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DECEMBER 8, 2022

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VOL. 14, NO. 19

Disappointing Turn at Council Meeting

By Mary O'KEEFE

There was a lot of energy talk at Tuesday's Glendale City Council meeting with discussions not only on the companies that will help the City move forward to reduce its carbon footprint but how the process of outreach and bids may need to change for the City to attract companies in this very competitive field.

In March, the Council instructed staff to identify cleaner alternatives for the repowering of the Grayson Power Plant. It instructed Glendale Water and Power (GWP) staff to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for up to 50 megawatts of reliable and dispatchable Distributed Energy Resources.

The GWP issued the RFP with a deadline of Sept. 30 and received 24 Notices of Intent; however, of those only two qualified proposals were received and those two companies had a history with the City.

The question then became why out of 24 Notices of Intent that were received only two were left standing? The City had done a lot of outreach including posting on the websites of the City's RFP, GWP and Grayson Repowering. Emails were sent out to 282 contacts at 170 companies. The RFP was distributed to Southern California Public Power Authority, California Municipal Utilities Association, American Public Power Association and California Energy Storage – and yet...

"The word was certainly out there that Glendale was coming to the plate," said Ted Flanigan, president of Eco-Motion.

Ultimately it was four companies that went beyond Intent and were received and evaluated by the City's team. Two were left to present to the Council on Tuesday.

see GCC on page 8

Always in Tune: the Crescenta Valley Instrumental Music Winter Concert

By Mary O'KEEFE

Music can change the world because it can change people.
 – Bono, member of the band U2

A Harvard study found that the use of music – listening, singing and music therapy – can create significant improvements in mental health. It can also make improvements in physical health-related quality of life.

Those who love music and all that it brings can enjoy a night of music at the Crescenta Valley High School Instrumental Music (CVIM) Winter Concert 2022 at the CVHS MacDonald Auditorium, 4300-4398 Ramsdell Ave. on Friday, tomorrow, Dec. 9. The concert will include music from all sections of CVIM including the jazz band, drum line, string symphony, wind



ensemble and drum line.

The concert begins exactly at 7 p.m.

"I want to respect the audience's time," said CVIM music director

Mat Schick regarding the preciseness of the start time.

So if people arrive late and music is being performed they will be

see CONCERT on page 9

File photo

At a previous winter concert, Mathew Schick directs the orchestra. This year's winter concert takes place on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at MacDonald Auditorium.

A Coalition of California Earth Protectors

By Mary O'KEEFE and Jessy SHELTON

The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international meeting bringing together governments from around the world, according to the Government of Canada.

These government representatives will work to agree on a new set of goals over the next decade through the CBD post-2020 framework process. The framework sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that by 2050 the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled. COP15 will also look at the im-

plementation of protocols of the CBD that deal with the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of nature and the safe transport, handling and labeling of Living Modified Organisms, according to UN Environment Programme.

The word "biodiversity" is a contraction of the words biological diversity, which means the variety of living things in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem. "Living things" takes into account not just flora and fauna (plants and animals), but also other forms of life like fungi and bacteria.

Biodiversity supports healthy ecosystems and gives humans resources that are needed to continue to live, like medicine and food. Having a healthy ecosystem allows for crucial actions like pol-

see ZOO on page 9



Photo by Mary O'KEEFE
 Assemblymember Laura Friedman was among the environmental advocates who, on Dec. 1, held a press conference at the LA Zoo to raise public awareness of and enhance California's role as the UN's U.S. state observer at the COP15 Convention.



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NEWS

IN BRIEF

GLENDALE RECRUITS FOR FIRST POET LAUREATE

Glendale Library, Arts & Culture has created the City's first Poet Laureate Program. The selected poet laureate will serve as an ambassador for Glendale's rich culture and diversity, promoting the art of poetry.

Applicants for the post must submit examples of their work and the selected poet laureate will receive a \$5,000 stipend for one year. During that time, the poet laureate will be asked to develop a project that engages community members of all ages in poetry writing, spoken word performance, and/or poetry appreciation. The poet laureate will also write a poem that celebrates Glendale's rich culture and diversity and read poetry aloud at special events throughout the City.

Qualified poets are individuals over 18 years of age who reside in Glendale, have a history of publishing and/or performing poetry, have experience with teaching, public speaking, and/or community service, and can commit to serving in the role for at least one year. Individuals from historically untapped communities (such as Black, Indigenous and People of Color, LGBTQIA+) are encouraged to apply. Applications must be submitted by Jan. 20, 2023. Details on how to apply are available at <https://glac.info/PoetLaureate>.

ROSEMONT PRESERVE RESTORATION DAY

The community is invited to the Rosemont Preserve Restoration Day on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. to help protect the natural habitat at Rosemont Preserve. Volunteers will be watering newly planted milkweed, cleaning up the outdoor classroom and mulching around the trail. Wear sturdy shoes, comfortable clothes and garden gloves (long pants and sleeves are recommended). Please wear sturdy shoes to walk the trail and bring water to drink. Tools will be available.

The Preserve is located at the north end of Rosemont Avenue, just past the chain link fence. As street parking is limited, please park at Two Strike Park, 5107 Rosemont Ave. Those with mobility issues who require a closer parking spot should contact RosemontFriends@gmail.com.

This event is free to the public and suitable for all ages and no reservations required. Rain cancels event. Sorry, no pets please.

For further information, contact theFriendsoftheRosemontPreserve@gmail.com at RosemontFriends@gmail.com.

FOOD COLLECTION BENEFITS BAILEY CENTER

Crescenta Valley High School JROTC will be collecting food for the Bailey Center in Tujunga at the Fire House youth center, 2563 Foothill Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. Needed are non-perishable food items.

Ruby Wishes You Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

By Mary O'KEEFE

On Saturday hometown girl Ruby was a participant in the Montrose Christmas Parade. It was easy to spot her; she was in a 1967 convertible with a sign on the door that read "Ruby Wishes You Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" and wearing one of the most winning smiles in the entire parade.

