



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# City unveils plan to spend federal stimulus funds

by Steven Felschundneff  
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Tuesday night felt like that '70s tune "Anticipation," as the city finally revealed how it intends to spend Claremont's federal stimulus dollars.

The city will get \$8.7 million from the American Rescue Plan Act, it received the first disbursement of \$4.3 million on July 9, 2021. Staff held off on spending any of that money until it received direction from the U.S. Treasury, which came in January when the final rule was submitted, providing cities greater flexibility in how the federal funds are used.

The intention behind the federal program, passed in March of 2021, was to repay cities for lost revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to stimulate the economy. As such it came with some restrictions, including prohibitions on using the money for pensions, building up cash reserves, paying down outstanding debts or paying off judgments.

"The final rule provides state and local governments with increased flexibility to pursue a wider range of uses, as well as greater simplicity so governments can focus on responding to the crisis in their communities and maximizing the impact of their funds. Among other clarifications and changes, the final rule offers a standard allowance for revenue loss of up to \$10 million. Recipient agencies that select the standard allowance may use that amount, in many cases their full award, for general government services, with streamlined reporting requirements," according to City Manager Adam Pirrie's staff report.

The city circulated two surveys to gain public insight, and received 385 responses from the one geared toward citizens, and 85 from business owners. Based on feedback from the community and the council, staff has developed proposals for spending



City staff and members of the public say the Pledge of Allegiance on Tuesday before the beginning of the Claremont City Council meeting. The council approved spending about \$4.5 million of the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds on a variety of civic needs, including a nearly \$1 million upgrade to police communications, restoring funding to community based organizations and a one-time stipend paid to city employees. COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

\$4,544,300, with \$413,000 to be spent during the current fiscal year, and the remaining \$4,131,300 to be included in the two budgets spanning from 2022 to 2024. That will leave \$4,081,798 in unallocated ARPA funds, and city staff will submit spending proposals for that money at a later date.

The largest single expenditure of ARPA funds will be \$995,000 to upgrade the police department's com-

munications system, with \$500,000 going to an upgraded dispatch center and \$495,000 to purchase 160 emergency radios at roughly \$3,100 each.

The equipment will put Claremont up to date with the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System initiative, which aims to replace an old patchwork of systems with a state-of-the-art network.

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## No NEWS is bad NEWS

Help COURIER efforts in keeping our community informed

### • How can I donate?

You can donate on the homepage of our website (upper right corner) or call Betsy at the COURIER at (909) 621-4761. Or mail your donation to the Claremont Courier, 114 Olive St., Claremont, CA. 91711. Make checks payable to: Claremont Courier Inc. Donations are tax deductible.

### • How much are you trying to raise in this first campaign drive?

We are trying to raise \$500,000 over three years. Any tax-deductible amount, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

### • Why should I support the COURIER?

Becoming a nonprofit news outlet is one proven and successful strategy for preserving news in the face of changing economics that have resulted in more than 2,100 U.S. newspapers shutting down between 2004 and 2020. We don't want a "news desert" to come to Claremont. We believe strong, local news sources create strong communities. A trusted, impartial press makes for a strong democracy.

### • Why did the COURIER go to a nonprofit status? Were you running out of money?

Like many small, community newspapers and websites, our advertising revenue is on the decline, with many communities throughout the country turning into "news deserts." Since 2016, COURIER revenue dropped an average of three to six percent per year. Then the pandemic hit, and rev-

enue dropped 17 percent. Even with the economy slowly getting better, these numbers have not improved much. Therefore, our business model needs to change to survive, and like many news outlets, we are adopting the nonprofit model.

### • Does that mean the Weinberger family no longer owns the COURIER?

That's correct. The COURIER is now owned by the community. We consider this change in part as a gift to the City of Claremont from the Weinberger family to ensure the COURIER's long-term public support role. Martin Weinberger, who purchased the newspaper in 1955, would be pleased with this new civic enterprise. It gives the Weinberger family an exit strategy that preserves the legacy of the COURIER and their dedication to their readers and communities.

### • Are community donations the only way to raise needed funds?

No, we will also be applying for grants and underwriting from foundations, corporations and government funding.

### • How will the COURIER change now that it's a nonprofit?

This change recognizes that local news is a civic rather than a commercial enterprise. As an institution our community relies on, we are turning to you for financial support. That's because local news is key to healthy, vibrant, engaged communities and thus merits philanthropic support.

Claremont COURIER  
A LOCAL NONPROFIT NEWSROOM

# Barger responds to local concerns at first Claremont meeting

by Steven Felschundneff

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Right and somewhat early Monday morning, the Claremont community got a chance to hear from Kathryn Barger, our new representative on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

During a special online-only meeting of the Claremont City Council, Barger spent two hours answering questions based on five preselected topics: crime and directives from the Los Angeles County district attorney; open space preservation and wildfire prevention; housing and homelessness; library services and funding; and transportation.

Barger's only other appearance in Claremont since becoming our supervisor was to attend the Meals on Wheels gala last month. So Monday's meeting was an introduction of sorts for both Claremont and its new supervisor.

Asked straight off about how the county can help to curb crime in Claremont, which sits on the border of Barger's district and the county line, she responded that battling crime requires a regional approach.

"Crime doesn't know borders, [so] it is important to coordinate together," Barger said.

"Contrary to what you read in the press, I have a strong relationship with our sheriff's department and with all our local police departments and it is important to look at it from a regional standpoint because I know that in certain areas, when cities start to focus on the crime, they [criminals] move to another city."

She acknowledged the frustration many civic leaders have with Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascon and his directive that certain misdemeanor crimes not be prosecuted. However, Barger also voiced support for the inspiration behind his order, namely finding alternatives to incarceration as a way to rehabilitate, not punish, some offenders.

"Obviously, from day one I reached out to the DA to try and understand some of the thought process on how he was going to change the filings," she said. "I am less than happy. I have talked to all my cities about their concerns, especially from a law enforcement standpoint."



Supervisor Kathryn Barger participated in a special meeting of the Claremont City Council on Monday where she was able to answer questions from the council and city residents. The meeting was an introduction for Barger who now represents Claremont following the redistricting process last year. Photo by Bryan Chan / Los Angeles County

However, Barger also spoke of "investing in community," referencing Measure J, which sets aside no less than 10% of unrestricted county funds to incarceration alternatives, including youth development, job training, small business development and supportive housing services.

"I've always said it's not an either/or, we need to continue to support law enforcement and invest in our communities, especially for our at-risk youth," Barger said.

Loitering for prostitution is one of the crimes Gascon has declined to prosecute, but when it comes to

human trafficking, the district attorney and Barger are on the same page. The county will commit the resources not only to charge anyone accused of forcing someone into prostitution, but will commit to assist those who are victimized.

"This is really an issue that is growing, we are seeing young people who are targeted from the foster care system and it's truly frightening what is taking place," Barger said.

Naturally, when open space came up, the conversation turned to the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park

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## OUR TOWN

### CHS Theatre presents "Puffs"

The Claremont High School Theatre Department presents "Puffs," also known as "Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic," a play by Matt Cox.

"For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain wizard school and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story," a news release from CHS said. Rather, this is the story of the Puffs who just happened to be there too.

The Puffs are a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a thing for badgers "who are so lovable and relatable, you'll leave the theater wishing they were in the stories all along," Hollywood Life wrote online about the original Broadway production.

"Their epic journey takes the classic story to new places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be," the play's online About page read.

The play gives Harry Potter fans a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three potential heroes who are trying to make it through a

magic school that proves to be very dangerous for children.

"Puffs" will be shown May 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. with a matinee performance on May 14 at 2 p.m.

All showings will be held at the Don F. Fruechte Theatre for the Performing Arts, located at 1601 N. Indian Hill Blvd. on the Claremont High School campus. Online presale tickets are \$12, and \$15 at the door.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit chstheatre2129.com or call CHS Theatre at (909) 624-9053 ext. 30463. For more details, contact Mohammed Mangrio at mmangrio@cusd.claremont.edu.

### July Fourth national anthem winner

The winner of the 2022 4th of July celebration national anthem contest is Ethan Negus, a junior at Claremont High School. Ethan will receive fireworks tickets, a special place in the parade and will perform the national anthem at the fireworks show and flag raising ceremony, according to the city.

Additional information about the 2022 Fourth of July celebration can be

found at the event's website claremont4th.org or by contacting the Human Services Department at (909) 399-5490 or SpecialEvents@ci.claremont.ca.us.

### AAAS Mass Media Fellows

On April 22, the American Association for the Advancement of Science announced its 2022 cohort of Mass Media Fellows: "28 young scientists who will be placed in newsrooms around the country for a summer of hands-on immersion in science journalism," AAAS's Project Director Elana Kimbrell wrote.

The Mass Media Fellows are current or recent undergraduates, or graduate science students seeking to include either public writing in their scientific careers, shift entirely to science communication or use the fellowship to help them decide what is next.

The 2022 Mass Media Fellows include: Gabe Barnard who will be joining The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Max Barnhart who will set up at NPR, and Anuraag Bukkuri from the The Miami Herald.

Among the 28 selected fellows is Kaveri Curlin, a 2015 Claremont High School graduate and current medical student at University of California, Irvine School of Medicine.

Curlin, who will be placed at the Philadelphia Inquirer, said in a statement to AAAS, "Medical practitioners are first-hand witnesses to the rapidly disappearing safety net in this country. Doctors see people in crisis, often with little social support, who are forced to make decisions when presented with all bad options. I think that more medical professionals should learn how to communicate what they're observing in clinics."

Before joining their respective newsrooms, the 28 selected fellows will travel to the AAAS headquarters in Washington D.C. for their first in-person orientation since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The orientation provides fellows with a baseline of science journalism best practices to start the fellows off on the right foot," Kimbrell wrote. Their trip is in June.

For more information about AAAS, visit [aaas.org](http://aaas.org).

# Acclaimed songwriter Robbie Fulks comes to Claremont

by Mick Rhodes

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It feels like blasphemy to hear Robbie Fulks say he doesn't necessarily enjoy writing songs.

