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 VOL. 13, NO. 36

Council Debates for VPP

By Julie BUTCHER

On Tuesday night, the Glendale City Council reviewed potential plans for a “virtual power plant” (VPP) – the installation of solar panels and battery storage to connect 2,200 single-family homes and 70 multi-family properties; however, ultimately council sent the city’s negotiators back to the bargaining table, dissatisfied with the terms worked out to date.

The city has been negotiating for the past two years with Sunrun, Inc., the nation’s largest residential solar company, for a 25-year contract to add 25.25 MW to the city’s energy supply. Customers who opt to participate would receive battery backup during outages and would be eligible for credits on their utility bills of \$15 - \$35 per month, depending on the size of their battery.

Chie Valdez, an integrated resource planning administrator at Glendale Water and Power, detailed the benefits of the program, which she noted would be the largest project of its kind in the country: it delivers 100% renewable energy, is local and flexible; the VPP would enable the city to reduce its reliance on repowering the Grayson Power Plant, thus reducing CO2 and also improving the city’s renewable energy portfolio by 3%.

Through a series of power purchase agreements and master interconnection agreements, Sunrun would be responsible for all aspects of the installation, permitting, maintenance and coordination of the residential solar panels rolling out over the next four years. At an estimated annual cost of \$5.12 million, this solar energy would cost \$130 per MWh. Battery capacity would run \$137.50 per kW-year, adding another \$3.47 million to the bill. The city’s contribution would be capped at \$12.7 million with Sunrun funding costs above that cap, and the company would indemnify the city from liability, staff reported.

Highlighting the potential downsides of the project, Valdez noted that the relatively expensive resource would necessitate a rate increase of 7.7%. The proposed deal allows for only six months for the termination

see GCC on page 15

Fire Departments Are Recruiting

By Mary O’KEEFE

“The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.”

~ Thucydides

Fire departments are looking for people who are interested in a career in fire fighting.

“We will be hiring sometime this summer,” said Alexis Kendrick, firefighter-paramedic with Los Angeles County Fire Dept.

Kendricks said they are looking for firefighters with a variety of backgrounds.

“Some may have no fire experience,” she said of applicants. If someone is interested in fire fighting, she added, this would be an excellent time to think about joining a fire academy and to find out what is required to become a firefighter.

“Going through a fire academy is not required but it does help get you get experience,” she said.

Candidates will have to take and pass a candidate physical ability test (CPAT), which tests the candidates’ physical agility.

“It is like an obstacle course that simulates what we do,” she said.

CPAT participants must navigate eight separate events on a closed course within the span of 10 minutes and 20 seconds. Those

events include stair climb, hose drag, equipment carry, ladder raise and extension, forcible entry, search, rescue drag and ceiling breach and pull, according to the Firefighting Candidate Testing Center.

Kendricks said not only one type of person should apply for a career in firefighting; applicants are being sought who want to help the public, who are willing to help others.

“This is a paramilitary organization and we have a lot of [recruits] from the military,” she added.

Not only are veterans welcome to apply; departments are looking for every type of person. Those who were athletes in high school and college will find the



Photo by Brandy YI

For those who dreamed of growing up to be a firefighter now is the time to apply.

have to be a paramedic; however, if they are interested in becoming a firefighter they can work a

as a firefighter.

Glendale Fire just had a hiring see RECRUITMENT on page 6

GEC Holds Rally Against Repowering Grayson

By Julie BUTCHER

“Go green or go home!” State Senator Anthony Portantino addressed the crowd at a rally organized on Saturday by the Glendale Environmental Coalition at Glendale city hall. “People power is what got us here. So, thank all of you for what you do.”

Approximately 100 people, including many young people and kids, showed up on a very sunny afternoon, calling on the city council to reject Glendale Water and Power’s (GWP) plans to include gas power as it rebuilds the Grayson Power Plant.

“Thirty years ago, you could never see the mountains. Because of people like you, now we can,” Portantino urged. “We want an energy policy for the next 100 years that serves our grandchildren, not just us.” The crowd cheered in response.

see GEC on page 14



Photos by Julie BUTCHER

Attendees of the rally on Saturday choose signs to use in protest of the repowering of Grayson.

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PAGE 11 » ALF BARGAIN BOX RE-OPENS



» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



Big Week Planned

I want to first give a shout-out to the many, many readers who were kind enough to take the time to write and call to offer encouragement and forgiveness for the downed printing presses of the Jan. 27 issue.

"You don't have to apologize for anything," said one caller. "You do a lot for the community and I just wish other businesses were as conscientious as you and your staff."

Wow – what a kind sentiment and one (I'm happy to report) that was repeated often. Many thanks to everyone.

This week will be marked by several "big events." On Saturday, the Montrose Shopping Park hosts "Charlie Chaplin" who will be handing out long-stemmed roses for free, courtesy of the Montrose Shopping Park merchants, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (while they last). As an added bonus, shoppers who bring to the flower cart sales receipts totaling \$50 or more from Montrose Shopping Park stores that day will receive \$10 in "Montrose money" to spend any time! Receiving roses for Valentine's Day in the shopping park is a tradition that never gets stale and the shops have a bevy of great Valentine gifts. With the many restaurants in the shopping park serving yummy food, it is a great way to spend a Saturday.

Then on Sunday is the "big game" that is full of firsts: this Super Bowl will be played at SoFi Stadium, the first time a Super Bowl will be played in this venue. Also, the game will be between two teams that haven't been to a Super Bowl game in decades. And one item I found particularly interesting is that

the Bengals, not the Rams, are considered the official "home team" for Super Bowl LVI. This is because of the NFL alternating the designation between conferences each year. This means they'll use the Rams' typical home-stadium locker room during the game. (I know pretty much nothing about football, so I thank CBS Sports for this information.)

And on Tuesday, we peel off our masks – well, not those of us who live in LA County. Gov. Newsom declared that on Tuesday the state is easing its mask mandate for vaccinated people in many indoor public settings. But in LA County transmission rates are still high enough that the CDC recommends that masks continue to be worn in indoor public settings and large-scale outdoor "mega" events – like the Super Bowl. I have to say I'm curious as to how policing that event is going to go.

As transmission and hospital rates continue to decline, we in LA County can hope to remove our masks in the near future. And while I'm one who anxiously awaits permission to remove my mask, I acknowledge there are some who will continue to wear them – and that's fine; if wearing a mask means they feel more comfortable, go for it.

Oh, one more thing: a baby girl should be arriving in the Goldsworthy family this week, too.

Yes, it's going to be a big week.

Robin Goldsworthy is the publisher of the Crescenta Valley Weekly. She can be reached at robin@cvweekly.com or by calling (818) 248-2740.

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Weather in the Foothills

Weather forecast for tonight: dark. Continued dark overnight, with widely scattered light by morning.

~ George Carlin

If all weather forecasting was so simple. Such information – from TV, radio or online – is kept basic. Going much beyond this point would leave most of us lay persons in the dust. One meteorological term often used is also the least understood: barometric pressure. Is it high or low? For that matter, what in the heck is it?

Look up at the sky and try to imagine the weight of the atmosphere: the huge amount of gas surrounding our planet and pulled to its surface by gravity. All that gas might look like a vast, empty cloud of nothing, but it still has weight. It might feel like nothing to you and me, but it is considerably heavy – about 14.7 pounds pressing on every inch of our body. We don't notice it because we are used to it.

Some areas have more pressure than their surroundings and some areas have less. Those that have less pressure are called low-pressure systems. Low-pressure systems "suck" air into them. A difference in pressure areas generally creates winds and undesirable weather. High pressure systems, on the other hand, have more air pressure than their surroundings. That means they are constantly pushing air away from them into the areas that have lower pressure. They are often associated with clear blue skies.

Mother Nature likes everything to be fair and equal; this pertains to air pressure as well. Weather is created in her attempt to do so.

The difference between high pressure and low pressure is experienced in the air surrounding; i.e., the weather. In low pressure, there is a rise in the air and it cools down. The moisture condenses, which causes clouds. Whereas in high pressure the air starts to sink and it warms up. High equals good weather. Low equals bad weather. Now, that's a matter of opinion!

Some of nature's signs cannot be understood simply by observing them but require tools to measure. Evangelista Torricelli invented such a tool: the barometer. He made the first barometer in Florence, Italy in 1644. With the atmospheric pressure can be measured, which can provide information pertaining to current weather and weather that is just around the corner.

Summertime winter heat for now. Come Monday a significant cooling trend settles in as a fairly cold low drops through Nevada and the Colorado River Valley. High temperatures are predicted to drop by at least 10-15 degrees for the valleys. A marine-based light rain is possible on Tuesday. Be on the safe side; keep both a bathing suit and umbrella close at hand!

Sue Kilpatrick is a Crescenta Valley resident and Official Skywarn Spotter for the National Weather Service Reach her at suelkilpatrick@gmail.com.

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

Jazz Night Under The Stars

On Friday, Feb. 11 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. the award-winning CVHS jazz band presents Jazz Night Under the Stars. This is a night of music and dancing in the quad at Crescenta Valley High School. Tickets are available now! Tickets are \$15 and include admission, a wristband for the dessert table and a free dance lesson. There are a limited number of tickets available. This event supports all music and entertaining groups in CV's Instrumental Music Program. Dressy casual; period attire encouraged!