Ruby is 15 years old and attends Glendale High School in Patricia Telles' teacher assistant's class. She was also a Lincoln Elementary Lion, a Fremont Elementary Bear and a Rosemont Middle School Spartan. She is a true hometown girl.

"She was in the [Montrose Christmas Parade] when she was 4 or 5 and at Cloud Preschool," said Ruby's mom Peggy Bedvian.

But even before her preschool debut Ruby was part of the parade. She made her way down Honolulu Avenue when mom was pregnant with her when they were part of St. Peter Armenian Church, said Ruby's dad Mike Greagos.

Though Ruby is non-verbal that does not mean there is ever any doubt about what she wants and what she is thinking.

"Her daddy has this really cool car that's red and she loves driving in the car," Bedvian said.

Ruby can't exactly articulate, "I want to be in the parade" but her parents knew this was something she would enjoy. She is very social.

"Whenever we walk [down Honolulu Avenue] people would say hi to Ruby," Bedvian said. "I would ask where they know her from." People knew Ruby from school, from being in stores like Schreiner's, from the former Faye's and just being around town.

"She is a homegrown girl and this is her hometown," Bedvian said.

Ruby was very excited to be in the parade and in fact had to go to Target, her favorite store, to get a parade outfit. During the parade she sat in her daddy's convertible, smiled and enjoyed her neighbors waving and cheering as she drove by.

In addition to loving the parade, she also loves the cars.

"She is a gear head," Greagos said. "She loves cars

Photos provided by Ruby's family.

BELOW: Ruby was joined in her dad's red convertible by her parents, her godmother Gina Khorigian, Nora Pineda and Dan Conroy.

BOTTOM: Ruby wore her specially purchased outfit for the Montrose Christmas Parade.



and driving her electric car."

Her parents also said she is a bit of a "ham" so the attention she got during the parade was welcomed.

"What is so sweet about [the parade] is that it is our little hometown [event]," Bedvian said. She added her family feels lucky to be in such a caring community and Ruby has received great services through Glendale Unified School District.

Ruby was not alone in the parade convertible. In addition to her parents were her godmother Gina Khorigian and Nora Pineda, who Greagos describes as "like a sister" who was also a caregiver for a decade for his parents and who created a special bond with Ruby.

"And Dan Conroy, a very good friend," Greagos said. "We were roommates in college and were in a band together [called] the Southern Skies."

Ruby was surrounded by friends and family as she traveled down the parade

route that reflected a community she loves so much.

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Law Enforcement to get a Financial Boost

By Mary O'KEEFE

This week Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger announced she will provide up to \$1 million in discretionary funding to boost law enforcement services in unincorporated areas in her district.

Her announcement comes as the busy holiday shopping season approaches – and along with it an increased threat of crime.

“This month’s busiest holiday shopping days are quickly approaching and the threat of increased criminal activity is real,” said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. “Last year’s smash-and-grab crime wave taught us we need to be ready to prevent theft before it happens. The funds I’m allocating to sheriff stations in the Fifth District will help provide more law enforcement patrols and increase their presence in the communities I

home.”

Locally, the Crescenta Valley will benefit from the additional funds.

“This funding will be used to hire additional personnel to patrol the shopping centers and residential areas within the unincorporated areas. Increased visibility will hopefully deter any criminal activity,” said Crescenta Valley Sheriff Station Captain Robert Hahnlein.

Recently inducted sheriff Robert Luna reacted to Supervisor Barger’s announcement stating, “With Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s significant financial support, we will be increasing high visibility patrols in the unincorporated areas in the Fifth District in an effort to deter crime and provide for a safer shopping experience. As always, we encourage the public to be aware of their surroundings, keep valuables hidden out of sight when

the pandemic and economically harmful business shutdowns, its business community is poised for a strong comeback,” said Pat Anderson, President & CEO, La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce. “The business leaders in La Cañada Flintridge believe they are poised for economic growth and job creation especially during the Christmas and holiday seasons. Stores are stocked. People are feeling free to shop, dine and enjoy life again. To this end, we embrace the much-needed funds dedicated to the LA County Sheriff’s Dept. to protect our businesses and keep residents safe. With cautious optimism we work together to prepare for a better future for all.”

“The CV Chamber of Commerce greatly appreciates Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s commitment of discretionary funds during the holiday season for the additional presence of sheriff personnel in the unincorporated Fifth District,” said a chamber representative. “The presence of law enforcement gives our retail shop owners an increased sense of security from theft and provides shoppers, families, and visitors with more reasons to enjoy our beautiful community during this special time of the year.”

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GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION & CV WEEKLY PRESENT

The 2022 Merry & Bright Holiday Light and Display Tour!

Share your merriment and brighten the spirits of your community this Holiday Season! From December 15th – January 2nd families will be driving past identified houses that have been decorated festively for the season.

To have your address included in the Merry & Bright Tour, send your address to HollyWeen@cvweekly.com by **December 13th** to be included in all listings. Your home’s location will be in the CV Weekly December issues so families can create their own drive-by route.

Judging will be done between December 23rd - 26th.
Winners announced in the December 29th issue.

JUDGING CATEGORIES

- 1. Christmas Story Award**
(traditional or nostalgic use of lights and decorations - Leg Lamp use gets extra points)
- 2. Clark Griswold Award**
(excessive use of lights and decoration - more is ALWAYS better, can we see it from space?)
- 3. Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree Award**
(best use of music and technology)
- 4. Santa's Coming to Town Award**
(best use of Santa or Santa's in decor)
- 5. Most Original Award**
(not your usual everyday holiday decor)
- 6. Best in Show Award**
(ya blew the judges minds)

The Long Awaited Return of the Montrose Christmas Parade



By Mary O'KEEFE

It had been two years since the Montrose Christmas Parade made its way along Honolulu Avenue and, from the number of those watching along the parade route on Saturday night, it had been missed.

Social media gave the parade great reviews, too.