After all, the longtime Chicago- but now Los Angeles-based, Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter and guitarist — who will be in Claremont for a Saturday, May 21 show at the Folk Music Center — is known for his vast, acclaimed catalog of wry, literate, sometimes humorous songs and blazing guitar work.

Was the guy who wrote “F&%k This Town,” and “She Took a Lot of Pills (and Died)” cracking wise?

“No, I wasn't kidding,” Fulks said. “I'm kind of lazy generally. I'll just kind of put off anything that I don't like to do, and that includes things like strenuous exercise. But songwriting, just making the words dovetail with the melody, and the harmonic substructure under that, and making it something other people would be interested in and want to sing, and making it kind of sail, is always challenging to me. It's always like I've never done it before when I go to do it.”

Fulks has released 15 records since his 1996 debut, “Country Love Songs.” He's operated primarily in the “roots” division of the music biz, but is a restless writer. Equally at home in country, bluegrass, folk and rockabilly, he's also a wonderful pop songwriter, with dozens of tunes that land somewhere between John Hiatt and Nick Lowe. He followed 2016's spare, mostly acoustic gothic masterpiece “Upland Stories” (no, not a reference to Claremont's neighbor to the east, sorry), which earned him two Grammy nominations, with 2018's rollicking “Wild! Wild! Wild!”, a tour de force rockabilly/boogie-woogie collaboration with Linda Gail Lewis, little sister of the killer himself, Jerry Lee Lewis. He's currently at work on a bluegrass album, which he hopes to release by the end summer.

And though he's made his mark in older forms, he's fascinated by all kinds of music.

“In the current era — not that I know a lot about it — but it seems like in the current era we're saturated with really interesting sounds, gripping sounds or production if you want to call it that, and also rhythmic complexity, and rhyme ingenuity; not exact rhymes, but near-rhyme ingenuity,” Fulks said. “And so for those values it's a golden era that we're living in.”

At 59, he remains unusually curious about finding new sounds. He loves Spotify, which is also something you don't hear that much from successful recording artists. His circle of musician friends are a resource as well, as are critics and writers, of which he singled out Ted Gioia as a particularly astute well-spring.

“And then I recently went to the Big Ears Festival in Knoxville [Tennessee], where there's I don't know how many acts, maybe 100, and I hadn't heard of 80

of them before. And so I definitely got five or 10 new things to listen to from that,” including Celtic harpist Maeve Gilchrist and Columbus, Ohio-based avant garage quartet Dana.

Fulks is a brilliant bluegrass guitarist, an inventive, erudite lyricist, and can write a tearjerker country song as well as anyone working today. But he's no traditionalist. You'll not see him in a Nudie suit, and probably not in a cowboy hat either. He's famously adventurous and perhaps even more well-known and liked for his lack of pretension and sometimes biting

the tyranny of the metronome, I think.”

Fulks also singled out pitch correction software Auto-Tune as another “improvement” to overcome in the quest for soulful, imperfect sounds.

No doubt somewhere a young designer is writing code into virtual instrument and pitch correction software to reflect the imperfect quirks of human singers and musicians. In other words, someone's drilling down into that time-honored dystopian fear of making the digital more human.

“It just seems like a really long way to go around

reestablishing a human kind of imperfection in music when you can simply have humans play instruments and get the imperfection from the get-go,” Fulks said.

Though writing music, recording and touring has been his full-time job since 1996, one look at Fulks' blog at <http://www.robbiefulks.com/blog> and at the pieces he's penned for various magazines (GQ, the Journal of Country Music and Blender among them), and it's clear he's a formidable prose writer as well. He'd just never really had time to spend on any longer form prose project. But when the pandemic forced him out of the write/record/tour cycle for the first time in decades, and with his

three kids now grown, a window appeared.

He began work on an as-of-yet untitled book, “basically to amuse myself,” about the birth of songwriting.

“I wanted to understand better what songs are for, to put it bluntly, and how far back in time they went, as far as the record shows,” Fulks said.

The earliest example he found was a song written by a Mesopotamian princess, a daughter of a king, from 3200 BC. He also found that music precedes speech by many years.

“There are different theories about the evolutionary purpose, perhaps, of music, and whether it has one or doesn't to begin with.”

He's also been exploring what recording devices did to change the use and the purpose of songs.

“All of that was so unknown to me, and yet it bore so much on my occupation that it seemed just like it would help me to write better songs to understand better what I was really up to,” he said. “If I go ahead and finish this book, it'll be a job of synthesis and translation more than anything else, if you know what I mean. Just diving into the specialist material, making connections, and then simplifying the presentation so that hopefully somebody stops in an airport and picks up a book about songs and can be immediately interested in and captivated by what I'm talking about.”

Fulks will be making his Claremont debut when he plays the Folk Music Center on May 21. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the store, 220 Yale Ave., Claremont, or by calling (909) 624-2928.



Grammy-nominated artist Robbie Fulks has released 15 records since his 1996 debut, “Country Love Songs.” Photo by Andy Goodwin

humor. He's open to all kinds of new sounds in performance, but he's less enthusiastic about the computer's prominence in much of today's mainstream recorded pop music.

“If it's four or five people sitting in a room and communicating through wood and metal instruments, I'm in, right at the outset,” Fulks said. “I want to know what it sounds like, and what the traditions are that it draws from. There's a couple exceptions to this, but if it's laid out on a grid and done by one person in isolation, and just doesn't bear those hallmarks of spontaneity and communication and at least a little improvisation, then I can relate to it very easily.”

Still, a recent conversation with Eyvind Kang, musician, composer, arranger and co-director of experimental pop specialization at Cal Arts, gave Fulks some hope. Kang told him about a student of his, a drummer, who does gigs with a pre-recorded drum track, over which he improvises, altering the seemingly immovable digital time signature.

“Which kind of stretches my mind to think about how flexibility can be introduced when you're playing with a metronomic track,” Fulks said. “You're playing against a track and making it seem to bend more than it's bending. It's kind of interesting to contemplate for old farts like me that relate to flexible time in music, that it's not a dead issue because computers are taking over.”

Computers aren't going away, he acknowledged, but neither are violins.

“We have to make it work somehow. If our values are going to live on, there needs to be a way to break

# POLICE BLOTTER

By Mick Rhodes

## Monday, May 2

A 26-year-old El Monte woman wanted for an alleged November 2021 hit-and-run accident turned herself in at Claremont Police Department headquarters at 11:38 a.m. Nancy Sotelo was then booked and released with a citation to appear in Pomona Superior Court. The case stems from a 2 a.m. single-car crash that occurred near east College Way and Live Oak Canyon Rd. on November 24 of last year. Police say Sotelo admitted to crashing into an Edison power pole, damaging the structure, then driving her damaged car a short distance until it became inoperable. On the morning of the crash a witness told police a woman had approached her after the car conked out and asked to use her phone to call for a ride home. The witness refused, and said the woman then fled on foot. Arriving police conducted an area check at the scene of the crash, but did not find the driver. They did however locate her damaged car a short distance away. Police then talked to the registered owner of the car, Sotelo's sister, who told them she had borrowed it. Later they interviewed Sotelo, who is alleged to have said, "I panicked when I drove away from the pole that I hit. I had also been drinking mixed drinks at a party in Riverside. I left the car parked on the street because it couldn't drive any further." Police then filed a case with the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, which resulted in an arrest warrant being issued in February of this year.

Claremont PD responded to a 12:03 p.m. call from the Joslyn Center, 660 N. Mountain Ave., regarding a man smoking an unknown substance outside the

building. Arriving officers found the suspect, 60 years old, unhoused, and allegedly in possession of a small baggie of methamphetamine and a meth pipe. A records check also revealed two outstanding misdemeanor warrants, and he was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and on the warrants. He was then booked and released with a citation to appear in Pomona Superior Court.

## Tuesday, May 3

Police on extra patrol at the always colorful Claremont Lodge, 736 S. Indian Hill Blvd., say they received information that one of the motel's occupants, Diana Sifunetes, 42, from Rancho Cucamonga, had multiple warrants out for her arrest. Officers saw Sifunetes and Richard Falcon, a 42-year-old Ontario man, exit one of the rooms, and approached the pair. A records check revealed Sifunetes had three misdemeanor warrants out of San Bernardino County and one felony warrant from Orange County. Falcon had two felony warrants as well, both from San Bernardino County. The pair were then arrested. Sifunetes was booked on her three San Bernardino County warrants and issued a citation, then transferred to the O.C. Inmate Reception Center in Santa Ana to await a court date on the felony. Falcon was transferred to the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga on his felony warrants, where he waited on his day in court.

## Wednesday, May 4

Claremont's motel row continued to be fertile ground for arrests of all kinds this week. This time it was Motel 6 at 840 S. Indian Hill Blvd., where police were summoned at 8:47 p.m. by a 911 caller who said someone was lighting

something on fire on the motel's tennis courts. Arriving officers say they found Pomona resident Laurier Escueta, 34, lighting the tennis court nets on fire. They told him to stop, but say Escueta ignored them and continued the alleged arson. He was detained, and investigators allege he had also damaged several wood posts and a restroom door adjacent to the courts. A records check revealed he was on parole for previous arson and burglary convictions. Escueta's parole officer then issued a no-bail parole hold, and he was arrested for misdemeanor arson and booked at CPD headquarters before being transported to L.A. County Inmate Reception Center at Twin Towers Jail in Downtown Los Angeles, where he was held for court on the parole violation.

## Thursday, May 5

A 38-year-old unhoused man was arrested after police responded to a 11:26 a.m. call from the Joslyn Center, 660 N. Mountain Ave., regarding a person putting up a tent in front of the senior center. Arriving officers told the man he could not sleep there, and asked him to gather his belongings and move. While he was cleaning up his belongings, police say a methamphetamine pipe rolled out onto the ground. The man was then arrested for misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, booked, and released with a citation to appear in Pomona court and a bag containing his belongings.