For questions or to purchase a ticket, email 3rdvp@falconmusic.org. Tickets are also available through any CV music or color guard student.

Comment Deadline Approaches

The deadline to submit written comments on the draft plastics ordinance, a motion that was adopted by the LA County board of supervisors in 2019, is Friday, Feb. 11. Send to sustainability@csolacounty.gov.

To view the complete draft of the ordinance, visit www.cvweekly.com/NEWS.

Veterans Host Monthly Breakfast

Local veterans host a monthly breakfast at the Verdugo Hills Memorial Hall on the second Saturday of the month. The breakfast is free to all local veterans and supporters, but donations are always graciously accepted. This month's breakfast is on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The Hall is located at 4011 La Crescenta Ave.

Off-ramp Cleanup

The monthly cleanup of the La Crescenta Avenue 210 Freeway off-ramp is Saturday, Feb. 12. Volunteers meet at the 2700 block of Altura Avenue at 8:10 a.m. for instructions, safety vests and tools.

Riverwalk Workday at Glendale Narrows Riverwalk

The public is invited to the Los Angeles River on the City of Glendale's Riverwalk on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 8 a.m. to noon as volunteers work to remove invasive plants from the landscaped areas. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing and bring sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat. Tools and gloves will be provided. Families, individuals, clubs, and students needing community service hours are welcome.

In case of rain, this event will be canceled.

Glendale Narrows Riverwalk is located at 300 Paula Ave. in Glendale.

Prune the Vineyard at Deukmejian Park

Calling all volunteers! Learn how to prune for vine health and crop enhancement, and learn about grape varieties and the impact of watering and soil qualities. Bring solid shoes, hat, pruning utensils, a bucket ... and enthusiasm.

The pruning party is Sunday, Feb. 13 at 9 a.m.; volunteers will be done before Super Bowl plans!

Deukmejian Wilderness Park is located at 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale.

Arbor Day 2022

The community is invited to support Arbor Day 2022 by contributing to the purchase of a tree to combat the last few years of intense drought and tree loss. A 24-inch box size tree ("specimen tree") is available for \$150; another option is supporting trees through the city with a suggested donation of \$75.

Donation forms are due by Feb. 22. To donate by credit card, visit www.glendalebeautiful.org/arbor-day or fill out the mail-in form and return it with a check to P.O. Box 1307, Glendale, CA 91209.

Arbor Day observances take place on Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m. at Casa Adobe de San Rafael Park, 1330 Dorothy Drive in Glendale 91202. In case of rain, the observance will be held in the Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 N. Verdugo Road, lower level.

Keeping It Local As Can Bee

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

~ Jackie Robinson

By Mary O'KEEFE

In the beginning of the pandemic many people walked the sidewalks of what was once full of bustling local businesses. Shoppers looked for that special item only found at a "mom and pop" store, or went to a favorite salon to get their nails and hair done before stopping by a local coffee shop for a caffeine pick-me-up. Shopping locally meant more than just supporting a small business; it is like visiting old friends, shop owners who know their customers and their families. But much that was lost when doors closed after COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

There were those who walked the sidewalks and were saddened by the closures of so many businesses, wondering how or if they would be able to recover. One woman, though, decided she didn't want to stand by and watch these businesses close; she wanted to do something to help.

Carmenita Helligar has lived near Magnolia Avenue in Burbank for about 20 years. It's where she has raised her children; it's home.

"Magnolia has these cute shops," she said. "Then the pandemic hit. I walked [along Magnolia Avenue] all the time and I started seeing the businesses closing."

She said it was during these walks that she decided something had to be done. She found out that the businesses were struggling and many were falling behind on rent so even when they got help they had a lot of financial ground to make up.

"While on these walks with my husband I said someone had to do something," she said. "He said, 'Well, you're the visionary.'"

Helligar began contacting local businesses to see what she could do to help. She is a small business owner herself – Carmenita Helligar Designs – and she knew that sometimes it was difficult to ask for help – especially when you didn't know what you needed. Going virtual seemed like a foreign approach to some of the local business owners, and they didn't have the extra funds to develop a website. She wanted to set up a type of one stop shopping website where local businesses could gather and highlight items they could sell online. By advising some of the business owners on things that they could sell online, she became a type of consultant to them.

"We would help them develop a product from start to finish," she said.

While big online businesses, like Amazon, saw a huge jump in sales during the pandemic small businesses were being left behind. That concerned Helligar.

"Small businesses support the community," Helligar explained. "In Burbank, we have Warner Bros. and Disney [studios], but they are not putting [funds] into schools."

She added when her daughters needed to find support for their school they'd go to the local community coffee shop to put up flyers or ask for support.

According to a survey compiled by SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteers, small businesses donate 250% more than larger businesses to local nonprofits and community organizations/causes.

Helligar is on the Burbank Board of Library Trustees and began to speak publicly about how small businesses are in need of help. She did not initially find a lot of support; however, being overlooked or ignored is, unfortunately, nothing new to her. When she began her own small business she got some pushback.

"People said it would be hard but a lot of things are hard: marriage is hard but so is divorce," she said, adding it comes down to the choices people make. "It is hard for me as a black woman to get support but it's harder for me to have my community decimated."

She said she attended many Burbank City Council meetings to talk about her Local As Can Bee concept. One councilmember gave the idea strong support.

"Councilmember Nick Schultz," she said.

Schultz said he had been raised by a single parent and believed in the power of small business.

"I think Local As Can Bee is a wonderful concept. When she first told me about this [I thought] this is the kind of out-of-the-box thinking we need to support our small businesses," Councilmember Schultz said. "[Burbank City Council] is very committed to supporting small business but, unfortunately, our focus can be drawn to



Photo provided by Carmenita HELLIGAR
Carmenita Helligar, owner of Carmenita Helligar Designs, has turned her attention to helping local businesses by creating Local As Can Bee.

larger businesses."

He added the City of Burbank values the large companies in their neighborhood but also knows how important it is to support local mom-and-pop entrepreneurship.

"I was happy to help any way I could," he added.

To continue this support of small businesses, the Local As Can Bee website asks site visitors to pledge to spend \$50 a month with local businesses. This is only a request/suggestion, but is a way for people to put shopping locally at the forefront of their minds when buying.

Helligar has raised her children to be entrepreneurs; her daughter started her own company.

"My youngest started her business when she was 11," she said.

Helligar had to persuade her own daughter to join Local As Can Bee, which she did with her AfterLite bodycare.

Helligar also had a difficult time with her design business during the pandemic, which normally worked on red carpet affairs, and the COVID-19 restrictions affected every part of her business.

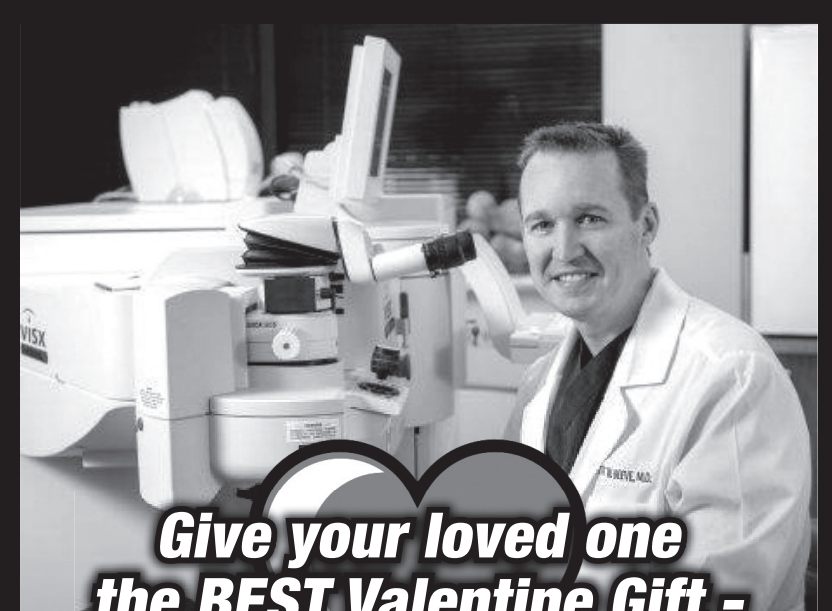
Local As Can Bee is off the ground now and Helligar is working to add more small businesses to the website – including her own.

"So now I had to take my own advice," she said. She will be adding her own new small business venture to Local As Can Bee.

Helligar added that, being a woman in business, she has found that other women are not as quick to accept needed help. Often this is because of the misconception that women who don't succeed on their own is equated to failing. She hopes that she can unite all locally owned businesses, but especially women-owned businesses. She wants them to know they are not alone.

For information visit localascanbee.com.

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NOTES & NODS

LCIF News

Lutheran Church in the Foothills thanks the local community for continuing to contribute to its clothing drive. Last week, donated items were delivered to Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission to help people in need. The church is continuing to accept donations of gently worn clothing. The church is also responding to the urgent need for blood donations. A blood drive at LCIF is scheduled for Thursday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All in-person activities at Lutheran Church in the Foothills are temporarily paused to keep everyone safe; however, the 10 a.m. service with Pastor Chuck Bunnell continues to be live-streamed on the church's YouTube channel. Services are also posted to LCIF's website where they can be viewed anytime.

