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# Pasadena Star-News

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**EATON FIRE RECOVERY**

# Cultural hub makes a comeback

## Rhythms of the Village is a gathering place for celebrating African heritage

**By Victoria Ivie**
CORRESPONDENT

Surrounded by colorful patterns and Nigerian art, conversation and laughter filled the backyard store of the newly rebuilt Rhythms of the Village grand reopening on Saturday.

Rhythms of the Village, a family-owned Altadena cultural center and clothing merchandise shop, has long been a hub for Altadena's African heritage, historical education and events.

Over the years, the hub has taught Nigerian languages, facilitated dance classes, and supported local artists with events teaching and featuring embroidery and silk-screen printing.

Like many others in the area, the culture center's building was lost in the wake of the Eaton fire's devastation in January 2025.

"What I hear from the community is that we are one of the hearts of Altadena, so our reopening gives people hope," said co-founder Emeka

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Marilyn Chukwurah, left, is hugged by Olden Bubba during the Rhythms of the Village reopening ribbon-cutting ceremony at 482 W. Washington Blvd. in Pasadena on Saturday. **PHOTO BY CONNOR TERRY**

**THANKSGIVING**

# Residents feel pinch of higher food prices




Tommie Shepherd, a 72-year-old retired maintenance worker with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in Los Angeles, has just wrapped up shopping at a Food 4 Less along Lake Avenue in Pasadena, but didn't buy turkey to load into her car this year. "I don't celebrate the holidays. It's just me and my sister," she says. **PAT MAIO — STAFF**

## Lines at food banks growing; shoppers adjusting what, how much they buy

**By Pat Maio**
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Southern Californians are choosing their groceries carefully as the holiday season kicks off with a surge in food buying.

Shoppers across the region — whether at Aldi in Tustin or an Asian market in Chino, a Food 4 Less in Pasadena or the newly opened Vallarta Supermarkets in Rancho Cucamonga — say they're feeling the sting of higher food prices caused by tariffs, inflation and gas prices caused by the U.S.-led war in Iran that began nearly nine months ago.

For those already struggling with poverty, rising inflation has only added to their food insecurity. Food banks across the region are seeing

See **FOOD** on Page A8




Bruce Nance, a volunteer for New Life Church Food Bank, helps Rosaria Tapia with a box of food for the holidays in Pomona on Thursday. **KAREN TAPIA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

**CITY OF INDUSTRY**

# Attorney in $20M scandal takes plea

## Mayor describes Anthony Stewart Bouza's ethical breach and crimes against the city as 'reprehensible'

**By Jason Henry**
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The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has dropped nine felony charges against an attorney accused of involvement in a $20 million embezzlement scheme in the City of Industry in exchange for a guilty plea to a single misdemeanor.

The attorney, Anthony Stewart Bouza, pleaded guilty to a conflict-of-interest charge and agreed to pay $750,000 in restitution to the City of Industry during a hearing Thursday, according to court records.

Industry hired Bouza in 2016 to represent its interests in a proposal to build a 450-megawatt solar farm at Tres Hermanos Ranch, a 2,500-acre swath of cattle-grazed hills and pastures within Diamond Bar and Chino Hills.

The Southern California News Group exposed

See **ATTORNEY** on Page A9

**2026 ELECTIONS**

# Pasadena's Measure PFD appears short of electoral hurdle

## Fire chief is 'not ready to concede' while awaiting next batch of votes

**By David Wilson**
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A rigorous campaign led by Pasadena elected officials and fire department leadership appears to have not been enough to lift Measure PFD, a parcel tax that would fund fire department improvements, above the 66.6% threshold needed for voter approval.

As of the latest update from the Los Angeles County Registrar's Office, yes on Measure PFD

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