## Friday, May 6

Shortly after midnight, cops on extra patrol in the area of the AM/PM gas station and market at 701 E. Foothill Blvd. noticed a car parked at the pumps with an expired registration tag. They say the driver, Joseph Garcia, 40, from Azusa, then exited the store and began

pumping gas. Officers asked Garcia about the expired tag and ran a records check, which revealed five arrest warrants: two from San Bernardino County, two from L.A. County, and one from Pomona PD. He was then arrested and booked at the station on the four county warrants before being turned over to Pomona police, who took custody of him on their warrant.

Police were called to Trader Joe's, 475 W. Foothill Blvd., at 9:36 a.m. regarding a man a witness said was drinking from a vodka bottle in front of the store. Arriving officers alleged the 70-year-old unhoused man was "highly intoxicated," and arrested him for drunk in public, a misdemeanor. He was booked and jailed, where he spent the next several hours detoxing before being released with a citation.

## Monday, May 9

A CPD officer on patrol near the intersection of Indian Hill Blvd. and American Ave. allegedly saw 20-year-old Inglewood resident Savannah Rosales walk across Indian Hill against a do not walk sign at 1:35 p.m. and attempted to stop her. She refused, police say. The officer then pulled over and got out of the cruiser and again told Rosales to stop walking, but she reportedly kept on moving. Several more commands followed, but the officer says she walked past and replied, "I'm not going to stop for you. I didn't do anything wrong." A second officer then arrived and attempted to detain her by holding her still, but say Rosales continued to pull away. Eventually they managed to stop her, place her in handcuffs, and put her in a police car. She was charged with misdemeanor resisting arrest, booked, and released with a citation.

# OUR TOWN

## Human trafficking awareness

Next Monday, May 16, the Claremont Police Department, along with Project Sister Family Services and other community partners, will host a human trafficking awareness

symposium.

This is an opportunity to learn about human trafficking, what is being done to address it, and how you can help end it, the city wrote online.

Recently, the Committee on Safe and Healthy Housing approached the City of Claremont and Inland Valleys Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to "provide a community presentation on hu-

man trafficking in the area."

In addition to C.P.D. and the Inland Valleys Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, attendees will hear from the Pomona Police Department's Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Team to discuss some actions they have taken in addressing human trafficking.

The event will take place in the Padua Room of the Alexander Hughes

Community Center, 1700 Danbury Road. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, but attendees are asked to please register online in advance. Visit <https://bit.ly/ClaremontHT> to register.

For more information, contact Project Sister Family Services at (909) 623-1619.



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### Regarding the purported rent hike for Rhino Records and Video Paradiso

Dear editor:

There has been an opinion piece and several letters in the COURIER recently bemoaning the changing landscape in the Village that many of us have lived in for decades. There's no question that the pandemic has played a major role in this, but changing times are a factor, too.

The loss of many long-time, iconic businesses in Claremont such as Barbara Cheatley's, The Press, Laemmle Theater, the Candlelight Pavilion, Rhino Records, Video Paradiso, etc., has been a blow. Many of us hate to see these businesses close and worry that the Village and Claremont will lose its appeal as a destination without these unique attractions.

Increased rent has been touted as the reason for the closure of Rhino Records

## READERS COMMENTS

and Video Paradiso. To unjustly target the landlord as the villain in this story is unfair and totally inaccurate. The Bentley family doesn't need anyone to defend them, after many generations of being respected merchants in the Village and owning the building that now houses Rhino Records and for decades was Bentley's Market. The inaccurate information and innuendos that came out about Rhino and Video Paradiso moving out of their building because of a guesstimate of a 40% rent hike is totally incorrect.

Without going into the details, I can tell you that the Bentley family was

more than generous to and supportive of Rhino Records during the pandemic when they were unable to pay their full rent for many months. A few months ago, when business returned to semi-normal in the Village, the Bentleys gave Rhino the opportunity to return to their pre-pandemic rent, with NO rent increase requested. Rhino chose not to take that offer. They made the decision to move to Montclair for their own reasons, and to suggest otherwise is blatantly wrong.

No one in the Bentley family was ever contacted to get the real facts about the situation before information regarding a large rent hike was published. That's unlike our local newspaper, and I'm especially sorry this misinformation has spread and had such a negative impact on a family that has been an integral and positive force in this community for so many decades.

## ADVENTURES IN HAIKU

*Tropical heat wave?  
One digit humidity  
belies sultry songs.*

— Kate Massey

Haiku submissions should reflect upon life or events in Claremont. Please email entries to editor@claremont-courier.com.

Sincerely,  
**Mary F. Weis**  
Claremont  
**Editor's note: The COURIER stands by our reporting and the sources used in the story. —P.W.**

### Applicants sought for city commissions

Residents interested in taking a more active role in the city's decision-making process are encouraged to apply for appointment to a city commission.

Applications are currently being accepted to fill potential end-of-term and unexpected vacancies on various City of Claremont commissions. Interested persons are encouraged to file an application with the city clerk.

Applications, including supplemental

questions, and information are available in the city clerk's office at city hall, 207 Harvard Ave., Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., or online at ci.claremont.ca.us/government/departments-divisions/city-clerk-s-office/commission-committee-board-appointments. Applications are due on or before June 6.

According to the city in a recent post, Claremont has five commissions: architectural, community and human services, planning, police, traffic and transportation.

Their purpose is to advise and assist the city council in addressing issues related to the commission's area of concern, through gathering pertinent information, hearing arguments, weighing values, and making recommendations to the council.

Each commission is comprised of citizens appointed by the city council and the specific powers and duties of each commission are attached to the application.

Qualifications for commission service include: Claremont residency (with cer-

tain exceptions), a strong interest in the community and the work of the commission, and the ability to give generously of one's time while serving.

A personal interview with a two-member city council sub-committee will be scheduled for all applicants. It is the council's goal to appoint individuals who reflect the diversity of the community.

For more information, contact the city clerk's office at (909) 399-5461 or (909) 399-5463.



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## An Unpopular View?

I love my grass. I hesitate saying that. Of course, I mean the green stuff that surrounds my home and was part of the California dream for decades. Since learning of the draconian cuts imposed by an undeniable drought, I have been fretting over little else than the future and untimely death of my landscape.

I love my grass and my roses and the rest of my yard that probably wasn't a smart choice when we laid out the landscape's future 20 years ago. I don't consider myself a tree-hugger; but each time we have had to cut one down, I've mourned its loss. The big wind of a couple of months ago took our oak, nursed from an acorn, that provided a wonderful green camouflage of the neighbors to our north.

During the pandemic, our yard was a sanctuary, and a calming view, allowing us to believe that everything would be okay. Cucamonga Peak, Baldy, the view of pepper trees, sycamores, and yuccas reminded us that this, too, shall pass and nature's bounty would still be here — and hopefully I would be, too.

When we bought this house 20 years ago, it was only a plot of dirt, once owned by Pomona College, and a developer's idea drawn on a sheet of paper. The slopes were a worry from the beginning. What to plant? How stable



by STEVE HARRISON

## INSIDE & OUT

and safe from erosion? How would we pay for maintenance? I tried to see if there was a way to deed some of the area back to the city; but why would they want it when they have someone willing to pay its maintenance? The slopes have continued to be a source of some fretting over the time we have been here: yearly letters from the county about weed abatement, concern over dead spots, weeds, the snakes, squirrels, and rabbits that look at our yard as a giant salad bar. And, of course, there have been summer water bills that each year would have once bought a Volkswagen bug.

I feel guilty complaining. I know there is a drought. I know we all have to conserve. But there lies the rub. Eight minutes per station per week is not going to keep

much alive. It certainly isn't going to allow a new planting plan enough sustenance to get established. My worry is now on overdrive. So being a good citizen, I surely have no choice but to give up my grass. I will resist mightily letting the slopes and flower beds wither. What about wildfire's threat or decreased property values? As go Claraboya, Padua, and Stone Canyon Preserve, so goes everyone's equity.

I know there are things we can do. Giving up the grass will be the easiest. Water-wise plant choices another. But watching what we have created and nurtured die is not going to be easy. I'm not sure I can do it. And though I'm a good liberal, one of the things I value in our democracy is everyone being treated equally. So, when I hear that there won't be restrictions on other Southern California cities also built in a desert, my blood boils. I feel selfish. I know my roses and grass won't provide much solace if I go to my faucet for a refreshing glass of water, and there will be nary a drop to drink. Still, it's hard to live through a paradigm shift. A lawn, a pool, a single-family home; trees providing a shady canopy for summer lemonade stands, all seem like a promise, part of the American and California dream that now seem about to evaporate like running in sprinklers. I may need the other kind of grass to cope.

## Residential reminders for Claremont

### Accessory Dwelling Unit grant program

According to a May 5 post from the City of Claremont, "the California Housing Finance Agency (Cal-HFA) provides up to \$40,000 to reimburse pre-development and non-recurring closing costs associated with the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)."

Examples of pre-development costs include site prep, architectural designs, permits, soil tests, impact fees, property survey and energy report. Homeowners with low or moderate incomes are eligible for this grant opportunity.

For additional info or to apply, please refer to the Cal-HFA website at [calhfa.ca.gov/adu/index.htm#process](http://calhfa.ca.gov/adu/index.htm#process).

ADUs are permitted on all residential properties in the city and may be detached or attached to new construction, or conversions of garages or portions of existing residences.

Approval of an Accessory Dwelling Unit Permit (ADUP) by the planning division is required prior submitting plans to the building division. Contact city plan-

ning at (909) 399-5470 for any questions about regulations and review processes for ADUs.

Additional information can be found at [ci.claremont.ca.us/living/accessory-dwelling-units](http://ci.claremont.ca.us/living/accessory-dwelling-units).

### Gas-powered leaf blowers prohibited

Residents are reminded that "the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers is strictly prohibited in Claremont," according to a May 3 post from the city.

Electric or battery-powered leaf blowers may be used and operated between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. seven days a week and gasoline-powered vacuums are permitted.

"No leaves or other debris shall be blown into the street, sidewalk or beyond the [resident's] property line," the city added. "Noise associated with the maintenance of property such as mowing, edging, and trimming can take place between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Sundays."

For more information or to report illegal use of leaf

blowers, contact the community improvement division at (909) 399-5467.