The church's quilting group is on a temporary hiatus, too; however, Bible study continues with online lectures from Pastor Bunnell.

The knitting group continues to meet via Zoom. All are welcome to join!

Visit lcifoothills.org for event details, including small group gatherings and opportunities to serve. For more information or to request/offer help, email office@lcifoothills.org, or call (818) 790-1951. The church is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

La Cañada Presbyterian Offers Class for Parents on Youth Issues

La Cañada Presbyterian Church (LCPC) announced a four-week Parent Express class. "Essential Topics for Today's Parents" meets in-person on Wednesday nights in February from 7-8:30 p.m. It began on Feb. 2. This class will tackle some of the most relevant issues facing youth today and is open to all adults (not just parents) who are interested in learning more about these issues. Topics will include:

- Fentanyl and Addiction (understanding the prevalence, precautions, and resources) with Vicki Rekedal
- Mental Health (understanding the signs, symptoms, and resources) with a panel of mental health professionals
- Racial Reconciliation (understanding the Biblical foundation to promote unity through a non-political lens) with Sandy Lee Schaupp
- Technology (understanding the concerns, precautions, and steps to managing technology well) with Sloan Walsh

Facilitated by Paula Giboney, the class

will meet in LCPC's Worship Arts Center. Free programs are available for fourth - 12th graders from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. as part of LCPC's Family Ministries' MERGE program. Childcare for infants - third grade is also available upon request.

LCPC Parent Ed is offering this class in partnership with other LCPC Ministries for a special discounted rate of \$40 (with tuition waivers available if price is prohibitive). Masks will be required for all participants, preferably a surgical or KN95 mask. Registration is open at www.lacanadapc.org/parented. For more information or to request childcare or a tuition waiver, email amanda@lacanadapc.org.

To learn more about LCPC Parent Education or Family Ministries, visit LCPC's website at www.lacanadapc.org. La Cañada Presbyterian Church is located at 626 Foothill Blvd, La Cañada.

Walk and Word

In February, Walk and Word participants will meet in the parking lot of Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale at 8 a.m. on Feb. 13, 20 & 27. They will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

Participants are asked to bring something to write with, anything wanted to eat or drink, and a chair to use for the writing part of the morning. Because people will be outdoors and social distancing will be practiced, masks will be optional.

Those with questions can email Jeanne at jnlavieri@earthlink.net.

All are welcome. If the hike is too strenuous, there are level paths at the park. There are ramps from the parking lot to the field where the group gathers after the hike.

Prayer Event Rescheduled

Due to the increase in the number of omicron variant cases the date of the 24 hours of prayer event has been moved to March 24-25 from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m.

The location remains at St. Luke's Anglican Church 2416 Montrose Ave. in Montrose.

Parking is in the rear. The theme this year is the Unity of the Church and our land (Ephesians 2: 13-16).

An announcement will be made once the online signup site is.



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Contest Proves Salad isn't just for Rabbits

By Justin HAGER

On Tuesday morning, Feb. 1, the Chop Shop in Glendale was home to an event previously unseen anywhere in the world. A 27-year-old woman from Walnut named Raina Huang set a new world record in a category that didn't even exist prior to last week. The groundbreaking event was the world's first ever competitive salad eating contest. Her opponent? A 24-lb., 2-year-old Flemish Giant rabbit named Honey "Mega" Bunny.

Born out of county fair pie-eating contests in the 1880s, competitive food eating has grown in popularity over the past several decades, especially in the U.S., China and Japan. Spurred on by the popular Nathan's hot dog eating contest, the events even gained a governing body in 1997 with the formation of the organization Major League Eating (MLE), which now oversees 70-80 competitions each year.

Competitive eating celebrities have even risen to the forefront of popular culture with names like Joey Chestnut and Takeru Kobayashi making regular appearances on both ESPN and the Food Network. But while the events are growing, according to MLE and event referee Kris Kloss, MLE had never before sanctioned a salad-eating competition.

For Huang, a food and travel content creator whose YouTube channel now boasts nearly 600,000 followers, the competition marks the next step of her journey to become the first woman to join Chestnut and Kobayashi as a champion



Photo by Justin HAGER

Competitive eater Raina Huang out-ate Honey Mega Bunny and her teammate Precious at the inaugural competitive salad-eating contest sponsored by the Glendale Chop Shop.

food eater. Huang rose in popularity through her food and travel videos that feature eating challenges from across the country.

As for how the rabbits got involved, that was the brainchild of Chop Shop owner Mark Kulkis.

"I had always been told that salad is rabbit food," Kulkis said. "I had seen these photos of these huge rabbits before and decided it was time to find out ... I just wanted to have some fun. That's the great part about owning a company; if you have a crazy idea, you can just do it."

As for the competition itself, perhaps it was anxiety set on by the crowd of spectators and news cameras, perhaps it was the intimidation of competing against a celebrated professional food eater like Raina Huang, or perhaps it was simply that the lettuce was too

finely chopped. Regardless of the reason, it was clear from the beginning that Honey was outmatched in the competition – at least in the salad-eating category.

Several minutes into the competition Honey even tagged out, allowing teammate Precious, another Flemish Giant rabbit, this one 15 months old, to compete instead. But neither rabbit could catch Huang, who won the contest and set a new world record in salad eating, consuming in 10 minutes 3.5 lbs. of leafy greens, shredded cabbage and grated carrots.

After the competition, Huang said that she was a little sad the rabbit wasn't into it, but that she was proud to be the world champion. However, while Huang may have taken home the prize, Honey and Precious stole the show.

Next School Board Election Will Not Include Greg Krikorian

By Mary O'KEEFE

At Tuesday night's Glendale Unified School District board meeting Greg Krikorian, longtime board member, announced that he would not be running for another term.

For about 21 years Krikorian has served on the school board. He had raised his five children in the district and feels it is now time to move on.

Throughout his career Krikorian has overseen some major changes within the district, from securing several bonds equaling about \$1 billion to a new track and field at Crescenta Valley High School.

"At my foundation, I have always had a strong connection to the CV community," Krikorian said.

The decision not to run was not an easy one, he said. Though he made his decision earlier not to seek re-election, he didn't want to announce it in the middle of the pandemic. He feels now is the time to step away. He does consider it a retirement from the board though he will still be involved in his Glendale community.

"I was not going to leave in the middle of testing," Krikorian said of his decision to postpone the announcement until after the COVID testing of the entire GUSD community

after winter break.

He praised his fellow board members, both past and present, and touched on how difficult it has been to lead the district during the pandemic.

Board President Shant Sahakian, who apparently did not know Krikorian was making his announcement at this time, said it was difficult to put into words the accomplishments and work Krikorian has done in his 21-plus years on the board.

Krikorian's last meeting will be July 12.

CVW will be speaking to board member Krikorian and will have more details next week.

Correction

In the Feb. 3 article titled "Council Advises Not to Move Forward with Eagle Canyon Project" Ted Yu voted in place of Frida Baghdassarian

who was present online but was not present in person as required by the council to vote on the motion.

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Natural Gas Prices Soar as SoCalGas Faces Fines

By Justin HAGER

Many SoCalGas customers discovered a disheartening surprise recently when they found their natural gas bill had exploded by as much as 200% from one year ago. Voicing their concerns over social media applications like Facebook and Nextdoor, local residents described how massive rate hikes in December and January were unexpected when compared to more steady, but smaller, increases in previous months.

Natural gas prices are heavily regulated in California with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) calculating and

approving rates based on (1) the cost of natural gas on the international market, (2) transportation costs and (3) public-purpose surcharges that fund natural gas related programs. And according to SoCal Gas' Natural Gas Rates Explained page, only about 8% of billed revenue goes toward a return on SoCalGas' investment in the gas system.

Two rate changes approved by the CPUC in 2019 went into effect on Jan. 1, 2022 leading, in part, to the dramatic increases. The rate changes included an updated transportation rate and an updated commodity procurement rate designed to support infrastructure upgrades and energy diversification.

Combined, these increases have led to a 110% increase in the base procurement rate for natural gas compared to one-year ago. Adding to the cost of these base procurement increases is an outage in a pipeline that delivers natural gas from Texas to Southern California and low inventory and storage levels that have remained as the ongoing COVID pandemic and last year's crippling cold snap in Texas caused massive disruptions to production. Add to these factors a relatively harsh winter across the Midwest and northeast and the result is that natural gas prices are high across the country as demand outpaces supply.

Of course, the optics of increased prices couldn't come at a worse time for SoCalGas. The company has faced a string of lawsuits and fines recently, including a \$10 million fine handed down last Thursday by the CPUC for improperly using ratepayer money to lobby public officials and fight against standards designed to make homes and businesses more energy efficient. Just days before the fine was issued, SoCalGas agreed to a \$1.5 million settlement that alleged that it failed to warn customers about possible exposure to toxic chemicals. And last year, the company agreed to a \$1.8 billion settlement over the 2016 Aliso Canyon facility blowout.

Fortunately for consumers, the coldest parts of winter are largely over and production facilities are learning new ways to adapt to the ongoing COVID pandemic, meaning that natural gas prices should begin decline in the coming months.

SoCalGas offers several energy-saving tips on its website at <https://www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy/energy-saving-tips-tools>.

For people struggling to pay their utility bills, SoCalGas and the state of California also offers a number of assistance programs. More information on assistance programs can be found at: <https://www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy>.