"I saw a lot of big smiles and people having fun," said Cheryl Davis, Montrose Christmas Parade chair.

Davis rides in a golf cart behind

TOP LEFT: The CV Weekly staff made their way down the parade route thanks to a truck donated by Bob Smith Toyota.

ABOVE: Announcers Rick Dinger and Jane Kane.

TOP RIGHT: Cheryl Davis was happy the big day arrived.

LEFT: Community Christmas tree.

Santa's fire engine at the end of the parade and said that viewpoint is very special because she gets to see the excitement of the crowd.

"Hundreds of kids are standing, waving their arms and yelling, 'I love you, Santa,'" she said.

Having a successful parade takes many volunteers who work behind the

scenes for months to take the event from the planning stages to traveling down Honolulu Avenue.

Davis said hearing the laughter and seeing so many families attending makes all the work worth it.

Photos by Robin GOLDSWORTHY, Charly MARQUEZ and Charly SHELTON

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Locals Honored at Chamber Recognition Banquet



TOP LEFT: Accepting the Beautification Award for Deukmejian Wilderness Park was Stuart Byles, center, flanked by Chamber Vice President Mike Baldwin (left) and CV Chamber President Mike Riley.
 TOP MIDDLE: Chuck Hughes was named Volunteer of the Year.
 TOP RIGHT: David Green received the Student of the Year Award, presented by Mary O'Keefe, right, and flanked by Mike Riley, left, and Mike Baldwin.
 BOTTOM LEFT: From left, Jo Loomis, Leslie Lesh, Mary Pinola, Bobbie Parker and Teri Rice.
 MIDDLE: From left, Mike Baldwin, Robert Manciero, Woman of the Year Donna Libra and Mike Riley.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: From left, Robin Johnson, Leslie Lesh, Joe Kroening and Ron Scott.

On Thursday the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce honored community members at its annual Recognition Banquet. Those honored were:

Woman of the Year – *Donna Libra*; Man of the Year – *Joe Allen*; Business of the Year – *RestoKleen*; Organization of the Year – *Community Foundation of the Verdugos*; Educator of the Year – *Mathew Schick*; Student of the Year – *David Green*; Volunteer of the Year – *Chuck Hughes*; Glendale Police Dept. Officer of the Year – *Officer Bryan Duncan*; Crescenta Valley Sheriff Deputy of the Year – *Deputy Vostanik Grigoryan*; Altadena California Highway Patrol Officer of the Year – *Officer Robert Manzano*; Los Angeles County Firefighter of the Year – *Firefighter Specialist Joshua Swaney*; and Community Beautification Award – *Deukmejian Wilderness Park*.

Over 100 people attended the banquet, which was held at the Elks Lodge in Glendale.

To see more photos, visit www.cvweekly.com/NEWS.

By Mary O'KEEFE

Photos by Dick CLUBB

2024

LCFTRA Float Design Contest

The La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association (LCFTRA) invites you to submit a Float design idea for the 2024 LCFTRA Rose Parade Float!

Please submit your idea (max. 250 characters) at www.lcftra.org by Sunday January 8, 2023.

The winning design will be announced in Spring, 2023. If your idea is chosen, you will receive two tickets to the 2023 Rose Parade!

To guide your creative thinking, a compelling Float design idea should:

- Be simple and easy to understand (a viewer should "get it" in 5 seconds or less)
- Be animated, with elements of whimsy, humor, and surprise
- Reflect the Rose Parade Theme

While the 2024 Rose Parade theme will not be announced until later in January, we can offer this teaser: The 2024 theme celebrates the role of music in our lives and as part of our collective culture.

In the event we receive multiple designs with a similar approach, LCFTRA will select one winner, with existing LCFTRA Members receiving preference. All submitted ideas are property of LCFTRA.

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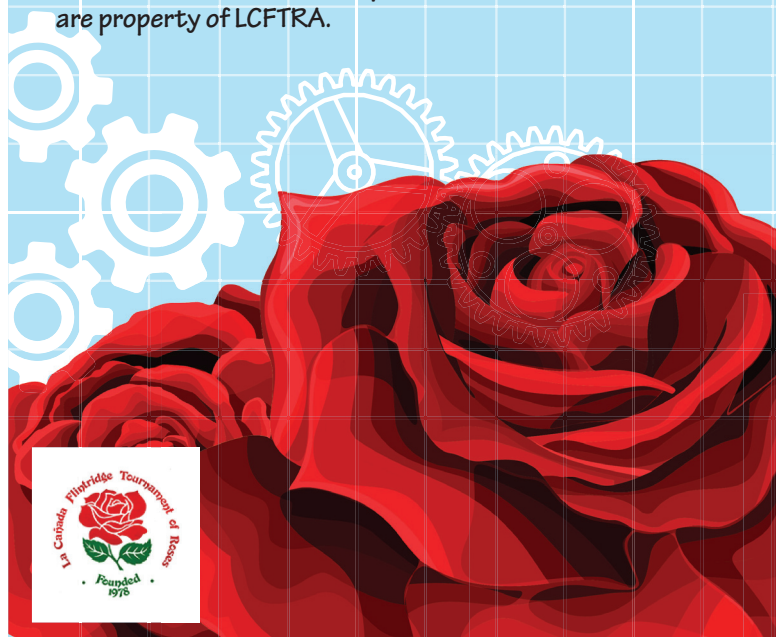
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GCC from Cover

Flanigan's company was contracted by the City in August to help guide the RFP proposal team. EcoMotion and City staff met weekly to go over the process. Flanigan said he was asked to reach out to the companies that sent in a Notice of Intent and inquire why they did not go to the next step of sending in a proposal. He received responses from 14 out of the 24; their reasons varied from the lack of sites for solar and exclusion of municipal sites for solar and the City's requirement for a bond, which would cost the company funds just to make a proposal and is difficult for some newer companies to acquire.