### Claremont Senior Program returns to in-person dining

The Claremont Senior Program is excited to announce that after two-plus years of serving meals to-go in adherence with pandemic safety protocols, in-person congregate dining will return to the Joslyn and Blaisdell community centers this summer.

Meal service will resume at the Joslyn Center starting Monday, June 6, and at Blaisdell Community Center on Monday, July 18. The last day of takeout meal service at the Joslyn Center will be Wednesday, June 1.

Reservations will be required to dine at the sites, which will have indoor and outdoor seating options in order to ensure adequate spacing between diners and quality service.

For more info, contact the Joslyn Center at (909) 399-5488 or via email at [joslyncenter@ci.claremont.ca.us](mailto:joslyncenter@ci.claremont.ca.us).

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**Across**

- 1. Start of a long distance call
- 4. Winner of the Claremont Graduate University's Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, \_\_\_ Victor
- 9. "Just \_\_\_ bit more"
- 13. Abdul-Jabbar is one of its grads
- 15. Ornamental tree
- 16. "Death on the \_\_\_" mystery thriller
- 17. Good source of protein
- 18. Stage related
- 20. It's, old way
- 22. Coverings
- 23. Words before "in the arm" or "in the dark"
- 26. Actor Ralph of "The Waltons"
- 28. Fail miserably
- 29. Chow \_\_\_
- 33. \_\_\_ death do us part...
- 34. Poisonous shrub, sometimes
- 36. Large marine game fish
- 39. Historic area of USC
- 41. Plow pioneer
- 44. Deletions and changes
- 48. Environmental watchdogs
- 49. \_\_\_ Mawr, Pa.
- 50. Digital watch features: abbr.
- 51. Grannies
- 54. Graylags
- 55. Bellflower's genus

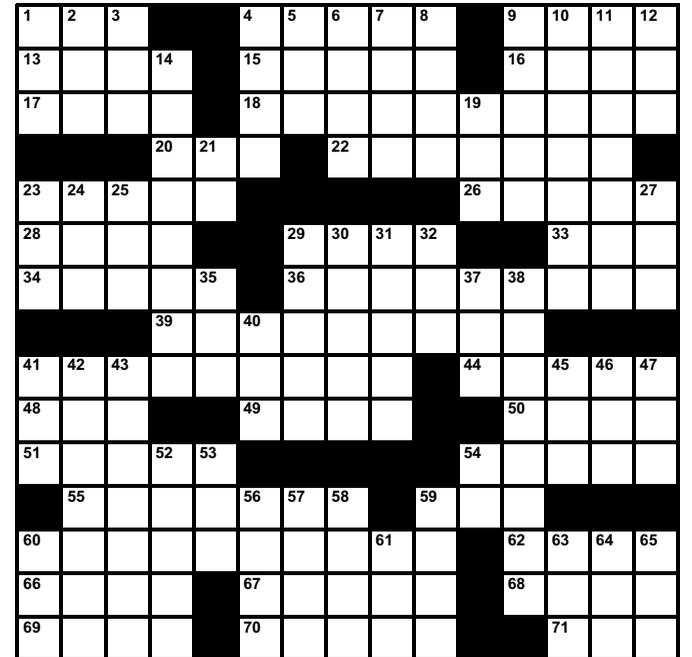
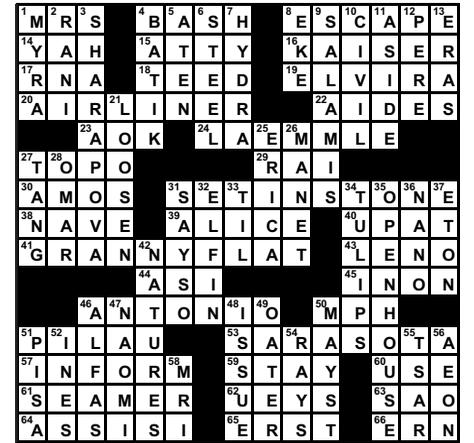
- 59. Land of the brave and free
- 60. Producing living young, not eggs
- 62. Throat
- 66. Flat
- 67. Parson's place
- 68. Children's story start
- 69. "The Way We \_\_\_" Streisand film
- 70. Put \_\_\_ to (finish)
- 71. \_\_\_ and the Family Stone

**Down**

- 1. Excuse
- 2. Army figure, for short
- 3. Mischievous fairy
- 4. They're sometimes connected
- 5. Sort of: Suffix
- 6. Rivals
- 7. Sure
- 8. Comic Johnson
- 9. Grammy-winner Baker
- 10. Kansas city
- 11. Adaptable
- 12. Apodal fish
- 14. Famously fast expressway
- 19. Sensitive
- 21. Tag player
- 23. Exercise target
- 24. Former Paris coin
- 25. Express perplexity

- 27. Canada's \_\_\_ Island National Park
- 29. Electromagnetic wave amplifier
- 30. Grinding material
- 31. Norwegian playwright
- 32. Old Testament book: Abbr.
- 35. New England catch
- 37. Richard of the law
- 38. Claremont's mayor
- 40. Confederate soldier
- 41. "Along came Polly" star first name
- 42. Iridescent
- 43. Pennsylvania city
- 45. Diamonds
- 46. N.F.L. scores
- 47. Compass point
- 52. Bear
- 53. Calendar abbr.
- 54. Gravitic forces
- 56. Buddhist monk
- 57. OPEC member
- 58. Top-drawer
- 59. Like thrift shop wares
- 60. Solemn promise
- 61. Admiral's org.
- 63. Some dashes
- 64. Half of D
- 65. Door opener

**Answers to puzzle #672**



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# Drought Emergency 2022

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Based on state and regional conditions, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, our community's largest supplier of water to the region, voted on April 26 to declare an Emergency Water Shortage Condition and called for all water users within State Water Project reliant areas to immediately reduce non-essential uses of water to preserve limited water supplies for the remainder of the year. As retail agency members of the local wholesaler Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Golden State Water-Claremont and the city of LaVerne are reliant on State Water Project and implementing conservation measure to preserve this limited resource. The first step is moving to 1 day per week watering.

**Check with your local water provider for specific watering restrictions and limitations.**



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Check out tips and resources on conservation at [SaveOurWater.com](https://www.SaveOurWater.com) and [BeWaterWise.com](https://www.BeWaterWise.com)

# What's happening Claremont?

BY ANDREW ALONZO

[calendar@claremont-courier.com](mailto:calendar@claremont-courier.com)

## FRIDAY 5/13

- The **Democratic Club of Claremont** will resume in-person monthly luncheons starting today at Eddie's Italian Eatery. The event will also continue the Gar Byrum Distinguished Speaker Series program, which will feature Phalana Tiller, the club's legislative priorities committee member, discussing "Our Legislative Priorities Project." Cost is \$15. The meal will begin at 11:45 a.m. and the program will begin at 12:30 p.m. Contact Mike Boos at [jazzdrmike@aol.com](mailto:jazzdrmike@aol.com) for details.

- Attend Inter Valley Health Plan's upcoming online course, **Community First Aid and CPR**, for a discussion on what you need to know about basic first aid and hands-only CPR for adults and grandchildren. The course will begin at noon; register at [ivhp.com/vitality](http://ivhp.com/vitality). You never know when you might need this information!

## SATURDAY 5/14

- At 7:30 a.m., join the Inland Valley Humane Society and S.P.C.A. at Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, 120 E. Via Verde Drive in San Dimas, to support the animals of the humane society during the **Paws 4 Pets Walk**. This is the largest pet walk in the Inland Valley at 1.5 miles. You and your dog can enjoy activities, a vendor village, pet photos, contests, music and a tail waggin' fun day. General admission begins at \$25. For details, visit [ivhdsdogwalk.org](http://ivhdsdogwalk.org).



- The public is invited to the **Pomona Valley Certified Farmers' Market** every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the northwest corner of Pearl Street and Garey Avenue in Pomona. The market features organic and chemical-free produce from local urban farms, books and more. For more information, visit [pomonaacfa.org](http://pomonaacfa.org).

- **Parkinson's Explorers**, a free Parkinson's disease support group, will

begin meeting in person again on the second Saturday of each month between 10 a.m. and noon at their new location, the Alexander Hughes Community Center's Grove Room. This meeting's guest speaker is Twyla Evano and the topic of discussion is "The impact of exercise on Parkinson's disease." For details, contact the center at (909) 399-5490.

## SUNDAY 5/15

- North Hills Church of Seventh-day Adventists, 1717 N. Mountain Ave., will host a **blood and power red donation drive** between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Appointments can be made online at the American Red Cross website, [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or by calling 1-(800)-RED-CROSS.

- **Polyhedra** will perform live jazz at the College Center, 665 E. Foothill Blvd., beginning at 2 p.m. The concert will last approximately three hours and is free to the public. For more information or to view the monthly jazz lineup, visit [www.jazzatcollegecenter.com](http://www.jazzatcollegecenter.com).

## MONDAY 5/16

- Performances of Mt. San Antonio Gardens **chorale spring concert** will take place today at 3:30 p.m. and tomorrow at 7 p.m. The theme of this year's spring concert is "Folk Songs, Spirituals and Songs by American Composers," and will feature special clarinet/piano and saxophone/piano duets by Gardens' residents Frankie Nobert and Wes Hawks. Mt. San Antonio Gardens is located at 900 E. Harrison Ave. in Pomona. For details, contact (909) 624-5061.

- The **committee on human relations meeting** will take place at the Alexander Hughes Community Center, 1700 Danbury Rd., at 7 p.m. Information can be found at [ci.claremont.ca.us/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/5915/20](http://ci.claremont.ca.us/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/5915/20).

- The Claremont Police Department, along with Project Sister Family Services and other community partners, will host a **human trafficking awareness symposium**. The event will take place in the Padua Room of the Alexander Hughes Community Center at 7 p.m.

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and is open to the public. Attendees are asked to register in advance at <https://bit.ly/ClaremontHT>.

## TUESDAY 5/17

• Learn peaceful stretching while practicing mindfulness with the Joslyn Center's new drop-in class, **chair yoga and mindfulness** to help build strength, increase range of motion and calm the nervous system. This course, held every Tuesday between 9 and 10 a.m., is taught by Victoria Collett Wellness and will run until August 3. Cost for drop-in participants is \$8. For details, contact the Joslyn Center at (909) 399-5488.