Unwelcome Visitor on Local Campuses

On Tuesday principals at La Crescenta Elementary School and Crescenta Valley High School shared messages with their school families concerning two related

disturbances at the schools. At La Crescenta Elementary an after school coach was a victim of an unprovoked altercation with an unknown female who has no

association to the school. This happened outside school grounds. No students or other staff members were involved in or witnessed the incident.

The unknown adult female then went onto the Crescenta Valley High School campus and walked into a sixth period class. Emergency protocols were activated by the teacher and, within seconds, school administration and staff responded to the classroom and escorted the individual

out of the school building without incident. Deputies from Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-CV Station arrived shortly thereafter and arrested the individual. School administrators were able to identify the entry point and the situation is now remedied.

The CV Sheriff's Station was aware of the individual who caused the altercation and in the coming days will be extra vigilant in patrolling the area surrounding the school. The woman is in custody.

The school district urged

the community to keep safe by remembering if you "See Something, Say Something." Please continue to report anything suspicious seen or heard in the community or on social media. Threats can be reported directly to school office, by downloading the Glendale Unified School District app and submit an anonymous tip on the app tip line, by calling the District's phone tip line at (323) 999-6062, or by calling the LASD-CV Sheriff Station at (818) 248-3464.

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Obituary

Elvira Romero



Jan. 13, 2022

On Thursday, Jan. 13 at 3:00 p.m., our beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend of the community Elvira Romero passed away but not without leaving a legacy of courage, hope, love and laughter. Forever in our hearts and never to be forgotten, her spirit lives in us daily, omnipresent as only a

mother can be. Her inspirational story began in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico where, as a teenage immigrant, she came to the United States with her siblings Arturo, Lilia and Lalo to join and live with their father in Southern California. The move was life changing and it is here that her story as a young woman living the American dream begins to unfold and where she would go on to live a full life. Here is where she would raise seven children with her husband of 45 years, Luis B. Romero. They settled in the Glendale-La Crescenta area in 1973 and provided their children with the greatest of opportunities, a move that would prove permanent and cement their legacy within the community ... a legacy of love and family. She took great joy in having casual conversations over coffee, throwing strikes in her

bowling leagues, tending to her roses, cheering on her Dodgers or putting her culinary expertise on full display. And sometimes you could catch her making a run to a nearby casino. She is preceded in death by her husband Luis and survived by her seven children Linda Lane, Sandra Rodi, Laura Songer, Lorraine Dahlquist, Luis Ramirez, Victor Ramirez, Lisa Siebert; and her nieces (our sisters at heart) Maria Geimer and Lillian Sellers. She will be deeply missed by her 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her four sisters, one brother and a legion of family and friends whose hearts she has eternally touched. Services will be held Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 2411 Montrose Ave.

RECRUITMENT from Cover

push but are hiring year around. For anyone interested in firefighting and is in middle or high school or in their first years of college, a good alternative is to join the department's Explorer program. Glendale Fire is starting its Explorer program after several years of being on hiatus. LACoFD has Explorer programs throughout the

County. To find them, visit fire.lacounty.gov. Both Gano and Kendrick encourage those who are interested in a career in firefighting to research the process and, if it is something they feel is a path they want, to apply. There is a LACoFD event on Feb. 12 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. where women can compete for the Women's Fire

Prep Academy. The deadline to RSVP is today, Thursday, Feb. 10. To RSVP, go to <https://wfpa-2022.eventbrite.com>. For more information on LACoFD recruitment, contact (310) 419-2115 or email recruitmentunit@fire.lacounty.gov. For information on the Glendale Fire Dept., visit joinfd.com.

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Unrelated Fires in the Crescenta Valley



By Mary O'KEEFE

A series of fires swept through the Crescenta Valley over the last nine days.

The first occurred on Wednesday, Feb. 2 when Los Angeles County Fire Dept. responded to a house fire in the 2900 block of Alabama Street in La Crescenta. The fire appears to have started with the water heater then spread to the house's attic. The call came in at 4:11 p.m. and was knocked down at 4:40 p.m. according to Battalion Chief Allender of Station 82.

Glendale Fire Dept. also responded as part of a mutual aid agreement that is in place.

Four engines and a ladder truck also were on scene.

According to Battalion Chief Allender, the family could reoccupy the house though

firefighters were cutting holes in the walls and roof to ensure that the fire was entirely extinguished.

No injuries were reported.

On Saturday morning Glendale Fire Dept., with support from LA County Fire and Pasadena Fire departments, responded to a call that came in at 10:51 a.m. of a structure fire in the 3300 block of Encinal Avenue. Upon arriving firefighters found a garage fully involved. They were able to completely knock it down by approximately 11:20 a.m., according to Glendale Fire Captain Gorrindo.

The fire was determined accidental; an electric heater overheated in the garage, according to Anita Shandi, deputy director of fire administration, Glendale Fire Dept.

There were no injuries.

Later on Saturday, a garage fire occurred in the 3000 block of Prospect Avenue at approximately 7 p.m. and was knocked down at approximate 7:40 p.m. According to Maria Grycan, spokeswoman Los Angeles County Fire Dept., the incident was an accidental electrical fire.

No injuries were reported.

Traffic between Cloud Avenue and Ramsdell Avenue was diverted; road closures extended from Prospect Avenue at Ramsdell Avenue west to Cloud Avenue and Ramsdell Avenue from Evelyn north to Community Avenue.

Photos by Mary O'KEEFE

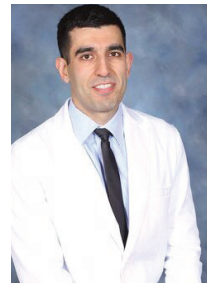
LEFT: 2900 block of Alabama.
CENTER: 3000 block of Prospect.
RIGHT: 3300 block of Encinal.

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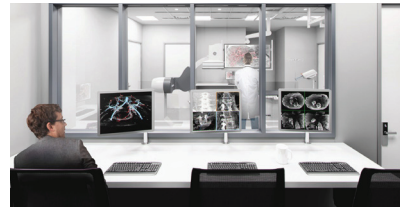
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Wednesday, Feb 16, 2022

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Carol Henning, Sierra Club Verdugo Hills Group Conservation chair, summed up the history of the plant and the proposed project, along with the group's position on it.

"The plant, named after Glendale's first engineer and general manager Loren Grayson, was constructed beginning in 1939 as a city owned-and-operated steam powered electrical generating facility. Grayson is located near San Fernando Road and Flower, not far from where the Golden State Freeway meets the Ventura Freeway. It sits beside

the LA River, across from the John Ferraro Athletic Fields in Griffith Park. Because of its age and because it had been running for a long time with little renovation it was time for a makeover.

"The 2017 Grayson Repowering Project was a plan to replace existing natural gas burning equipment with new gas burning equipment with 262 megawatts (MW) of energy capacity. This plan was rejected by the Glendale City Council in April 2018. Glendale residents, joined by environmental groups such as the Glendale Environmental Coalition and the Sierra Club, held meetings, wrote letters, demonstrated and testified at Glendale City Council meetings. In April 2018, the City Council rejected the Grayson Repowering Plan.

"In July 2019, the City Council conditionally approved an integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and an energy portfolio with 93 MW of gas-burning and 75 MG of battery storage at Grayson. This was to be accompanied by clean energy projects, such as demand-response, energy efficiency, solar, battery storage and transmission, into Glendale. The goal was to achieve, or come close to, 100% clean energy by 2030. However, by the end of 2021, it was clear that GWP had not fully explored more clean energy alternatives. Instead, the Glendale City Council will be offered two choices: 93 MW from five new internal combustion engine units, or 101 MW from refurbishing two existing Grayson turbines.

Environmental groups – the Glendale Environmental Coalition, Earth Justice and the Sierra Club – ask that GWP neither install nor refurbish gas burning equipment until all possible clean-energy solutions have been explored."

The local Sierra Club is organizing against any new gas at Grayson: <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-new-gas-at-grayson>.

Dog dads of a pup named Gator live and work near Grayson; they attended the rally as they "prefer there not be more pollution. It's short-sighted to build gas, especially if the city wants to sell excess power to other cities."

Dr. Jackie Gish and others from the Glenoaks Homeowners Association turned out on Saturday to advocate for clean energy solutions as well as to protest the council's decision to build a power plant at Scholl Canyon to capture and use gas from the landfill. The group has filed a lawsuit against the city, Gish said.

Councilmember Ara Najarian told the Crescenta Valley Weekly that he was there "to listen and learn."

"I'm open-minded. I want to see if I hear something new, something I haven't heard in briefings from the GEC and the Sierra Club. That's the most important thing, for me, until it's



Opponents held up signs and showed solidarity in their opposition of the project.

time to vote," he said.

Councilmembers Ardy Kassakhian and Dan Brotman were also in attendance.

On Jan. 31, the GWP commission voted unanimously to approve the final environmental impact report and recommend Alternative 7 to the full council, which is anticipated to vote on GWP's plans on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

GWP's report to the commission explained the updated plans including Alternative 7: "From the Clean Energy RFP, GWP developed two new, reduced-size, greener project alternatives. These two alternatives are identified in the partially-recirculated draft environmental impact report as 'Alternative 7' and 'Alternative 8.'