Public comments on this subject were pretty consistent. Disappointment in the Council was the most commonly heard comment. Those who shared their opinions during public comment stated this process had

taken a long time and pointed out that when it comes to combating climate change time is of the essence. And they were also disappointed that out of all the companies it came down to two that the City was now looking at.

One speaker said when dealing with rapid technology, like that of energy companies, it's much different from the way RFPs used to be done.

The Council had a discussion on what its RFP policy issues were and how it could move forward on creating new and more receptive RFPs for this type of industry. Though councilmembers briefly considered issuing a new RFP for this project they realized this would cause issues with the companies that made the proposals in good faith with the existing RFP. It would also add even more time to something that had already taken so long.

Flanigan said he had spoken

with a colleague who had looked at over 40 RFPs and none had the extensive requirements as did Glendale.

"This is a hot industry and there is a lot of competition," he said. "The vendors have the luxury of where they can propose."

One of the speakers used the term "sabotage" when speaking of the RFP process in the City. Councilmember Ara Najarian said he read the RFP and felt it was broad and flexible.

Flanigan agreed with that assessment – to a point – but added that once possible companies drilled down and got into the City's requirements there were a number of factors that would be difficult to meet.

Najarian did not like the term "sabotage" and said there wasn't a problem with the City but a problem with the industry itself.

"They were not ready to commit to a deal we were offering them," he said.

Councilmember Dan Brotman disagreed with Najarian.

"It is us, it's not the industry," he countered.

Brotman added that he too did not like the term "sabotage" because it implied ill intent but the industry seemed to be working well in other cities so maybe it was time for the Council to look at its RFP process.

"We only got four submissions out of 24," Brotman pointed out.

The discussion ended with Council having staff vet the two companies that had gone through the process for this project but also instructed staff members to review the RFP process for future projects.

CRIME BLOTTER

Dec. 20

900 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, deputies responded to an activated burglary alarm call at a business. Upon arrival it was discovered the front glass door had been shattered and paperwork was found on the floor overnight.

Nov. 28

2400 block of Montrose Avenue in Montrose, someone cut the window screen at a home; however, the window had not been damaged at 8:30 a.m.

3000 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Crescenta, two men, both described as Hispanic, entered a store and took two bottles of liquor without attempting to pay. Surveillance footage revealed Suspect No. 1 as about 5'7" tall, about 135 pounds with brown hair. He was wearing a black jacket, black sweatpants and black shoes. Suspect No. 2 was described as about 5'7" tall, about 140 pounds, with brown hair. He was wearing a tan hoodie with bright pink writing on the front and back, black sweatpants with white stripes down the sides and white shoes. They walked into the store and straight to the area where the liquor was. Suspect No. 2 picked up a bottle and began to inspect it while Suspect No. 1 appeared to speak with an employee. When the employee turned and walked away both suspects ran out of the store, both carrying liquor bottles. The theft occurred at 8:50 p.m.

2800 block of Sanborn Avenue in La Crescenta, several items were stolen from a vehicle overnight.

2600 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Crescenta, two suspects entered a store and walked straight to the personal hygiene area. They were there for about five minutes. They took several items off the store shelf, put them into a trash bag they had brought with them and ran from the store. Suspect No. 1 was described as a black female with black braided hair wearing a red hooded sweater and black sweatpants. Suspect No. 2 was described as a black male with short black braided hair and wearing a grey hooded sweater with green sweatpants. Both suspects entered the store carrying black trash bags.

The theft occurred at 1:35 p.m.

2900 block of Highridge Road in La Crescenta, several rooms were ransacked and a doggie door was broken from its frame of a home. Nothing was reported stolen at the time. The call was responded to at 11:45 a.m.

Nov 27

700 Hillcrest Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge, baseball equipment was stolen from an unlocked vehicle at 5:39 a.m.

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ZOO from Cover

lination, nutrient cycling and control of agricultural pests. The conference began on Dec. 7 and runs through Dec. 15 in Montreal, Canada. There are representatives from over 100 countries in attendance, all who have ratified the conference goals in the past. (The U.S. is not included since it did not ratify.) The convention is to safeguard plant and animal species and ensure natural resources are used in sustainable ways. It is

also seeking fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from natural genetic material, like those used in medicine. Included among those representatives from those countries will be representatives from the State of California, the only state in the U.S. that is participating in COP15. Because the U.S. has not ratified the agreement, and California is not an independent government, the representatives can only go

as observers. "California [first] came to the CBD in December 2020 and this was part of a coalition effort of non-profit organizations and elected officials from around California," said Dr. Jennifer Norris, California Natural Resources Agency, at a press conference prior to COP15. Rosalind Helfand, co-founder of the California Global Biodiversity Network, brought the conference about two and

a half years ago to the attention of Assemblymember Laura Friedman. She continued to push her assemblymember to have the State of California involved with the conference, which led to California representatives attending this month's event. Friedman said that as more species become extinct in the world it is a little overwhelming to begin work on how to solve the issues surrounding biodiversity. "When you hear about a fish going extinct you may say, 'Well, I don't really care about that fish' but a bird [that] eats that fish cares," she said. "And another animal that lives off that bird or seeds that are spread by that bird that are no longer going to germinate across the state. [These examples] show that every single one of these animals fit into a pattern of nature and that any extinction has huge ripple effects that ultimately hurt humans' chances of surviving. [This can] lead to pandemic, and famine, and hunger. And lead, at the very basic level, to [a future] where our children, including my

9-year-old, will not inherit the richness of the Earth we all grew up with. Imagine a time when there are no elephants in the wild, no big cats roaming the hills of Los Angeles. That is something that we can see happening in our lifetime. But we can stop it." She added that COP15 and the action that takes place at the conference will give the world a chance to push back on destruction. In the upcoming weeks, CVW will be reporting on the progress of the COP15 and what each member of the coalition is bringing to the table and how they are working together.

Sign up for our CV Weekly E-BLAST. E-mail info@cvweekly.com to receive an e-mail with the latest community news.