• At 7 p.m. via Zoom, as part of the United Nations Association of Pomona Valley's May programming, Mietek Boduszynski, a professor of U.S. Foreign Policy at Pomona College, will discuss "**History, Propaganda, and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.**" The program is another in the group's

Global Issues series. For more information, contact Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo at [kebokild@pitzer.edu](mailto:kebokild@pitzer.edu). The link for the program is <https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/kebokile>.

## WEDNESDAY 5/18

• Join Inter Valley Health Plan virtually at 9 a.m. for an early **exercise class** designed to help you gain strength, lose fat and feel great. Included will be a wellness tip to try for the week. IVHP reminds participants to "be ready with a sturdy chair;" exercise band and weights are optional. To register, visit [ivhp.com/vitality](http://ivhp.com/vitality).

• Every Wednesday at 9:45 a.m., the Joslyn Center hosts a **writing workshop group**, which is currently accepting new members. Fellow writers in this safe space offer responses to each other's writing on elements such as organization, plot, setting, character development, point of view, and overall effectiveness. To join the group, call the center at (909) 399-5488.

• Join Miles McNeeley from WISE & Healthy in a **discussion on scams and fraud**. This workshop, hosted in partnership with AgingNext, will help participants identify scams, report instances of fraud to law enforcement, and build strategies and tools to use

when approached by scammers. The discussion will begin at 11 a.m. via Zoom and is free and available to all. To register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/scam-and-fraud-self-defense-workshop-tickets-332290930117](https://eventbrite.com/e/scam-and-fraud-self-defense-workshop-tickets-332290930117).

## THURSDAY 5/19

• The Community Heart **drive-thru pantry**, located at 10871 Central Ave. in Ontario, takes place every Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The pantry is there to "help all families and individuals in need." For more information on the food pantry or Community Heart, visit [communityheartfeedtheneed.org](http://communityheartfeedtheneed.org).

• Seniors are invited to attend this free **virtual tour of Hillcrest in La Verne** which will begin at 2 p.m. Explore Hillcrest's expansive neighborhoods and virtually tour available homes. The tour will be followed by a discussion with a special guest speaker. To RSVP, email [info@livingathillcrest.org](mailto:info@livingathillcrest.org).

• Join author Emily St. John Mandel at the Garrison Theater at 7 p.m. for the Southern California launch of her new novel, "**Sea of Tranquility.**" The novel takes the reader from Vancouver Island in 1912 to a dark colony on the moon 500 years later, unfurling a story of humanity across centuries and space. Join

St. John Mandel and others for a reading and conversation. Tickets begin at \$5 and can be purchased online at [scrippscollege.edu/events/calendar/sea-of-tranquility-emily-st-john-mandel-in-conversation](https://scrippscollege.edu/events/calendar/sea-of-tranquility-emily-st-john-mandel-in-conversation).

## FRIDAY 5/20

• The Claremont Forum's **one-dollar book sale** kicks off today at noon. Stop by the bookstore, located in the Packing House, this weekend where hundreds of books will be available for as little as one dollar. Proceeds from the three-day sale support the Prison Library Project. For more information, visit [claremontforum.org/event/1-book-sale-6-2](http://claremontforum.org/event/1-book-sale-6-2).

• **Friday Night Live Lights** performers include Dynamite Dawson at Shelton Park, U.S. 99 at the Village Plaza, and Randy Miller outside of the chamber of commerce offices. Performances will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. and are free to the public. For more details, visit [business.claremontchamber.org/events/calendar](http://business.claremontchamber.org/events/calendar).

**Find even more calendar events for the week online!**  
Visit [claremont-courier.com](http://claremont-courier.com)

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SUNDAY, MAY 22, 3:30 PM  
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ON SUNDAY ONLY

**TICKETS:** <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/MMC>

# Claremont colleges commencements take place this weekend

by Andrew Alonzo  
aalonzo@claremont-courier.com

This weekend, the seven Claremont Colleges will hold their spring commencement ceremonies for the class of 2022. The various commencements will feature hundreds of graduating students, as well as many distinguished speakers. Details for the seven ceremonies are as follows:

**Claremont McKenna College  
Saturday, May 14, 2 p.m. at Parents Field**

Danielle Wood, whose work at MIT's Space Enabled Research Lab applies space technology to the improvement of human conditions on earth, will offer the keynote address for the class of 2022 at the historic 75th anniversary commencement ceremony of CMC. In addition, Rabbi Hannah Elkin of the interfaith Chaplaincy at The Claremont Colleges will lead the invocation.

Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebration weekend is scheduled for Friday, June 3 through Sunday, June 5. Former Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, who ran for

president in 2020, will deliver the keynote address on June 4 at 2 p.m. Religious leader, Phan Thị Kim Phúc, will lead the invocation.

Details about the speakers can be found at [cmc.edu/news/cmc-selects-keynote-speakers-upcoming-commencements](http://cmc.edu/news/cmc-selects-keynote-speakers-upcoming-commencements). The ceremonies will be livestreamed and a link will be posted on [cmc.edu](http://cmc.edu) and on the commencement website closer to the event. Important commencement details can be found at [cmc.edu/commencement/class-of-2022](http://cmc.edu/commencement/class-of-2022).

**Harvey Mudd College  
Sunday, May 15, 1:30 p.m. at the Harvey S. Mudd Quadrangle**

Harvey Mudd's commencement

speaker is world-renowned mathematician Terence Tao, who currently holds the James and Carol Collins Chair in mathematics at UCLA. Tao's current research interests include harmonic analysis, partial differential equations, combinatorics and number theory. His most famous result so far, conducted together with Ben Green of Oxford University, is a mathematical proof demonstrating that there exist sequences of evenly spaced prime numbers of any length one wishes. More information about Tao can be found at [hmc.edu/about-hmc/2022/01/18/mozart-of-math-to-address-harvey-mudd-college-class-of-2022-at-62nd-commencement](http://hmc.edu/about-hmc/2022/01/18/mozart-of-math-to-address-harvey-mudd-college-class-of-2022-at-62nd-commencement).

continued on next page



## Meet Jo and Mike.

"We like people!" says Jo. It's no surprise; she and Mike have 35 kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. "We've made a lot of friends here. And the staff is so nice—we know them all and they know us." Beyond socializing, Mike and Jo appreciate the exercise classes, movies and lessons. "Mike took up piano again," Jo says. "And he's acting in the plays." Mike says Claremont Manor has all they need, for now and for the future. "We're enamored with the place."

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Graduating students attend their Pomona College commencement in 2019. COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

**CLAREMONT YOUNG MUSICIANS ORCHESTRA**  
*2021-2022 Season Finale Concerts*  
SUNDAY, MAY 22 • BRIDGES HALL OF MUSIC, POMONA COLLEGE

<p><i>CYMO Program</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Jorge Luis Uzcategui, Conductor</p> <p><b>Vardi</b> La Forza del Destino Overture</p> <p><b>Mahler</b> Adagio from Symphony No. 5</p> <p><b>Rimsky-Korsakov</b> Capriccio Espagnol</p> <p><b>Sarasate</b> Zigeunerweisen (Djopy Alra) Charmaine Lee, Violin</p> <p><b>Hanson</b> Symphony No. 2 (Romantic)</p>	<p><i>Intermezzo Orchestra</i> <b>2:00 PM</b> Greg Samuel, Conductor</p> <p><b>Herold</b> Zampa Overture</p> <p><b>Anderson</b> Fiddle Faddle</p> <p><b>Smetana</b> Dance of the Comedians</p> <p><b>Elgar</b> Pomp and Circumstance</p> <p><b>Grieg</b> Peer Gynt Suite No. 1</p> <p><b>Smith</b> Into the Storm</p>	<p><b>2020 CYMO CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER</b></p> <p>Charmaine Lee, Violin</p> <p><b>Overture Strings 2:00 PM</b> Wendy Waggener, Conductor Program to include music by Mozart, Salieri, Weinberger, Stephan, and Washburn</p>
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For information: [rjcyms@aol.com](mailto:rjcyms@aol.com) (909) 624-3414 [cymo.org](http://cymo.org)

## FREE ADMISSION

Doors open at 1:45 p.m. for the Intermezzo concert and 6:30 p.m. for the CYMO concert.

Free tickets for the CYMO concert will be given out at 6:00 p.m.

Covid vaccination proof and masks are required for both concerts.

## Claremont colleges commencements

continued from page 16

The ceremony will be livestreamed at [hmc.edu/student-life/commencement/livestream](http://hmc.edu/student-life/commencement/livestream).

### Pitzer College Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. at Stephen L. Glass Commencement Plaza

The class of 2022 selected LaTosha Brown, an award-winning organizer, political strategist, and philanthropic consultant who co-founded the Black Voters Matter Fund, to deliver the keynote address at this year's ceremony. More details about Brown can be found at [pitzer.edu/communications/2022/03/21/black-voters-matter-fund-co-founder-latosha-brown-to-deliver-pitzer-college-keynote-commencement-address](http://pitzer.edu/communications/2022/03/21/black-voters-matter-fund-co-founder-latosha-brown-to-deliver-pitzer-college-keynote-commencement-address).

Pitzer will also host various speakers, marshals and an honored guest. More info can be found at [pitzer.edu/commencement/commencement-2022](http://pitzer.edu/commencement/commencement-2022).

Six of the 250 2022 graduates earned their Pitzer degree as part of the college's pilot Inside-Out Pathway-to-BA program, a program that draws from the Inside-Out model of prison education in which incarcerated "inside" college students learn together with "outside" college students.

On Saturday, May 21, Pitzer will welcome back about 276 graduates from the class of 2020 for their long-

awaited commencement ceremony. Details can be found at [pitzer.edu/commencement](http://pitzer.edu/commencement).