Both of these alternatives include about 95MW of thermal generation and 75MW/300MWH of battery energy storage. Both are compliant with SCAQMD emissions limits, with 60% less energy generation capacity, and

90% less fuel usage than the project.

"Alternative 7 – Tesla/Wartsila Repowering:

- Adds 75MW/300MWH of battery energy storage
- Removes all existing units except unit 9 (the newest unit, built in 2003)
- Adds five Wartsila 18.6MW internal combustion engine generators – about 93MWs total
- Adds a new switching station to add resiliency to the GWP system"

The full report is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9druys>.

On Saturday, an organizer with the Sunrise Movement yelled to the crowd, "What do we want?"

"Clean energy!" the crowd responded.

"When do we want it?"

"Now!"

"And if we don't get it, we'll shut it down!" the organizer led the chant. "Shut it down!"

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Death, and Resurrection in La Tuna Canyon – Part 2

Last week I detailed the horrible accident that took the lives of four local teens on La Tuna Canyon Road in May 1971. Debbie Chevalier survived the crash but her fiancé didn't. They were about to graduate from high school and be married.

Debbie was horribly mangled in the accident and was in a coma for two weeks; it was a miracle she lived. When she regained consciousness, she discovered that her school, Crescenta Valley High, had rallied behind her. Students planned fundraisers to raise money for her extensive hospital bills. The high school's resident rock band put on a benefit concert at MacDonald Auditorium for her. Even the local 7-Eleven Debbie frequented established a fundraiser for her. Many teachers and students visited Debbie, including Bill Thomas, the principal of CV High. He brought her a yearbook signed by nearly the entire school.

One thing the doctors told Debbie

at the hospital was that she would never walk again. For Debbie, it was not a discouragement but a challenge. Another senior had been horribly injured in a separate car crash and Debbie and he banded together. Only a month after Debbie's accident the two of them did the traditional graduation walk, holding each other up, with Debbie barely able to shuffle across the stage.

The doctors also told Debbie she would never be able to have children as her torso and internal organs had been crushed. Debbie eventually had three kids.

But as fast as Debbie overcame the obstacles, new ones were thrown at her. Several years after the accident, Debbie came down with mysterious ailments. Tests revealed that she had gotten hepatitis C from the transfusions she was given after her accident and that her liver was critically damaged. She went through treatments, similar

to chemotherapy, in which she lost her hair and was sick for months. She was given a terminal diagnosis and an estimated date of death. Miraculously, the date came and went, and is now many years behind her – a second brush with death. Debbie told me, "I think I must have God on my shoulder."

I mentioned in the last article that Debbie seemed to have been saved from death in order to serve a greater purpose. That came about through yet another trial. Debbie knew that she was a candidate for glaucoma, as her mother had it. While the effects on her mom were mild, Debbie's glaucoma was more profound; she was going blind. She turned in her driver's license, bought a white cane and cried for three days. What she didn't realize is that this latest obstacle was the start of a new and exciting life.

In 1995 Debbie was paired with her first seeing eye dog, a German shepherd named Cactus. Debbie

quickly realized the freedom and companionship she was about to experience. Debbie described the feeling: "The pure joy of feeling independent and safe ... it feels so free!" She wanted to tell the world.

Although Debbie had never given a presentation in her life, she began speaking at schools, churches and scouting functions about guide dogs. She got involved with the people who raise and train the puppies and did presentations with them. The Guide Dogs for the Blind organization sponsored a Rose Parade float in 2002 and Debbie and Cactus were selected to ride on it. Debbie had become a spokesperson for the world of guide dogs. She next became focused on training police departments on the issues surrounding service dogs, helping to set up the curriculum for officers in training.

This is Debbie's life now, introducing the world to guide dogs. Debbie is now with her second guide

dog, Sheena, and she continues to live with as much fervor, passion and intensity as anyone you would imagine who has cheated death twice. She serves as an inspiration to us all as an example of overcoming adversity and the power of positive thinking, which all started with a violent and deadly crash on La Tuna Canyon Road.

Next week, I'll relate some of Debbie's advice and wisdom about guide dogs.



Mike Lawler is the former president of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and loves local history. Reach him at lawlerdad@yahoo.com.

NEWS FROM THE CV TOWN COUNCIL » HARRY LEON

February – The Month of Love and Valentines!

On Jan. 31, the Crescenta Valley Town Council held a public forum as part of the Council's 30-day outreach to stakeholders and extended community asking for input, comments and concerns regarding the proposed Eagle Canyon Channel Trail project. The hybrid meeting consisted of in-person and virtual attendance with approximately 57 attendees in-person and 35 virtually. These included Sussy Nemer, senior field deputy from Supervisor Kathryn Barger's office, and Michelle O'Connor, from LA County Parks and Rec, who gave a presentation and answered several questions from the community. After listening to the community's input, a motion was made by Council to oppose the Eagle Canyon Channel Trail project and to recommend that the County not pursue its implementation. The Council unanimously voted to respectfully recommend that the County not move forward with the project as it is not in the best interests of our community.

Los Angeles County residents deserve clarity and consistency. Currently, LA County's Health Officer Order regarding the outdoor mask mandate is the only one

stricter than the State of California. Supervisor Kathryn Barger did emphasize that wearing masks in high-risk indoor settings is still an important tool to combat COVID-19; however, state health experts have established that outdoor events and outdoor school environments are safe for residents to take part without a mask. Aligning with the state is the most effective way to maintain the community's confidence in our safety protocols.

With this in mind she sent a letter to the Dept. of Public Health to formally ask to align with state guidance. With the Super Bowl just a few days away where thousands of fans will arrive from outside LA County I anticipate we won't see very much compliance with the current mask mandate. We shouldn't continue to have mandates in place that aren't followed or enforced. This only continues to sow further distrust and frustration for LA County residents. As we near the two-year mark of this pandemic, it is imperative that we protect the public health and public trust of our communities.

The next general meeting of the CV Town Council is Thursday, Feb.

17. The Council will discuss the upcoming pavement resurfacing project along La Crescenta Avenue, Orange Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Ocean View Boulevard, Mira Vista Avenue and Montrose Avenue within

the unincorporated La Crescenta-Montrose community and the outdoor gym at Two Strike Park.

For those who have an interest in attending and participating in our virtual meetings and want to

submit comments and/or questions, we encourage you to please contact CVTC at contact@thecvcouncil.com.

Stay safe, be healthy.

Harry Leon, President
Crescenta Valley Town Council

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YOUTH/SPORTS

CVHS Dominant in Round 1 CIF-SS Girls' Water Polo Championship



Photos by Justin HAGER
 LEFT: Junior Sydney Lansang shoots just moments before a defender takes her under the water.
 CENTER: CVHS dominated the match, taking numerous shots from mere feet in front of the net, like this one from Senior Makayla Graham.
 RIGHT: Sophomore Miranda Graham has been essential to CVHS' success this season, holding opponents to only 8.5 goals per match.

By Justin HAGER

The Falcons girls' water polo team is headed to the second round of the CIF Southern Section championship tournament after an impressive victory Tuesday night over the Diamond Bar Brahmas. The game was on upset alert as the heavily favored Falcons led just 6-4 nearly halfway through the third period. Fortunately, the end of the third period saw a tidal wave of goals for CVHS as they netted four goals in under three minutes, including two from senior Makayla Graham. The Brahmas tried to respond but could only get one past the stellar defensive wall created by juniors Sydney and Albany

Lansang and sophomore goalie Miranda Graham.

Despite being up 10-6 entering the final period, the Falcons refused to relent. Junior Albany Lansang scored just 25 seconds into the fourth giving the Falcons a five-point lead that seemed to break the spirits of the Diamond Bar squad. The Falcons netted three more in less than 90 seconds as the Brahmas went on a four-minute scoring drought. The drought continued until the three-minute mark by which point CVHS was already ahead 14-7. The final nail in the coffin landed with just one-minute remaining as junior Mayda Hartounian netted a shot from the right side.

After the match, Head Coach

Amber Dien said that she was "very excited" to be advancing.

"This will be my first time as a coach competing in a CIF second round game and we only have two days to prepare," she said. "Our pool at CVHS is much smaller than this one and it is always a challenge to make the adjustment from small water for practices to big water for games," she continued. "I'm just really excited to see how we do."

There was plenty of action around the region as other schools hosted or traveled for CIF girls' water polo competition.

John Burroughs High School in Burbank fell to Esperanza High School in a shocking 15-13 upset. Esperanza, a CIF at-large, traveled from Anaheim to face the

heavily favored Burroughs Bears, whose team was the stand-alone champion of the Pacific League. Esperanza took an early lead and, despite a storybook comeback, the Bears simply ran out of time.

The Glendale High School Nitros also found themselves on the losing side of an equally disappointing, though far less shocking, loss. The Nitros traveled to Corona to face the heavily favored Centennial High School Huskies, the number one seed in CIF-SS Division 5 girls' water polo. Despite a valiant effort, Glendale fell 22-6. The Pasadena Bulldogs also fell in the opening round, losing 22-5 to Oxnard.

Luckily, CVHS was not alone in its victory as the Flintridge Sacred Heart Tologs, whose team was

granted an at-large bid for the CIF and were the lowest seeded team in Division 5, pulled off an upset of Almont League runner-up Bell Gardens High School. Flintridge Sacred Heart will face another David vs. Goliath battle today, Thursday, when they host the JW North Huskies, which dominated the Mountain West Conference Champion West Valley High School.