CONCERT from Cover

asked to wait in the lobby until that piece of music ends then will be seated. This is not only to respect the audience's time but also to show respect for the student musicians. Respect is the foundation of the CVIM Dept. and how Schick inspires students. "I have always been a big proponent in student leadership," he said. Schick leads a music program that includes 250 students and student leaders help support all students. "We have a huge leadership program," he said. "If students want to be an officer in the marching band [for example] they can join a leadership workshop." Schick and officers have created an outline on leadership qualities and another outlines how the officers want to move the program forward. Any student, and parent, who has been part of CVIM knows the amount of time and dedication it takes to be part of this program. Students rehearse and prepare for performances while continuing their regular school studies. That is why Schick prioritizes student camaraderie. CVIM has a lot of team-building exercises including a trip to the mountain town Blue Jay where leaders work together to build their sections. "We want kids not to dread coming to [rehearsal/practice]," he said. "Our big thing is to

understand we are in this together." Friendships form among members of the band; some go to each other's homes, have meals together and work together. They have team-building events like pancake parties. "What makes me happy is to see that they enjoy being together," he said. And because of that dedication Schick has been receiving quite a few awards this year including most recently the Glendale Unified Teacher of the Year and Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year. This is in addition to an Honorary Service Award he received earlier in the year from Glendale Council PTA. The awards and recognition have been coming in this year so often that Schick has been asked if he was retiring. He is not. He is CVIM director and loves his job, and his students. Schick said he had some tough times growing up but his mother taught him independence and confidence. During his Teacher of the Year acceptance speech at a Glendale Education Foundation State of the Schools, he said the band was where he found "his space." He thanked his wife and family, and his mom. "She was a single mom who raised me by herself. She taught me that a stuttering, flute-playing boy had value and that not only girls played the flute and [it was not true that

only] stupid people stutter," he said at the time. That confidence and place of home he felt through joining the music department is what he wants his students to feel during their time at CVIM. He now has two sons at CVHS and in the music department so he understands the balance that kids need between music and school work and is sensitive to how COVID has affected the way students approach school. "There is a definite COVID hangover," he said. That is another reason it is important for all the musicians in the program to feel they have a place that is safe and where they belong. "This doesn't feel like a job to me," he said. "I get to come to a place where I get to work with kids, they get to play music, I get to play music and I feel very fortunate." Tickets for the Winter Concert are available at the door and are \$10. The funds raised are dedicated for CVIM and will pay for uniforms and travel expenses and toward their upcoming trip to New York where they will play at Carnegie Hall (more on that in future articles). For those who cannot make the concert but would still like to support CVIM they can do so by emailing Melissa Stephen at president@falconmusic.org or mailing a check to the school at CVHS, 2900 Community Ave., La Crescenta, California 91214.

WEATHER from page 2

"This is my doctor," said one person at the lot when she met a family picking out a tree. "He's my doctor, too," Smith said. There were CVHS graduates and parents of graduates as well as people who just stopped by because they saw the sign advertising Christmas trees for sale. I know this happens at the lot at the Y as well, which is what makes this community such a special place to live. Community is everywhere and somehow, at least for the moment we were all picking out our trees, it really did seem like there's peace on earth and goodwill toward all. Since this is the weather column, I must look at how climate change has affected Christmas trees.

It takes eight years for a Noble fir seedling to mature to seven-to-eight feet and, as summers get hotter, tree growers in Oregon are trying to adjust to the change. They are starting to develop tree varieties that are more drought and heat resistant but that will take awhile. In the meantime, a lot of farmers have reported this year more burnt or wilted tips and branches on their trees. The tree damage really depends on where in Oregon they are planted. The extreme heat mixed with the already dry summer didn't just affect seedlings; the weather also had adverse effects on mature tree stands, according to Chal Lundgren, a Christmas tree farmer and Oregon State University Extension's

Christmas tree specialist. His comments were in the article "Climate Change and the Future of Christmas Trees" from Oregon State University. The weather for the area is more of the same. From today through Tuesday we will see highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid-to-low 40s. There is a slight chance of rain on Friday night, a 30% chance of rain on Saturday after 10 a.m. and then again in the evening through to Sunday. Monday will be mostly clear. It looks like Tuesday and Wednesday of next week will be a little colder with highs in the upper 50s during the day and then dropping to the upper 30s in the evening. No rain expected from Monday to Friday, but the weather is predicted to be cloudy.

Correction

In the Dec. 1 article "Verdugo Wash Vision Project Still A Concern," the former mayor who spoke at the Nov. 15 meeting was Vartan Gharpetian, not Vrej Agajanian.

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Further Memories of Old La Crescenta – Building A Castle

We continue with the interview of Herbert Bathey, done in the 1950s or '60s. The Bathey family moved to the valley in 1883. This is a selection of the notes taken during the interview,

my comments in brackets.

In this article I relate the interview notes about the building of the Gould Castle in 1892, near the top of today's Ocean View Boulevard. May Gould was the niece of Benjamin Briggs. She fancied herself an artist. She had done the grand tour of Europe, as was fashionable for wealthy people of that era, and while there was taken with Spanish castles. Once back in the U.S., she married Eugene Gould and planned a huge stone castle on a terrace overlooking the valley, very near her uncle Benjamin Briggs. Herbert Bathey relates:

"Father was the foreman on the castle building. Elliot was the man who cut the granite. He was from New Mexico and had been in the British Navy at one time. [He] was a petty officer and deserted in New York Harbor, hidden by American sailors. He worked his way west, fighting Indians and killing buffalo. He was a miner in New Mexico and was in Colorado

for the Gold Rush.