### Pomona College Sunday, May 15, 10 a.m. at Marston Quadrangle

Two Pomona College alumni will address the class of 2022 as commencement speakers: renowned biochemist and Nobel Laureate Jennifer Doudna, class of '85, and long-time supporter of the college Stewart Smith, class of '68. Each will also be recognized with an honorary degree by Pomona College during the ceremony. More information on each speaker can be found at [pomona.edu/news/2022/02/15-jennifer-doudna-85-and-stewart-smith-68-address-class-2022](http://pomona.edu/news/2022/02/15-jennifer-doudna-85-and-stewart-smith-68-address-class-2022).

The ceremony returns to the college's Marston Quad after two years of virtual celebrations due to the pandemic. More than 350 students will receive their degrees at Pomona College's 129th commencement.

### Scripps College Saturday, May 14, 5 p.m. at Elm Tree Lawn

Andrea J. Ritchie, advocate and researcher who has authored a number of books and articles on policing, criminalization, mass incarceration and im-

migration enforcement, will deliver the keynote address at Scripps College's 92nd commencement.

There will be about 237 graduates at this year's ceremony. For commencement details, visit [scrippscollege.edu/commencement](http://scrippscollege.edu/commencement).

Commencement celebrations for the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be held the following week on May 20 and 21. Registration and more info can be found at [scrippscollege.edu/alumnae/home/connect/events/celebrationof2020and2021graduates](http://scrippscollege.edu/alumnae/home/connect/events/celebrationof2020and2021graduates).

### Claremont Graduate University Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. at the Harvey S. Mudd Quadrangle

CGU's honorary degree recipient and keynote speaker is Dr. Richard H. Carmona, who served as the 17th U.S. Surgeon General between 2002 and 2006. The student speaker is Jason Beck, who received his Ph.D. in positive organizational psychology in Fall 2021. Also speaking is CGU's Alumni Board President Zenobia Walji. To learn about the speakers, visit [cgu.edu/student-life/commencement/commencement-speakers](http://cgu.edu/student-life/commencement/commencement-speakers).

In addition to the newly graduating class of 2022, approximately 300 graduates in all, CGU has also invited members of the classes of 2019-20 and

2020-21 who were unable to walk across the stage due to the pandemic.

More commencement information can be found at [cgu.edu/student-life/commencement](http://cgu.edu/student-life/commencement).

### Keck Graduate Institute Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the KGI Campus

KGI will have two on-campus commencement ceremonies. The first, at 10 a.m., will honor graduates from the Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences. The second, at 2 p.m., will honor graduates from the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. A total of 222 graduates will participate in the ceremonies.

The keynote speaker for the first ceremony is the Corporate Vice President of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement at Edwards Lifesciences, Larry L. Wood, M.B.A. The keynote speaker for the second ceremony is founder and CEO of 54gene, Abasi Ene-Onon, Ph.D., PPM '14.

**The COURIER recognizes and commends the efforts of the graduating classes of 2022! You did it!**

### Democratic Club of Claremont proudly endorses the following candidates in the June 7, 2022 Primary Election



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U.S. Senate

Representative Judy Chu  
Congressional District 28

Gavin Newsom Governor

Eleni Kounalakis Lieutenant Governor

Dr. Shirley Weber Secretary of State

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## Project ARTstART wraps up final weekend at CLMA

On Sunday May 15, Project ARTstART, the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art's signature arts education program for youth, directed by Rich Deely, will wrap up its exhibit, "StART It Up!"

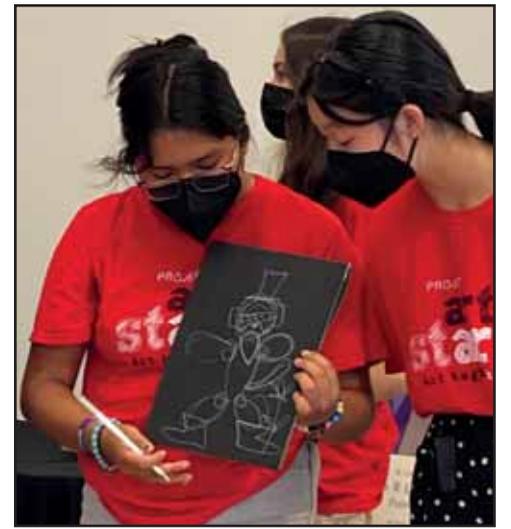
The exhibit celebrates Project ARTstART's eleventh year and will display student artwork from grades four, five and six at Mountain View, Oakmont, Sumner, Sycamore and Vista del Valle elementary schools. High school ARTstARTers will be on hand to tell visitors about the class projects.

Project ARTstART "trains high school students, working with college mentors, to provide exhibit-based art lessons for elementary school students," the museum shared online.

"By bringing high-quality, art appreciation classes and activities to the Claremont schools, we hope to inspire students, promote understanding of the arts, and highlight Claremont's rich artistic legacy."

Launched in the fall of 2011, Project ARTstART recruits high school and college students as teachers and mentors. These "Art Starters" are trained as docents by college mentors to offer multi-visit arts appreciation lessons to elementary students in their classrooms and in local museum settings. Art Starters learn how to plan presentations that employ visual thinking strategies (VTS) and interact with art educators, artists, curators, and students from The Claremont Colleges.

ARTstART's roster now totals over 70



Claremont High School students and eight college-age Lincoln Scholar interns who enable the program to serve all fourth to sixth grade classes at various Claremont Unified School District elementary schools with student-planned and presented arts appreciation activities and field trips.

In addition, Art Starters "serve approximately 125 students a month with our AfterARTS Series of art-making workshops for students enrolled in CUSD Aftercare. Hundreds more children are served through community festivals and the free Family Day Sunday monthly ARTStation drop-in workshop at the Museum's Depot location."

Project ARTstART is produced by the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art in partnership with the Claremont Unified School District CUSD and provides programming for students from nine participating schools: Chaparral, Condit, Mountain View, Oakmont, Sumner, Sycamore, and Vista del Valle elementary schools, along with El Roble Intermediate and Claremont High School.

The program is funded by generous donations from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts; the Kiwanis Club of Claremont; Scripps Fine Arts Foundation; Claremont Rotary, and CLMA board members and dedicated community donors.

CLMA is located at 200 W. First Street in the Claremont Depot. The museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday between noon and 4 p.m. For more information, visit <https://clmoa.org>, contact (909) 621-3200, or email [info@clmoa.org](mailto:info@clmoa.org).

Admission will be free for the exhibit but attendees are encouraged to donate to Project ARTstART.



Oakmont Elementary students complete an art project related to the exhibition "John Frame: Mephistopheles and the Swan Girl" at the Claremont Museum of Art on March 10, 2022. Photo courtesy of Catherine McIntosh.

CLAREMONT LEWIS  
MUSEUM OF ART

## NEW GALLERIES GRAND OPENING!



OPENING RECEPTION  
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# Show of solidarity at Claremont Colleges

by Andrew Alonzo  
aalonzo@claremont-courier.com

On Thursday, May 5, students across the various Claremont Colleges campuses came together to make signs and march in solidarity for abortion rights after a court opinion, allegedly authored by conservative Justice Samuel Alito, was leaked on Monday, May 2.

Last Wednesday evening, students received an email from the Scripps Associated Students board that stated the nationwide college Reproductive Freedom Protest was planned for Thursday at 2 p.m.

“Students in colleges across the nation have coordinated to simultaneously fight to halt the overturning of Roe v. Wade,” the email said. “Show up in your green, and let’s do this.”

Word of the rally was also spread by Scripps College junior Trinity Walker, who is also the 5C’s event chair.

The following day approximately 400 students from the varying colleges came out to voice their support for women’s rights and concern over the justice’s opinion. The afternoon’s protest was organized by the 5C’s Reproductive Justice Club and was open to all members of the community.

Most, if not all, wore green in correlation with the “green wave,” a movement which originated from an Argentinian Abortion rights campaign called Marea Verde. Learn more at [amnesty.org/en/latest/impact/2019/08/the-green-wave](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/impact/2019/08/the-green-wave/).

After a half-hour stint of making signs on the



On Thursday, May 5, Maria Alejandra Guizler Bonilla led chants during a march for women’s reproductive rights on the Walker Beach lawn of Scripps College. COURIER photo/Andrew Alonzo

lawn outside of Walker Hall, the students began marching around the Claremont Colleges chanting various phrases that essentially stated “women’s rights are under attack.”

The students circled a two-mile loop around the five undergraduate colleges. Leading the march, alongside Walker and Pomona College sophomore Daysi Manrique, were Pomona College freshmen Ash Ahrenhoerster and Arden Deforest. The two held up a green banner which read “My Body, My Choice.”

Asked about leading the sea of students forward, Ahrenhoerster said it filled him with a “supportive feeling” knowing those behind were a blend of people he knew and did not know.

continued on page 22

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# Linda Marie Bailey-Theders

Registered nurse, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, guitarist, pickleball champion

Linda Marie Bailey-Theders, a recent Claremont resident, compassionate nurse, loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, budding guitarist, and champion at pickleball, died on April 21 unexpectedly from a heart attack. She was 68.

Linda was born in Pomona on March 10, 1954, to Rose Marie Orosco, a single mother who was already raising a son, Wayne, who was five years old. She lived her early years in Baldwin Park. When her mother married Fred Kenyon "Buck" Haywood in 1962, the family moved to Delay Avenue in Glendora. She attended Azusa schools, and graduated from Gladstone High School.

She met her first husband, Dee Stewart, while in high school. They were married from 1971 to 1975 and in 1971 had a son, Peyton Dee Stewart. During this time she began a career in the telecommunications industry, working for General Telephone in Covina. She had a second son, Joseph Wade, in 1977. She always loved music, and while taking fiddle lessons she met her second husband, Freeman House. They were married in 1979, and in 1980 welcomed a daughter, Sarah Rose. They divorced in 1985.

In 1981 she was assigned to General Telephone's Glendora office, where she



met her third husband, Ron Theders. Friends for more than four years, they began a courtship after both of their marriages ended in divorce, and were married on May 10, 1986. Their daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth, was born in 1988. The family moved from La Verne to Glendora in 1989.