Results of CIF-SS girls' water polo matchups involving

see CVHS on page 15

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Clark Magnet High School Team Named NASA High-Altitude Balloon Winner

A student team from Clark Magnet High School in La Crescenta joined the list of winning teams from 57 schools around the country/nation in the NASA TechRise Student Challenge where students build experiments that

will autonomously operate and collect data from the edge of space aboard a suborbital rocket or a high-altitude balloon test flight. NASA selected the winning teams in an inaugural nationwide challenge designed to attract, engage and

prepare future science, technology, engineering and mathematics professionals. Clark was named high altitude balloon winner.

Administered by Future Engineers, the challenge aims to inspire students to seek a deeper understanding of Earth's atmosphere, space exploration, coding and electronics, as well as an appreciation of the importance of test data. Winning proposals included measuring greenhouse gases, space farm irrigation systems, lunar dust mitigation, exploring human health in space, and understanding the effects of microgravity on physical phenomenon ranging from the behavior of waves in liquids to the effectiveness of ink jet printing. Nearly 600 teams, representing 5,000 sixth- through 12th-grade students from across the country applied to the most recent challenge.

The winning teams will each receive \$1,500 to build their experiments and an assigned spot to test them on NASA-sponsored suborbital rocket flights operated by Blue Origin or UP Aerospace, or a high-altitude balloon flight from Raven Aerostar. Clark's team will build their monitoring gas and oil well emissions project over the next several months, and then it will be tested on a high-altitude balloon.

To Grandmother's House We Go By Joanna M. Glass

Directed by Linda Alznauer

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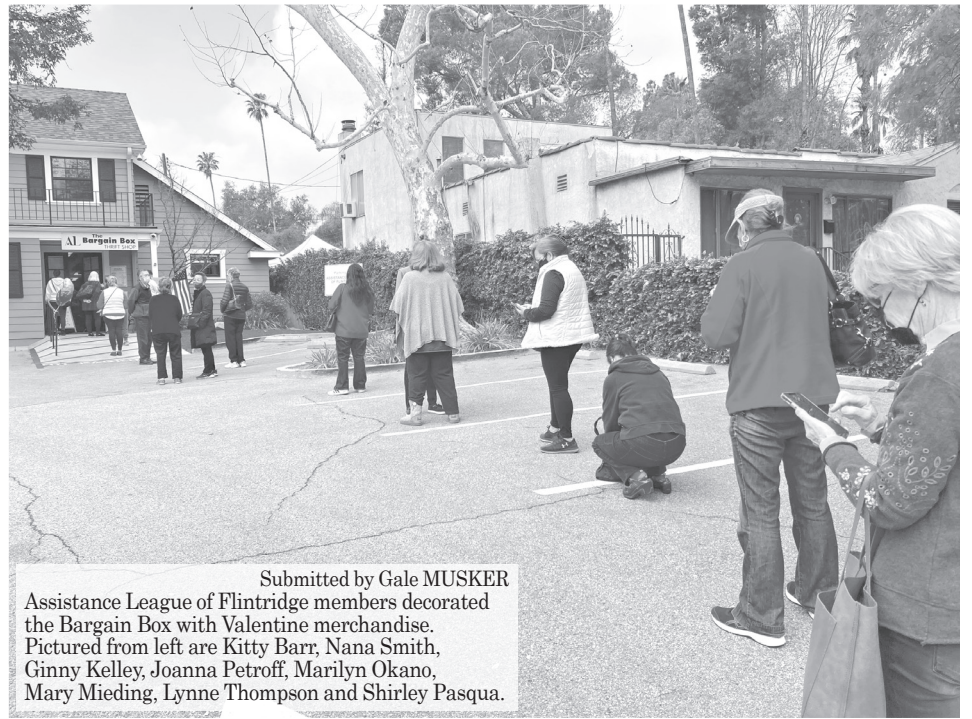
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BETWEEN FRIENDS

ALF Bargain Box Re-Opens



Submitted by Gale MUSKER Assistance League of Flintridge members decorated the Bargain Box with Valentine merchandise. Pictured from left are Kitty Barr, Nana Smith, Ginny Kelley, Joanna Petroff, Marilyn Okano, Mary Mieding, Lynne Thompson and Shirley Pasqua.

Customers of the Assistance League Flintridge Bargain Box Thrift Shop lined up on Tuesday, Feb. 1 for the grand re-opening of the

store after a holiday and January hiatus. The store and donation hours are Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Thursdays from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. All COVID protocols are being followed.

The Bargain Box is located at 4607 Oakwood Ave., across from T.J. Maxx in

La Cañada Flintridge. More information is available at ALFlintridge.org or (818) 790-6467. For membership information, call (818) 790-1328, or visit the website.

People Making News

The Georgia Institute of Technology presented degrees to approximately 4,900 undergraduate and graduate students during the Institute's 261st commencement exercises Dec. 17-18 at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

Mohammad Jafari and Allen Keshishian, both from Tujunga, earned degrees. Jafari earned a Master of Science in music

technology and Keshishian earned a Master of Science in computer science.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is a top 10 public research university developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The Institute offers business, computing, design, engineering,

liberal arts, and sciences degrees. Its nearly 40,000 students, representing 50 states and 149 countries, study at the main campus in Atlanta, at campuses in France and China, and through distance and online learning.

Gabrielle Xena Stanton of Sunland, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering, was

named a presidential scholar for the fall 2021 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clarkson is a private, national research university and a leader in technological education and sustainable economic development through teaching, scholarship,

research and innovation. The main campus is located in Potsdam, New York with additional graduate program and research facilities located in the New York Capital Region, Beacon, New York, and New York City. Clarkson educates 4,300 students across 95 programs of study in engineering, business, the arts, education, sciences and health professions.

Dignitaries Attend GBRA Meeting



Photo by Danette ERICKSON ABOVE: Tamara Hughes with previous district attorney Steve Cooley (middle) and, from the GBRA, Lou Barnett RIGHT: Mike Antonovich with LCWC member Tamara Hughes.

Attending a recent Glendale Burbank/Crescenta Valley Republican Assembly (GBRA) meeting at the La Crescenta Woman's Club clubhouse were previous district attorney Steve Cooley and former 5th District Supervisor Mike Antonovich.

Submitted by Danette ERICKSON



Scholarship App Time



Photo by Danette ERICKSON Shown are three of the 2021 scholarship awardees with two LCWC members. Deserving students are being sought for the club's 2022 scholarships of \$500 each.

The La Crescenta Woman's Club is again offering scholarships to graduating seniors from the GUSD attendance area who are going to four-year colleges, public and private schools. The applications are on the LCWC website; four general scholarships are being offered plus the Roberta Kurtz Scholarship for a student

majoring in arts, including graphic design art, and Dick Huntwork engineering scholarship. Each of the six scholarships will be in the amount of \$500.

Applications can be mailed to the clubhouse address, 4004 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta, or given to the students' school counselor by March 18.

TRAVEL & LEISURE

The Play's Still the Thing

By Mary O'KEEFE

One of the hardest hit businesses during the pandemic has been live stage theatre. Historically during society's darkest times that is when artists are most needed to remind us that there is beauty and creativity in the world. But with COVID-19

closing theatre doors, that creative outreach turned within.

That makes it even more amazing that some of the theatres are ready to bring light back to the stage ... and audiences are ready to fill the seats again.

"There is something that happens in the theatre that doesn't happen in the movies. It a synergy between

the audience and the actor," said Doug Haverty of The Group Rep at the Lonny Chapman Theatre.

The theatre opened its doors in 1972 with 12 actors performing scenes for audiences in a laundromat turned 36-seat theatre on Van Ness Boulevard. Lonny Chapman was the artistic director with the Group Repertory Theatre. As the theatre,

and its audience, grew the theatre moved from one location to another until finally coming home to 10900 Burbank Blvd. in North Hollywood, according to The Group Rep website.

During the pandemic the company continued to reach out to its loyal and growing audience.

"We tried to film some stuff during the pandemic," Haverty

said. He said their efforts were appreciated by the company and audience; however, nothing can replace live stage.