"[Pierre] Escalle laid up the dry walls [not using mortar] around the castle. No names for the masons of the valley. The masons boarded or slept on the ground. There were six Chinese who got sand and gravel from the bottom of Pickens Wash. There was a cable car that ascended the cliff [bringing up the sand and rocks]. The cable was spooled at the top on a 'wim' [an old word for a capstan] and hauled the 100 yards of cable in. The site of the cable [car] was a little way above the old barn [around the intersection of Ocean View and Fairhurst] and until recently some of the track was lying at the top. The wim was operated by horsepower [harnessed and walking in a circle around the capstan]. White men mixed the mortar and raised the rocks with a pulley. The rock was split with 'feathers,' wedges placed in holes about four inches apart on the surface of likely rocks, done wherever they found the rocks. Many of the rocks were found on the

Escalle place on Briggs.

"The castle was completed in 1892. Eugene Gould built the castle for his wife May, who designed it after a Spanish castle. She was a good artist. Footprints of her children are still in the pavement on the west side of the castle.

"It had a lead roof, which stretched in the heat and weighed [too much]. It was replaced with a tin roof, which rusted. The floors rotted out over a period of time as there was no ventilation from underneath. Bathey wanted to put in ventilation, but Mrs. Gould wanted none as it wasn't like the Spanish castle to have [ventilation] ports."

Despite the design flaws insisted on by May Gould, it really was a spectacular castle complete with a tower and an open courtyard filled with fountains and statues and interiors of colorful walls, beautiful rugs and cherry wood furniture. A dream come true. But the dream only lasted a few short years. Eugene made bad investments that wiped

out the family fortune.

It was foreclosed on and the Gould family was forced out. The castle briefly operated as a hotel, but was then abandoned and the sumptuous furnishings carted away. It sat empty and foreboding for decades.

In 1955 it was demolished, the rock pushed into an adjoining canyon. Today the empty site of the castle is an undeveloped flat spot on the hill above the end of Canalda Drive, an empty lot that once had a castle.

Copies of Mike's newest book "Weird Crescenta Valley: Historical and Natural Oddities" are now on sale – a perfect Christmas gift. It's available in local bookstores Once Upon A Time bookstore in Montrose and Flintridge Books in La Cañada. You can also buy it from the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley via its website CVHistory.org under the "Shop" tab.

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 » PRESIDENT HARRY LEON

Goodbye November, Hello December!

It is the month of December, a wonderful time of the year.

May you all have a peaceful holiday season and much joy and prosperity in the New Year! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Let me start this month's column by congratulating all candidates who ran in the Nov. 18-19 Crescenta Valley Town Council election. We had a tremendous turnout with 277 votes counted spread over 287 voters. We had so many that we had to run out and print additional ballots!

The results for the 2022 election, as certified by Election Committee Chair Chris Kilpatrick, are as follows: Harry Leon re-elected with 34% of the vote, Donna Libra re-elected 31%, Aram Ordubegian re-elected with 21%, Ted Yu re-elected 9% as first alternate, and Dr. Young Suh elected with 11.2% as second alternate.

I look forward to working with the newly elected and returning members of the Town Council to make the Crescenta Valley fulfill its potential as "A Community That Cares."

But first, some thanks are due: foremost to Election Committee Vice President Chris Kilpatrick, Councilmember Kerri Lewin, Councilmember Frida Baghdassarian and Councilmember Dede Mueller for helping with the election.

Mark your Calendars

Tonight, Thursday, Dec. 8 is the 8th Annual La Crescenta

Christmas tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. at La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd. This event is sponsored by LA County Supervisor – Fifth District – Kathryn Barger.

The Crescenta Valley Town Council stands in solidarity with the courageous actions of the people of Iran and joins them in their calls for change, freedom, justice and for the protection of human rights for all citizens of the country. In response to the tragic death of Mahsa Amini, the people of Iran and around the world have been protesting, demanding change. There is no place for violence, prosecution or persecution of those who are seeking justice, freedom to exercise bodily autonomy including choice of dress and the upholding of their basic human rights as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations. We call on the relevant authorities to support and enable the expression of the people in a safe environment without fear.

The Crescenta Valley Town Council, as a self-governing advisory body to the fifth supervisorial district of the County of Los Angeles, recognizes and embraces its responsibility to promote equality for all its citizens, residents and visitors and will continue to honor its duty to promote tolerance, non-discrimination and diversity within our community. We support our American Iranian

neighbors as they call for justice.

We stand with the entire world to end violence, remove discriminatory laws against and to end harassment of the women of Iran.

Illegal dumping continues to be a huge problem in our community. It is also a huge safety and health concern for our community members. It is a disgrace to our community to dump trash wherever people please. I drive around daily and see mattresses, furniture and other items that have been left out for days. Take pride in your community! We are not a dumping ground. If you are a resident in La Crescenta or La Cañada Flintridge who has bulky items that have been dropped at your residence or in your neighborhood, you can call (888) 838-6746 or download The Works iPhone or Android applications. Anyone who witnesses illegal dumping in the unincorporated portion of LA County can call (888) 838-6746. We are in this together.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our Dec. 15 general meeting starting at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd. Please contact CVTC at contact@thecvcouncil.com. We wish you, our beloved community, a very prosperous and Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Harry Leon, President
Crescenta Valley Town Council

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9:30 pm

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

PSHA Home Announced

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts recently announced the dates and location of the 2023 Pasadena Showcase House of Design, one of the nation's oldest, largest and most successful home and garden tours.

The 58th Showcase House will reimagine Stewart House, a 1933 grand colonial estate with spectacular acreage in a storied Pasadena neighborhood. Public tours of the Showcase House will take place April 23 – May 21, 2023. Golden Tickets are now on sale.

"We feel incredibly lucky to present the Stewart House as our 2023 Pasadena Showcase House of Design," said Vikki Sung, president of Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts. "Featured in 1983 as the 19th Showcase House, we are revisiting this incredible property, stewarded by the same family for nearly 40 years, to reintroduce this majestic estate to a new generation."

Designed by Marston &

Maybury, one of Pasadena's most celebrated architectural partnerships, Stewart House harks back to the days of gracious architecture and quintessential Showcase with over 11,000 square feet of living space sited on two acres of carefully landscaped and exquisitely manicured grounds.