By 1992 her career with General Telephone was ending because of reorganization. She went back to

school with the idea of starting a second career. While attending Citrus College, her mother Rose suffered a severe stroke. This traumatic event led her to decide to become a registered nurse. She graduated from Citrus College with associate of science degrees in natural science and biology. She was accepted into the Los Angeles School of Nursing in the fall of 1996, and graduated in 1998.

Her second career in preventive medicine began at the Keck USC School of Medicine. After five years she moved to USC's Clinical Research Support Office as a research nurse, working on radiological and laboratory studies. In 2008 she moved to the radiation oncology clinic at the USC/Norris Cancer Hospital, treating patients with breast, prostate, and head/neck cancers.

She retired from USC in 2012. It was a short-lived retirement though, as she began working for Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center in its radiation oncology clinic. She moved to Riverside Community Hospital in 2015 in the same capacity.

In 2018 she and husband Ron decided to move from Glendora after nearly 30

years. She was smitten by the ambiance and charm of Claremont, and the move was completed in April 2019. She finally retired completely in June of that year. While only living in Claremont for a short time, she embraced the community with open arms and a loving heart.

She loved watching movies at the Laemmle Claremont 5 theater, going to the farmer's market and dining at the many restaurants in the Village. The couple attended the Joslyn Jammer's sessions at the Joslyn Center. She began guitar lessons in October 2021 with local teacher David Hostetler. She continued as a member of a hiking and book club for over 15 years with a marvelous group of women in Glendora. In December 2021 she began pickleball lessons and during an end of class round robin tournament finished in third place, much to her surprise and delight.

She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Ron Theders; son Peyton Stewart of Glendora; son Joseph House of Claremont; daughter Sarah Rose House-Lightner of Los Angeles; daughter Caitlin Theders of Claremont; 11 grandchildren; one great grandson; and a brother, Wayne Bailey of Azusa.



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# Ellen Marie Dauchy

Grandmother, voracious reader, fashion industry veteran

**E**llen Marie Dauchy (née Maloney), age 73, of Ontario, died April 2 at San Antonio Regional Hospital in Upland.

Ellen grew up in Claremont, and graduated from St. Lucy's Priory High School in 1967, where she was student body president. She earned her bachelor's degree from UC Davis and MBA from UC Berkeley.

She worked throughout the fashion and textiles industry, including highlights such as interning at Seventeen magazine in New York City and working for The Emporium and Levi Strauss in San Francisco. The balance of her artistic eye and analytical brain made her invaluable in the office and, in later years, handling the books of the family business.

Her life transformed with the birth of her son, and her most worthwhile job was being his cheerleader. Even during life's toughest challenges, she was a listening ear and fierce advocate for her family.

**S**he loved reading, travel, fashion, knitting, bargain hunting, spending time with family and friends,



and taking care of her two felines Chelsea and One-Eyed Jack. Her favorite places in the world were watching the sunsets in Albuquerque, New Mexico and on the island of Moloka'i in Hawaii. She also never met a dessert she didn't like, although See's Candy was her favorite.

She was a wealth of knowledge to everyone who knew her, often retelling an interesting detail from one of the many books on her shelf. She loved to get lost in a story, endlessly enjoying novels, memoirs, or nonfiction books on how-to guides, history, science, and art, time and again falling asleep late at night with a book until a cat would snuggle on her shoulder to wake her.

**H**er pride and joy was in her role as a mother to her son, as well as nana to her two grandchildren. Spiritually, she practiced Sokka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism and believed in our inherent potential toward courage, wisdom, and compassion to overcome any problem or difficulty that we may face in life, and that when we change, the world changes. To that end, she overcame the insurmountable and her hope inspired all.

She was predeceased by her father, Robert Eugene Maloney, and mother, Mary Jean Maloney.

She is survived by her son Philip Dauchy and daughter-in-law Rachel Dauchy; grandchildren Maren and Colin; sister Maureen Maloney Gorski; brothers Brian Maloney (Cathy) and Kevin Maloney (Valerie); as well as nephews, nieces, cousins and countless friends.

**A** celebration of life will take place at Todd Memorial Chapel, 325 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont CA, 91711, at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21. The family requests that all flowers and notes be sent to Todd Memorial Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to a charity supporting cancer or arthritis research would be greatly appreciated.

## Celebration for Lis DesCombes

Please join the community of Lis DesCombes' friends, students and student families for a celebration of Lis' life on Saturday, May 28 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the

Woman's Club of Claremont, 343 W. 12th St. Drop in and visit, stay as long as you like, and, if you enjoy cooking, please bring food to share with others.

# Gary Michael Keith

Artist, antique dealer, writer, renaissance man

**A**rtist and antique dealer Gary Michael Keith, a longtime resident of both the Central Coast and Upland, died suddenly on December 20, 2021 from unknown causes shortly after a routine surgery.

Born to loving parents Hartwell and Mary Lee Keith in 1955, he spent his early childhood in San Diego, after which his family moved to Westminster, California. He attended La Quinta High School, where he received numerous awards and commendations for outstanding academic and athletic performance, and where he ranked fifth out of 368 students upon graduation. He held various leadership positions, including art editor for the annual, as well as being elected student body president by his peers.

He was deeply interested in art and design throughout his life; while most teenagers sought to blend in, Gary's independent spirit and love of fashion often sought expression in atypical school attire, for instance, wearing knickers or other unusual choices (it is not known what his football and track teammate friends thought of these choices).

He continued studying art after high school, earning a B.A. in studio arts from the University of California, Davis in 1979. While at Davis he spent

several summers fighting forest fires. He was then awarded a fellowship to the Claremont Graduate School (now Claremont Graduate University), where he earned his M.F.A. in painting in 1983.

He was an artist and quintessential renaissance man who took joy and quiet pride in his pursuits. His first and lifelong loves were drawing, animation, painting, collage, multimedia and sculpture; but his wide ranging and endless well of creative interests also led him to pursue learning how to craft shoes, jewelry, perfume, and clothing. He would collect rusted metal and oak galls to make finishes and dyes; he pounded wool to create felting. He wrote poetry and short stories, some of which were published. However, he was happiest and most at home creating art in his studio, or at an opening where his displayed work could communicate with an audience.

**H**e was a man of great sensitivity, a very private man who deeply felt both life's beauty and its pain. He loved his friends, family, and all critters big and small, and was at his loving best with small children and animals (especially dogs), who were drawn to his compassionate nature and

gentle presence. He drew strength from quiet times in nature, watching the lizards and birds and observing the changing light of day.

**E**arly in life he displayed a tendency to seek treasures that others might overlook. His fearless and focused curiosity kept him up nights hammering on rocks to expose a tortoise fossil, or exploring his mind to uncover ideas for his next artistic project. This hunting instinct, combined with his intellectual interests and love of design, led him into the antique world, where he became a dealer.

His business associates knew him as a man of great integrity. He considered fellow antiques dealers as friends and often valued the interactions he had with them as much or even more than the financial outcome of these business transactions. He was often a resource for colleagues, and his breadth and depth of knowledge, generosity in sharing information, irreverent humor and honesty made him deeply respected and well-liked by those who knew him. His loss has deeply affected his family and community; he will be greatly missed.

Shortly before passing, he wrote: "This morning was another connection: I was leaving my studio and the sky



was still dark, just lightening to blue. Walking out my door, raising my eyes only a little, I saw Venus. Viewing it was pure and reassuring. All my worldly duties didn't matter, Venus would continue to return to the sky and I can meet it as long as I shed my concerns. I rise to the sky."

He is survived by ex-wife and friend Maria Junco; brother Jeff Keith and wife Ginger; sister Kim Smith; nephew Brent Miller and wife Marina; nephew Derrick Foge, wife Julie and his beloved great nieces Amelia, Eliza and Caroline.

**I**n lieu of flowers, donations in Gary Keith's name may be made to the Foundation for Prader-Willi Research at <https://www.fpwr.org/donate>.

## My life is a world of boundaries

by Kathryn Mora

Each year of my life I continue to expand, and I'm not talking about my hips. Although they've expanded, too but only a little. My mind, body and spirit consciousness have expanded a lot more.

The more time I spend on Earth, the more I learn about the intricacies and complexities of life. I have daily growth spurts, but I'm still the same height. Actually, I'm shorter than I was a few years ago. I didn't know this would happen. Must be an age thing? Maybe if I hang on a stretching device a little each day I'll regain my lost inches? It's worth a try.

Speaking of stretching, years ago when I first heard about boundaries, I felt they'd limit my free spirit because I want a life with no limitations. Who wants to be restricted and not feel free to stretch? Certainly, not me!

During my few years of life, I've observed the world is made up of boundaries. I have to admit, they've been positive for me and have added to my life. A boundary is defined in the dictionary as "a line that marks the limits of an area; A divid-

ing line." Countries, states, counties and cities all have boundaries. A property line is a boundary between you and your neighbor's house or the person in the apartment next to you. Boundaries help keep peace and order between us and our neighbors.

Boundaries mark the limits of the area between countries such as the United States and Mexico. Years ago when traveling with my family, we sat in a long line of vehicles waiting to cross the border into Mexico, which is also their boundary. When we reached the front of the line, we had to provide our identification to enter Mexico and our car was inspected, too. If we want to cross the border into Mexico, we must respect their boundaries and abide by their rules. Often, walls and fences are built around a country's border. This ensures people follow the country's rules, just as people must do when they enter our country. We could choose to break the law and cross their boundaries illegally if we're willing to face the consequences, which I am not. If we had no boundaries in our lives, I think our world

would be more chaotic, unprotected, unsafe and with less order. The same is true for our personal boundaries.

Personal boundaries include physical, sexual, intellectual, emotional and financial. Children start to learn about their personal boundaries at an early age. They ideally are told, "You are the boss of your body." If someone does anything to make them feel uncomfortable, a child should feel free to express discomfort, walk away and speak to a trusted adult. This time in a child's life has the potential to impact him or her for the rest of their life. Creating strong personal boundaries is key to being a healthy person and having relationships with others.

Adults with healthy personal boundaries can say "no" to something they do not want in their life, whether it be a touch or to be treated in a way that makes them uncomfortable. When we haven't learned to say "no" to something we do not want, we leave ourselves open to physical and emotional abuse. It can cause us to distance from people and be guarded and closed, surround ourselves with rigid boundaries.