"When [you are on stage] you work with the reaction from the audience. It's like riding a wave where laughs build and crest, just like a wave," he said.

see GROUP REP on page 15

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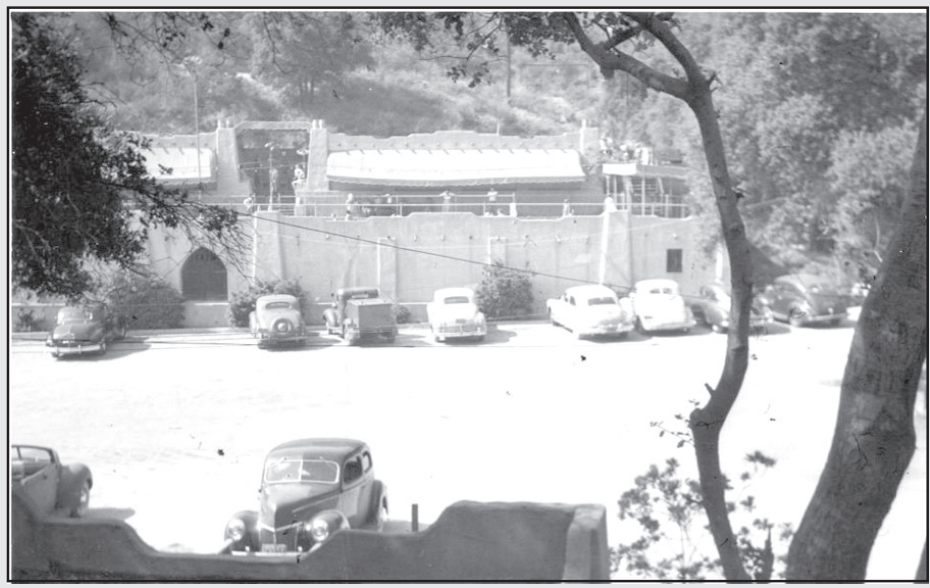
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THEN & NOW

Indian Springs
Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then » Here we see a view looking down from Verdugo Boulevard at the above ground swimming pool at Indian Springs in the late '40s. Indian Springs was a very popular resort from the '20s to the '60s, located off Verdugo just east of Montrose. Few realize today that it was actually located down below street level in an oak shaded canyon with a natural spring.

Now » The canyon was filled to street level with dirt from other construction projects when the current Indian Springs Shopping Center was built over the Indian Springs Resort in the late '60s and the natural spring was rerouted into the storm drains. This view is looking north from Verdugo Boulevard at Vons and CVS Pharmacy, which sit 70 feet above the buried swimming pool.

JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

COMPASSION SERIES FOR CANCER PATIENTS

An online series focusing on the practice of self-compassion and loving kindness will be given by the Cancer Support Community-Pasadena on the following Fridays: Feb. 11, 18 and 25. The series is from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. and is free of charge.

Heather Gross, registered yoga and mindfulness teacher, will discuss gentle, mindful movement, guided meditation and mindfulness coaching for cancer patients.

The Cancer Support Community-Pasadena is located at 76 E. Del Mar Blvd., Suite 215, Pasadena (626) 796-1083. www.cscpasadena.org.

JAZZ NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

On Friday, Feb. 11 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. the award-winning CVHS jazz band presents Jazz Night Under the Stars. This is a spectacular night of music and dancing in the quad at Crescenta Valley High School. Tickets are available now! Tickets are \$15 and include admission, a wristband for the dessert table and a free dance lesson. There are a limited number of tickets available. This event supports all music and entertaining groups in CV's Instrumental Music Program. Dressy casual; period attire encouraged!

For questions or to purchase a ticket, email 3rdvp@falconmusic.org. Tickets are also available through any CV music or color guard student.

AAUW WELCOMES DR. SHARON LANGENBECK

The Glendale Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will meet on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. To receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting, send an email to Laura Guillory Iguillory1430@gmail.com with your name and email address by Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D. will share the goals and actions around the world of Zonta International, a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Learn more about Dr. Langenbeck on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/jFoT5cuteio>.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. For information about membership, activities and meetings, visit <https://glendale-ca.aauw.net/>.

LOS ANGELES CENTRAL LIBRARY TOPIC OF PROGRAM

Little Landers Historical Society invites the community to visit Bolton Hall Museum on Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. for its 2nd Saturday Program, the story of the Los Angeles Central Library. The fascinating history, art, architecture and collections of the library will be discussed by Dave McMenamin, a Los Angeles Library docent who leads tours of the Library. This presentation includes video of the aftermath of the devastating 1986 Library fire

and a visit to some parts of the library that are not included on the official tours.

This event is free (donations welcomed) and open to the public and everyone is invited.

Bolton Hall Museum, home of Little Landers Historical Society, is located at 10110 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga.

Additional information is available from Little Landers Historical Society, (818) 352-3420 or BoltonHall.org or email llhs@boltonhall.org.

LILI SINGER GUEST SPEAKER AT VIOLET SOCIETY

The next club meeting of the Burbank African Violet Society will be on Thursday morning, Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. at The Little White Chapel Christian Church, 1711 N. Avon St. in Burbank.

The guest speaker will be Lili Singer, horticulturist, garden writer and educator. Singer will present the program "Adding California Native Plants to Your Garden." Questions and answers will follow.

There are raffle and silent auction tables. Refreshments are served and friendships made. Guests are always welcome to attend the meetings. For more information call (661) 940-3990 or reference the website www.burbankafrienviolets.weebly.com.

COMMUNITY TREE MULCHING EVENT

On Saturday, Feb. 19 from 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m., there will be a Sunland-Tujunga community

tree mulching event held with participation by the Crescenta Valley Group of the Sierra Club, Ralph's Market in Sunland and Tree People. The groups will be mulching and watering about 60 trees along Foothill Boulevard in Sunland (between Ralphs and Vons). Anyone who wants to participate can also adopt the trees they mulch for future watering.

The event begins in the parking lot of the Ralphs Shopping Center, 10455 Sunland Blvd, Sunland-Tujunga. Mulch and water for the trees will be provided. Training takes place at 8:30 a.m. by Tree People ambassador Xiomara

Duran on how to properly set the mulch around the tree base. Volunteers need to watch the instruction before being assigned a tree. Volunteers should bring two five-gallon buckets to carry mulch and a watering can, a hand rake or spade, gloves, a facemask and a safety vest (if they have one). Compost from local compost bins and scraps of cardboard to place under the mulch to nourish trees is also welcome.

The event will last as long as it takes to get 60 trees mulched. Please register in advance at atpatkramerstnc@gmail.com.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com

February 7, 2022 - February 13, 2022

♈ ARIES March 21 - April 19

You may be about to get a new perspective on your health issues. If your current way of going about things isn't working, you really need to change your approach. A book or conversation could encourage you to think along new lines. Alternatively, you may find just what you're looking for while surfing the Internet. If you really want the answers, you'll get them.

♉ TAURUS April 20 - May 20

You may want or need to spend money on your health. If you're in good shape, then splurging may be a matter of buying some new exercise equipment or investing in a gym membership. If you're having problems, you may want to investigate a number of avenues. Don't waste money on a temporary fix if you want lasting results, as they rarely work.

♊ GEMINI May 21 - June 20

Make your health a priority and be prepared to do whatever it takes to be really well. If you haven't allotted a part of your budget to supplements or other measures that will keep you in peak condition, it's time to do so. Find out what you may be lacking and give yourself a chance to stay in perfect condition from the inside out. The rewards will be great.

♋ CANCER June 21 - July 22

Your dreams can give you advance warning of any health problems. You can take advantage of this if you keep a regular dream diary. You need to allow time to read it over and interpret the symbols. However, you can greatly improve your health through the power of positive thinking and by releasing and healing intense emotions. Practices like meditation will give you further tools to support your path to wellness.

♌ LEO July 23 - August 22

Make use of spiritually oriented techniques to enable you to stay in great shape and enjoy high levels of energy, too. Yoga is a spiritual discipline that can have a profoundly positive effect on your mind, emotions, and, in turn, your body. Similarly, tai chi helps to ward off illness by balancing the subtle energy flow in your body. If you feel drawn to trying something different, go for it.

♍ VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

Your overall health may be linked to the stress you're experiencing in your career. If your responsibilities are proving too much for you, then take positive action. Delegate some of your tasks and give yourself more chances to relax. If you have other problems, then do something to resolve the issues. Either way, you hold the key to your health in your own hand. Take control!

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

There's so much you want to do. You have plans, ideas, and goals; however, your energy may be limited. This week you may notice that you don't have your usual get up and go. You may need to pace yourself and cut out tasks that aren't so important. Make sure you eat well and drink plenty of water, too.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

If you have a hectic schedule, take time to relax and de-stress. If you put half an hour aside in which to rest your mind as well as your body, it will help you to be much more efficient overall. However, don't just go through the motions. If you relax, don't spend the time worrying about your problems and getting even more worked up. Detach from all of this to get the real benefit.

♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

If you have a hectic schedule, take time to relax and de-stress. If you put half an hour aside in which to rest your mind as well as your body, it will help you to be much more efficient overall. However, don't just go through the motions. If you relax, don't spend the time worrying about your problems and getting even more worked up. Detach from all of this to get the real benefit.

♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You're doing all you can to make sure that your health is up to par. You seem keen to exercise and work out on a daily basis and make sure that this is a habit that you can stick with. You're also determined to root out any obstacles that prevent you from being as fit as you can be. Create a strategy that works for you and keep it up. Go for it!

♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You seem to be taking your journey to health very seriously. You're also having a lot of fun. This week don't be surprised if you meet someone very special while working out at the gym or going for your daily jog. Love is coming your way and the two of you are going to enjoy working out together. Don't spoil your wonderful weight loss by indulging in rich food.

♓ PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

You tend to be very sensitive to atmosphere and even to other people's illnesses, and this week is no exception. But you can do something about this. You have the power to improve your health and overall condition by imagining that you're well and full of energy. The subconscious mind will respond very quickly to your positive thinking. If you can train your brain to think healthy, you'll be healthy.

PROBLEM SOLVED CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

She returned the merchandise to eBay. What happened to her refund?

When Gloria Lenoir returns her merchandise to eBay, the company doesn't refund her \$29 and closes her case. How does she get eBay's attention?