Following just four short months of renovation, over 25,000 guests will tour through the 30-plus interior and landscape design spaces highlighting cutting-edge trends in high-style living. Guests can expect the famous Shops at Showcase, offering a variety of boutique and craft merchants, as well as several on-site restaurants offering hot meals and grab & go snacks, as well as beer, wine and cocktails. Entertainment and programming is planned throughout the event showcasing local musicians, speakers, special tours and more.

The Pasadena Showcase House of Design is the primary fundraiser benefit for Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts,

an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. During the 2021-22 program year, the organization contributed \$500,000 to local nonprofits

supporting music and arts programs and, since 1948, has contributed more than \$24 million. Golden Tickets (valid any

day or time) are now on sale and can be purchased at pasadenashowcase.org/tickets. Timed entry tickets will go on sale in early February.



Stewart House

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital – Caring for the Community for 50 Years

In the late 1960s, the neighborhoods at the base of the Verdugo Mountains were quiet and rustic and a lot more isolated from the rest of Los Angeles. Neither the 2 nor the 210 freeways had been built and so getting in and out of the area was a far more difficult task than it is today. The nearest full-service hospital at the time was in Glendale, which was too far for comfort in the event of an emergency. This led community leaders and local physicians to lobby for a neighborhood hospital.

A proposal surfaced to repurpose and relocate the small

existing Behrens Memorial Hospital that had long-term viability issues due to new California State Dept. of Health codes and no room for expansion. The plan was developed by Behrens' physicians and community leaders to create a true, community-based hospital – with a name that reflected the communities it would serve – Verdugo Hills Hospital. J. Morgan Greene and his family donated land for the construction of the new hospital on a hillside where the cities of La Cañada Flintridge and La Crescenta meet the Verdugo Mountains.

When it opened in 1972,

Verdugo Hills Hospital was a victory for the community that lobbied so hard to have it built. It became a model community hospital where doctors and staff developed relationships with the patients they treated and their families.

By the early 2000s, however, Verdugo Hills Hospital experienced the financial challenges of being an independent hospital not

affiliated with a larger health system.

"With the merger between Keck Medicine of USC and Verdugo Hills Hospital in 2013, huge investments were made in restoring and revitalizing the important health care resources that this community had come to rely on," said Armand Dorian, MD, MMM, CEO of USC-VHH.

The hospital now has a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,

an Interventional Radiology and Cardiac Catheterization Lab, an award-winning Emergency Dept., a nationally-ranked Urology Dept. (via Keck Medicine of USC) and a robust women's health practice. It is also a center of excellence for knee and hip replacement and physical medicine.

One thing that has not

see USC VHH on page 13

Questions About Today's Real Estate? Ask Phyllis!

Inspector Not Allowed To Walk On The Roof

Dear Phyllis,

My son purchased a home earlier this year when the market was much more difficult for buyers. There were more than fifteen offers on the La Crescenta home he bought. His Realtor advised him to waive his loan and appraisal contingencies to be competitive. In addition, he had only five days to complete inspections. When it came time for the inspection, the seller's agent remained at the home, and the inspector was not allowed to walk on the roof. Therefore, the roof could not be inspected. After it closed, it rained, and my son discovered a leak. I suspect the seller's agent was covering up a problem, and my son should go after her. What are your thoughts?

Alice

Dear Alice,

It was a much more competitive market earlier this year, and home buyers were much more aggressive. I agree that five days is a tight timeline for inspections. Before your son does anything, he should review the seller's disclosures—the Transfer Disclosure and the Seller Property Questionnaire. If the seller was aware of a roof leak, they should have disclosed it on these forms. In addition, your son should review his inspection report. If there was an attic crawl space, your son's inspector should have noted if there was evidence of previous leaks.

I don't know what type of roof your son's home has. For instance, if it's slate or concrete tile, it can easily be cracked if walked on improperly. In this instance, the

seller's agent was correct in not allowing the inspector to walk on the roof. Some inspectors have drones to view the roof. And this would have been an ideal solution in your son's instance. Did his inspector or his Realtor mention this?

I understand that with the five-day inspection contingency that hiring a roof inspector with a drone would have gone beyond the deadline. However, your son could have removed his investigative contingency except for the roof portion and asked for an extension on that aspect. If the seller's agent didn't mention this before you arrived at the inspection, I don't see how she or the seller could have refused a reasonable time extension.

Phyllis




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Winter Wonderland Coming to LCWC



La Crescenta women have turned the clubhouse of the La Crescenta Woman's Club, 4004 La Crescenta Ave., into a winter wonderland for the upcoming Movie with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Attendance is free for children and families. Their Christmas party luncheon, held on

Wednesday, Dec. 14, is open to guests to join in caroling with the Verdugo Hills Women Chorus. All in the community are invited to come by and join the festivities.

For more information, call president Danette Erickson at (818) 249-9577.

CV WEEKLY ON THE MOVE



Paul and Kim Mattersteig took CV Weekly along on a vacation that included a stop at June Lake.

CV Weekly loves to travel! Take us along on your next trip and send us a photo. You may find yourselves on the pages of the community's favorite newspaper.

USC VHH from previous page

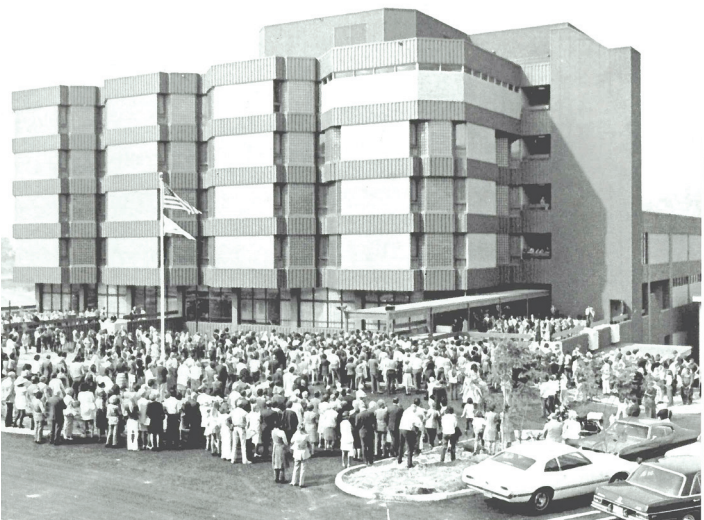
changed is the personal touch and the comfort of receiving care in a smaller, more intimate hospital.

