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EATON FIRE RECOVERY

Duo teams up to move 100 homes

Realtor and nonprofit founder are helping to bring distinct housing back to Altadena

By Anissa Rivera
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Don't mess with Erica Warnock and Teresa Fuller. Both Altadenans have enough on their plates post-Eaton fire. But they're taking more on anyway. Bound by a need to be useful to others, the duo are doing two

things at once: helping longtime residents afford a rebuild and rescuing period homes from demolition.

Warnock, founder of the new nonprofit Altadena Brick by Brick, and Fuller, longtime Altadena and Pasadena Realtor, are teaming up to move 100 character homes from around

Los Angeles and settle them in Altadena, bringing authentic character to burned-out neighborhoods after the Eaton fire of January 2025.

Altadena Brick by Brick gives direct grants to a specific Altadena population: longtime (30 years or more) Altadenans who are uninsured or underinsured and living west of Lake Avenue. These are the people most at

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Erica Warnock, left, and Realtor Teresa Fuller stand on the porch of a Studio City home they will be moving to Altadena for an Eaton fire survivor on July 29. **DAVID CRANE** STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ADDICTION TREATMENT



People congregate outside a methadone clinic in Santa Ana in 2024. The methadone clinic system has changed little since the 1970s; during the past decades, opioids have grown terrifyingly stronger, addiction has become epidemic and overdose deaths have skyrocketed across the country. **PHOTOS BY MINDY SCHAUER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Public payments, private profits: A half-century of methadone in America



Teri Sforza
COLUMNIST

They must be observed taking their daily medicine, at least in the beginning.

The clinician often wears a white lab coat and works behind protective glass. She'll pour a dose into a small plastic cup — it's often reddish and clear, like cold medicine — then pass it through a low opening. The patient, who may be fidgety or testy or dangerously late for work, may throw it back with a resentful snap, as if it were a shot of cheap whiskey. It is appallingly bitter, often masked with an even more vile fruit flavoring.

The clinician watches all of this to be sure the stuff is



People arrive in the early morning to receive methadone treatment at a clinic in Stanton on July 29. America's methadone clinics are strictly regulated and federally sanctioned. Many are supported by for-profit entities.

actually swallowed. Methadone must not be "diverted" (that's government-speak for "stolen") and resold as a recreational drug on the black market.

This almost morbid fear of diversion — far more than any desire to help patients — has been a big part of

America's methadone clinic system, critics say. For more than half a century, that fear also has handed clinics an exclusive, nearly unbreakable iron grip on what remains a gold standard treatment for opioid addiction.

Methadone clinics are

METHADONE IN AMERICA

This is the first installment of a four-part series.

Part 1: Can one medicine be a Nixon-era relic, an effective sobriety aid and a controversial profit center? Say hello, again, to methadone.

Part 2: "Liberate Methadone!" A drug inspires patients to write a manifesto.

Part 3: Reform? Clinic operators hire Danny Trejo to push "Program, Not a Pill."

Part 4: Did methadone rules kill Sherry Lynn James? New ideas are back on the table, and legislators say they're meeting the industry halfway.

strictly regulated, federally sanctioned and primarily owned by for-profit corporate chains. Many are backed by private equity or publicly traded healthcare compa-

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L.A. COUNTY

Electing CEO is a big shift in power

Measure G reform will dilute board's role in '28, leaving top position up to voters' choice

By Steve Scauzillo
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Without a doubt, the most controversial element within Measure G, which ushers in massive changes to how Los Angeles County government works, is the election of a county chief executive.

Currently, the CEO, who figures the budget of close to \$50 billion and oversees all county department heads in the largest county in the nation, is appointed by the five elected Board of Supervisors. In contrast, an elected county executive officer will be voted in by 5.8 million county registered voters beginning in the fall of 2028.

He or she will have control over the budget, be able to hire and fire department heads, possibly

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2026 ELECTION

Republican Hilton courts non-Trump voters for governor

Becerra campaign says Democrat's support reflects state's population

By Linh Tat
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"Can you be anti-Trump but still vote for me?" That's the question California gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton has been posing to voters. And if you ask him, the answer is a resounding "yes." "You don't have to like (President Donald) Trump. You don't have to become a Republican. You just have to ask yourself: does it make sense to vote the same way and expect a different result?" Hilton goes on to say in a full-page ad that recently

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Kathryn BARGER
5th District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles

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