Q: I recently bought two tubes of Voltaren, a pain medication, through eBay. I paid \$29 for the product but decided I could not use it. I tried to return the product, but the seller did not respond.

eBay provided a USPS shipping label so I could return the item. I returned the item to the seller about a month ago but I did not get my refund.

When I tried to enter the USPS tracking number, the eBay website will not accept it. eBay has closed the case. Can you help me get my refund? - Gloria Lenoir, Austin, Texas

A: So let me get this straight: You returned your tubes of Voltaren to the buyer via eBay and you received nothing? Come on.

The seller should have responded when you asked to return the product. This isn't the first time we've had a nonresponsive eBay seller. When that happens, eBay should reconsider whether the merchant belongs on its platform. No ghosting customers! And after talking to eBay myself there's no evidence the merchant got a talkin'-to.

I'm glad eBay got involved and sent you a return label. For a few days, at least, it looked as if eBay had taken your side.

"We have reviewed this case and decided in your favor," it said in an email to you. "You should return the item to the seller for a refund. We're sorry you had a problem with your purchase."

eBay should have been able to track your return and issue a refund but, for some reason, it couldn't. The tracking number USPS gave you was valid. Someone in New York accepted the merchandise after you sent it back. But it looks like the tracking number didn't quite work with eBay's system.

Closing your case was the wrong move; eBay should have opened an investigation and not closed it until it was resolved. Your case just slipped through the cracks.

I think you did everything you could to keep your case alive. You kept your correspondence in writing (good work!), and you kept all emails and messages (nice going!), but you still couldn't get to the right place at eBay. Next time, try one of these <https://www.elliott.org/company-contacts/eBay-customer-service-contacts>. A polite, brief email with your entire paper trail attached should get to the right person.

I asked eBay about your case. Although it wouldn't reveal what went wrong with your refund, the company promptly refunded your \$29 after I contacted it.

Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer for Elliott Advocacy. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help with any consumer problem by contacting him at <http://www.elliott.org/help>.

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GCC from Cover

of the agreement, and the long-term obligation comes with regulatory, cost and technology changes and contractual risks.

Monica Campagna called into the meeting, representing the Glendale Environmental Coalition, expressing strong support for the VPP moving forward.

"This would be a huge benefit to the community, especially the resiliency factor. We're talking about homeowners who haven't yet bought solar - might not be thinking about purchasing their own system - but this would be perfect for a resident who would just like to have solar and would love to have a battery but doesn't want to put out the money upfront to buy a system of their own. This would provide added resilience to them and to the grid in a very forward-thinking way," Campagna said. "Hundreds of people are ready to go. It would be a great way to get a battery for your home and to be part of the solution."

Councilmember Dan Brotman observed that "this is a very tightly negotiated deal - I've been critical of the amount of time this has taken, but it's very good pricing for Glendale. At 13 cents/kWh, it's solar energy that costs substantially less than larger installations in the City of Los Angeles. I think the benefits of this have gotten short shrift in this discussion. A system like this distributed around the city will make our distribution grid more reliable."

"It's a resource we can get up and running fairly quickly over the next four years, starting now. Anything we do at Grayson won't come online until the end of 2025, more likely 2026. If there's an outage - because of a squirrel or a mylar balloon or for whatever reason - a full battery can run your house for a day and a half. If it's 20% full, you can operate your appliances - maybe not your air conditioner, but your fridge and medical equipment - for seven hours. The notion that rates would go 'up and up and up,' as a caller suggested, costs attributed to this are 1.5% for five years - there's no additional rate impact beyond the five years, so the idea that rates would go up and up and up is just not correct," Brotman added.

"I don't want to be the first," Councilmember Vrej Agajanian railed against the plan. "The technology is continuously evolving. I can't imagine having a contract for 25 years. It's good, clean energy ... but at what cost? Two years later, the costs will be ridiculous and people will ask, who approved this? It bothers me. I don't want to be the first city to do this."

Councilmember Ara Najarian shared his views.

"I really want this to work. It's a brilliant concept. I run into difficulties locking ourselves into a 25-year commitment," he said then also listed specific questions he deems outstanding, including issues of installation and liability insurance, and the specter of a lien on personal property.

"I don't want to say 'Throw this in the dumpster;' perhaps Sunrun had the wrong impression. Let

them know the council isn't so willing. Maybe we take a smaller bite at this," he suggested.

Mayor Paula Devine reminded the council of their "fiduciary responsibilities."

"This is risky and costly. Solar is not cheap, and it is not free - it is

very expensive," she said. "What happens if the roof is damaged? That happened to a friend of mine. Will they be hiring union labor to install these? Electricity from Scholl Canyon is going to cost \$35 - \$40 per MWh and Sunrun wants \$254? And that's

for 25 years, by the way."

Devine seconded a motion by Councilmember Agajanian to send staff back to negotiate new terms on the myriad issues raised by councilmembers, which passed on a vote of 3-2, with Councilmembers Brotman and

Ardy Kassakhian voting no.

In a separate discussion about electrical rates, the council heard a lengthy report on the costs of delivering electricity and voted to phase in the proposed rate increase of 17% over the next five years.

CVHS from page 10

Flintridge Prep and La Cañada High School were not available as of press time.

The Falcons' next match is scheduled today, Thursday, Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. at the Glendale High School Aquatic Center. For more information on local teams in the CIF-SS Championships, including schedules, results, photos, and more, follow the CV Weekly Sports team on Twitter @CVWSports or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CrescentaValleyWeekly.

GROUP REP from page 12

Haverty is a writer, producer and director on his own and knew that there was a need for live theatre but was concerned who would return once the doors were allowed to reopen. But he didn't have to worry because he found that the audience as as dedicated to the stage as the actors and stage technicians.

"I love the enthusiasm of our audiences," he said. "They are thrilled to be there."

Currently playing at The Group Rep is "To Grandmother's House We Go."

"This is a published play I saw [when it was] on Broadway 30

years ago. I loved it and it stayed with me," Haverty said.

He added this play is a dramedy that is as relevant today as it was 30 years ago. The story follows what happens when the empty nest becomes filled again, when grown children and grandchildren move back home. This phenomenon is something that is common in today's world where rents are skyrocketing and housing prices soar forcing more and more grown children to return to the nest.

"But it's about how family lives change and it is never too late to pursue your dreams," he added.

"To Grandmother's House We Go" runs from through March 6. To purchase tickets, get more information and support live stage theatre, visit thegrouprep.com or call (818) 763-5990.

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 3 Bedrooms | 4 Bathrooms (1, 2, 1) | 1,931 Sq Ft (Builder)
 50,088 Sq Ft Lot (Assessor, Condo) | Built in 2020 | HOA: \$290/mo

1045 INVERNESS DRIVE LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011 OFFERED AT: \$2,099,000

4201 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE H3, LA CRESCENTA, CA, 91214 OFFERED AT: \$875,000

Welcome to 1045 Inverness Drive, nestled in the hills of beautiful La Cañada Flintridge. This bright and well maintained three-bedroom and three-bathroom home boasts its own stream with a water fall and an expansive updated deck ideal for gatherings or quiet outdoor enjoyment. Upon entering you will notice the step-down living room with fireplace and a dining room that opens to the deck. The modern kitchen is complete with granite counters, breakfast bar, recessed lighting and opens to a family room with windows overlooking the wooded lot. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and laundry area finish off the main floor. The master bedroom with vaulted ceilings is located on the upper floor and features an updated bathroom with a jet tub, shower enclosure, and dual vanity. Off the garage is a private studio ideal for an office, gym, or future ADU. Other amenities include central heating and air, new paint, grass area, wine cellar, walking paths, and outdoor storage. Move right in to this charming "nature inspired" Flintridge home.

Welcome to Unit H3 in the Penn Court townhome community located in the prestigious Crescenta Highlands neighborhood. Designed and built in 2020 by Gangi Development, this condominium townhome provides the convenience of a private entryway, fenced-in patio, and an attached two-car garage with direct passage into your home. Craftsman style meets modern luxury in the contemporary layout that features hard-surface flooring and oversized windows, filling the space with natural light. The open kitchen boasts a center island, quartz countertops, fingerprint resistant stainless-steel appliances, and a Wi-Fi enabled convection oven. Upstairs are three bedrooms, including the master suite with a walk-in closet, spa shower, and free-standing tub. The ground-level flex space is perfect for your family room, home office, or potential ADU. Other amenities include a water softener, recirculating hot water pump, overhead garage storage, and a community EV charger and walking paths. With over 1,900 square feet and three levels of living space, this is the ideal home for balancing life and work, with award-winning schools and easy access to markets and transportation.



www.1045inverness.com

www.4201PennsylvaniaH3.com

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5702 Catherwood Drive, La Cañada | Coming Soon
 4 + 3, pool, spa | 2562 sq. ft. | 15,126 lot | built 1966

Sited on a quiet cul-de-sac in the desirable Angeles Crest Estates neighborhood, this single level mid-century has it all! The spacious family room features high ceilings, wet bar, fireplace and opens to pool, spa, barbeque, and grassy yard. All bedrooms are amply proportioned with large closets, and the primary suite boasts a walk-in closet. A home office may also be used as a 5th bedroom. In addition to the attached two car garage there is room for RV parking or recreational vehicle. And best of all is the award winning La Cañada school district.



165 Sequoia Drive, Pasadena | in escrow



645 W. 9th Street #306, DTLA | in escrow



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