It would be difficult for me to build rigid boundaries because I love warm close relationships. However, in the last few years, I became aware my emotional

and physical personal boundaries needed strengthening. Until these experiences, I wasn't aware my personal limits and boundaries were weak. I continue to learn to take better care of myself by setting stronger boundaries and not allowing people to treat me in a way that makes me uncomfortable. The stronger my personal boundaries are, the more positive energy that flows through me and the more empowered and peaceful I feel as I dance on my path.

As you may know, I've never been old before and don't even know when it starts. I haven't yet received a text or email notifying me I'm old. That makes me happy because now I have more time to live and complete my bliss list. At the top of my list, connect with the right literary agent for my books, create a stand-up comedy routine based on Never Been Old, finish my screenplay, "Prudence" and attend the premiere.

If I ever receive a notification that I'm old, I could delete it, and maybe then I'll never grow old? What a magnificent thought! I'll have even more time to expand my mind, body and spirit consciousness, strengthen my personal boundaries, and respect and support yours as I follow my bliss.

## Show of solidarity at Claremont Colleges

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"The strongest emotions I felt was when we were on turns and I could look back and see everyone behind [us]. It really felt like a physical form of the support for the cause for me as an individual who is going to be affected by this change," Ahrenhoerster said.

Scripps College junior Maria Alejandra Guizler Bonilla, who has been an advocate for women's and transgender rights ever since she was young, said although the day was important for history, the long fight will continue.

"It feels like these last couple of years, especially every single day, has been really important in history," Guizler Bonilla said. "Today's just a really

tough day and a really sad day, it's been 49 years since Roe versus Wade happened and I think about all the people who fought so hard, and lost their lives to ensure body autonomy and abortion rights ... and it's so disheartening to [potentially] see that decision overturned."

"At the same time, it's also really encouraging to see so many people stand up and say, 'No, abortion is a human right and you can't take that away,'" she added.

Earlier in the day, abortion rights activists rallied outside the U.S. federal courthouse in Los Angeles.

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### Applicants Sought for City of Claremont Commissions



Residents interested in taking a more active role in the City's decision-making process are encouraged to apply for appointment to a City commission. Applications are currently being accepted to fill potential end-of-term and unexpected vacancies on various City of Claremont commissions. Interested persons are encouraged to file an application with the City Clerk.

Claremont has five commissions (Architectural, Community and Human Services, Planning, Police, Traffic and Transportation) whose purpose is to advise and assist the City Council in addressing issues related to the commission's area of concern. They do this by gathering pertinent information, hearing arguments, weighing values, and making recommendations to the Council. The specific powers and duties of each commission are attached to the application.

Each commission is comprised of citizens appointed by the City Council. Qualifications for commission service include: Claremont residency (with certain exceptions), a strong interest in the community and the work of the commission, and the ability to give generously of one's time while serving.

A personal interview with a two-member City Council sub-committee will be scheduled for all applicants. It is the Council's goal to appoint individuals who reflect the diversity of the community.

Applications and additional information are available in the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 207 Harvard Avenue, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on the City's website - [www.ci.claremont.ca.us](http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us). Please contact the City Clerk's office for assistance - (909) 399-5461 or (909) 399-5463. Please submit your applications on or before June 6, 2022.



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## Federal stimulus funds

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“Public Safety agencies for 88 cities and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County currently use a patchwork of 40 aging radio networks. This means that agencies cannot readily communicate with each other, creating communications delays that waste time and imperil lives during emergency situations,” according to the staff report.

The second largest expenditure of \$723,000 will go toward city technology upgrades, including a \$100,000 update to the city’s website, which has not been revamped in years. The new design will be easier to use and will include accessibility features for people with disabilities.

The city will conduct an analysis of its existing software systems, many of which cannot communicate with each other, and staff proposes spending \$400,000 in the next budget year on a comprehensive software upgrade. It will spend an additional \$223,000 on new servers and back up systems.

Safe streets will get a boost from \$500,000 spent on traffic calming measures including \$250,000 on select street and intersections to improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle safety. The remaining \$250,000 will be spent on a regulatory traffic sign inventory to identify any in need of replacement due to age, fading, loss of reflective surface or those that no longer meet the Federal Highway Administration’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices standards.

The city proposes spending \$413,000 on one-time stipend payments for both full-time and part-time employees who worked at least 1,000 hours during the pandemic. Full-time public safety employees would receive \$4,000, while other full timers would get \$3,000. Part-time employees would receive \$1,000 if they worked 500 hours.

Claremont will restore funding to community-based organizations and homeless services that had

been cut due to “budgetary uncertainty.”

“These programs were previously funded in the amounts of \$86,650 for CBO funding and \$60,000 for homeless service funding. Staff proposes to restore this funding in the total amount of \$146,650 in each of the next two budget years,” according to the staff report.

The Claremont Chamber of Commerce, which was cut from the budget in 2020, will once again receive city funding of \$60,000, which restores not only the amount cut two years ago but brings it back to a funding level not seen since the Great Recession of 2009.

Claremont will help to stimulate its stock of available housing units by creating an accessory dwelling unit grant program, offering \$20,000 to residents to offset the cost of building an ADU. The program will be funded at \$200,000 per year over the next two years. The city will spend \$50,000 more on developing five standard ADU designs that property owners could use at no cost, thereby avoiding the expense of architectural services.

Last month the council committed to spend \$175,000 annually over the next two years to support a budget shortfall in the city’s Psychiatric Assessment Care Team. PACT responds to non-violent, non-criminal calls for mental health assistance received by the Claremont Police Department.

There will be two expenditures focused directly on our business community — a \$400,000 grant program that could be used for expenses such as paying rent or utilities, and a blanket tax relief of the \$135 license fee for all of Claremont’s businesses.

Finally, the city has proposed a commuter bicycle rebate program, which aims to free up some parking in the Village by encouraging employees to ride elec-

tric or push bikes to work. Getting workers out of cars would also have a positive effect on the city’s overall emission levels.

Councilmember Jennifer Stark initiated the debate by asking Pirrie whether the employee stipends could be extended to retirees who put in the requisite number of hours. He responded that such a move could be made for an additional \$50,000.

Stark then inquired about the bike rebate program, asking if the city had any knowledge about how many people actually lived in Claremont and worked in the Village. Her chief concern was that the grant money could ultimately go to people who honestly don’t need it because they can easily afford to purchase bikes. She also questioned how many parking spots the program would really free up.

Mayor Jed Leano responded that the program would not solve any problems by itself, but could have incremental effect on both parking and lowering emissions.

Councilmember Corey Calaycay took exception to paying the employee stipends, reasoning that city employees, for the most, still had jobs when so many others in the community were unemployed during the pandemic. He questioned whether there were greater needs in Claremont for those resources.

Councilmember Sal Medina responded that from a business standpoint, you take care of the employees who took care of you during hard times.

The council elected to separate the employee stipend from the rest of the package and passed it 4-1 with the retiree payments added. Calaycay cast the lone “no” vote.

The council passed the remainder of the ARPA funding 5-0, but instructed staff to reevaluate the bicycle rebate program to add income qualifications and other tweaks.

## Barger responds to local concerns

continued from page 3

and the current campaign to acquire the Clara Oaks development site. Barger said she would help the city secure funding to buy that land, which is a connection between Claremont and La Verne, which Barger also represents.

“You only get one bite at the apple. If there is open space available we should work hard to purchase it,” she said. “I take hikes to ground myself and clear my head. And living in such a densely populated area, it’s important for us to have open space.”

While many communities have sought to preserve the open space along the foothills, that has also become a source of available land to satisfy the state’s housing needs. However, this may also increase a city’s wildfire exposure. In addition, under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, every city in California has to make a plan for more development, which may result in more destructive fires.

“So, I hear you loud and clear on wildfire [and] development. I think it is going to apply pressure to many cities especially in the foothills as to meeting the RHNA numbers,” Barger said.

Mayor Jed Leano asked the supervisor about the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness and its recommendations, that included restructuring of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, that was passed by the supervisors by a 3-2 vote.

“For those who have a lot of interest in homelessness, this is a really important piece and a big potential change in the way we are delivering homeless services,” Leano said.

The commission was formed in response to community frustration over the allocation of Measure H funds, which are intended to combat homelessness countywide.

“We are really going to change the way we address

homelessness countywide,” Barger said. “It’s going to make LAHSA what it was created to be and that is a focus on continuum of care.”

Currently, there is no one entity that is held accountable, so the plan is to create a department that would answer directly to the board and be responsible for allocating Measure H funds. Barger said she anticipates the new entity would be up and running in 60 to 90 days.

“We are putting together a recommendation of what that entity is going to look like, it’s going to be transparent and data driven,” she said.

The council only spent four minutes on the subject of library funding, but were in general agreement that expanding the hours of operation remains a shared goal.

The transportation discussion quickly focused on the light rail system, formerly called the Gold Line, and its prospect of reaching Claremont, but then veered off to issues affecting the area around the intersection of Indian Hill and the 10 Freeway.

Barger expressed optimism that the Gold Line

would get funded through to Montclair as originally envisioned, and noted how under the leadership of CEO Habib Balian, the Foothill Extension has been delivered on time and on budget.

She mentioned that when built out, the Metro light rail system would be an efficient means of transportation that could take a rider from Claremont to Santa Monica with few transfers.

Indian Hill at the 10 Freeway tends to get very congested, particularly with the widening work under way to add express lanes. Residents in the south part of town want a soundwall on the south side of the 10, but Caltrans does not build them next to commercial areas and there is a narrow self storage facility adjacent to the freeway.

Barger represents the county’s largest district by square miles, which includes 20 cities, and 83 unincorporated communities in the Antelope, San Gabriel, San Fernando, Crescenta, and Santa Clarita valleys. She was first elected to the board in 2016, reelected in 2020 and has served as its chair. The City of Claremont shifted from Hilda Solis’ First District to Barger’s Fifth District during the realignment process in December 2021.

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