"We still wanted to provide the personalized care to the patients that we serve in this community and I think we have kept that," said Happy Khanna, MD, chief of staff at USC-VHH. "Our patients are always very satisfied."

Looking forward to the next 50 years, the staff at USC-VHH believes it will continue to provide the foothill communities with even better health care. Through the affiliation with Keck Medicine, there is more opportunity to provide personalized, multidisciplinary care that is the hallmark of health care in the future.

"We are set up to be leaders in regard to how health care is

provided going into the next century," said Paul Gilbert, MD, orthopedic surgeon.



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Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

CVHS Graduate Presents Local Production of 'A Christmas Carol'

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

It appears that local director Carter Thomas loves Christmas. The Crescenta Valley High School graduate, an accomplished actor, played the character of Tiny Tim in productions of "A Christmas Carol" for 18 years. He has taken his experience and training to direct local productions of "A Christmas Carol" for the last couple of years, including during the pandemic.

"We did a virtual production of 'A Christmas Carol' during COVID," Thomas said. "I've seen how much joy it brings to people."

Thomas brings the magic of the Christmas story to the stage at Highlands Church, formerly La Crescenta Baptist and Community Life Church, at 4441 La Crescenta Ave. beginning Dec. 9 through Dec. 17.

This is the second year that Thomas brought the production

see ACC on page 15



Photo provided by C. THOMAS

ABOVE: Analisa Idalia, Ekaterina Bouras, Tiffany Brevard and Stuart Galbraith as Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol".

LEFT: Becca Last and Hunter C. Smith as Bob Cratchit & Tiny Tim.

BELOW: Narrators Tiffany Brevard, Analisa Idalia and Ekaterina Bouras.



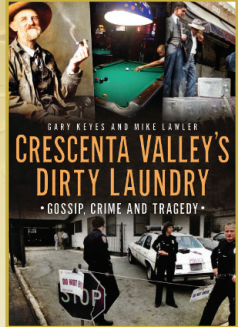
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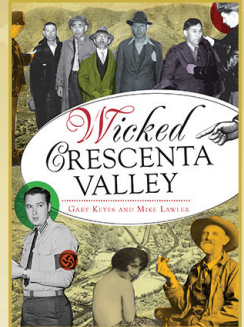


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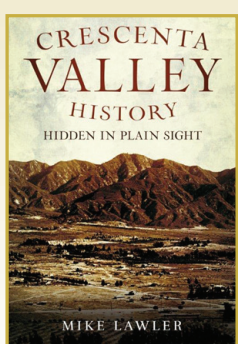
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE CRESCENTA VALLEY

ACC from page 14

to La Crescenta – and he hopes it's not the last.

"I want to bring theatre to La Crescenta on a permanent basis," said Thomas adding Highlands is one of the best venues he's worked in.

Thomas' "A Christmas Carol" is noted as a fresh, beautiful adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas tale though

Thomas promises that the production retains the charm of the classic tale.

"It's a really great production," he said. "It's the traditional 'A Christmas Carol' people know and love with the incorporation of over a dozen classic holiday songs."

Thomas expanded on the story saying this production in

particular connects people to the performance.

"It has a new set and new lighting, which enhances the story," he said.

The family-friendly production also has whimsical costumes, dancing and timeless carols – all which add to the good cheer shared among audience members. The transforming

story also takes a deeper look at the importance of how accepting community into people's lives creates happier and richer lives.

Looking ahead, Thomas said that directing a production of one of his favorite musicals – "Peter Pan" – would be something he'd like to tackle.

"I have a heart for this community," he said, "and a

passion to bring theatre here. I want to create a hub for people to enjoy."

"A Christmas Carol" is at Highlands Church from Dec. 9 through Dec. 17. Reserve tickets are available at www.highlandsla.com or by calling (818) 249-5832. Tickets are also available at the door.

The Group Rep Brings 'Promises, Promises' to North Hollywood

By Bethany BROWN

Crescenta Valley High School performing arts teachers, spouses and members of The Group Rep – Brent Beerman and Kathi Chaplar – will be directing "Promises, Promises" this holiday season at the Lonny Chapman Theatre in North Hollywood, 10900 Burbank Blvd.

The onstage musical will be performed through Sunday, Jan. 15 following opening night on Friday, Dec. 9. The Group Rep – or Lonny Chapman Group Repertory Theatre (LCGRT) – is a non-profit theatre company of actors, directors and playwrights. The company formed in 1973 and has since produced over 200 productions including more than 37 world premieres of original works. Both Beerman and Chaplar have been members of the organization since 2017 and expressed their excitement for the opportunity to co-direct together professionally for the first time.

"It's like coming home in that this is what Brent and I have done for almost 30 years," Chaplar said. "When we're at school we kind of do our separate things, so it's really fun for us to be collaborating closely in this way."

Beerman has worked at CVHS since 1994 and Chaplar since 1996 and throughout that time they've overseen nearly

30 school productions. While there are some differences between school productions and professional productions, they agree that neither is "better" than the other.

"They're different and they each have their own energy," Chaplar said. "Working with young performers is exciting because there's a lot of discovery that occurs in the process of them discovering their voice and their own power on stage; there's something really rewarding about that."

She said on the other hand working with seasoned actors is also exciting because they're able to bring their own vision to the stage and fulfill that vision with the directors.

Beerman added that working with students is "more mentor, less collaborative in a sense" so they've enjoyed the abundance of creative collaboration that has gone into this project given their large team.

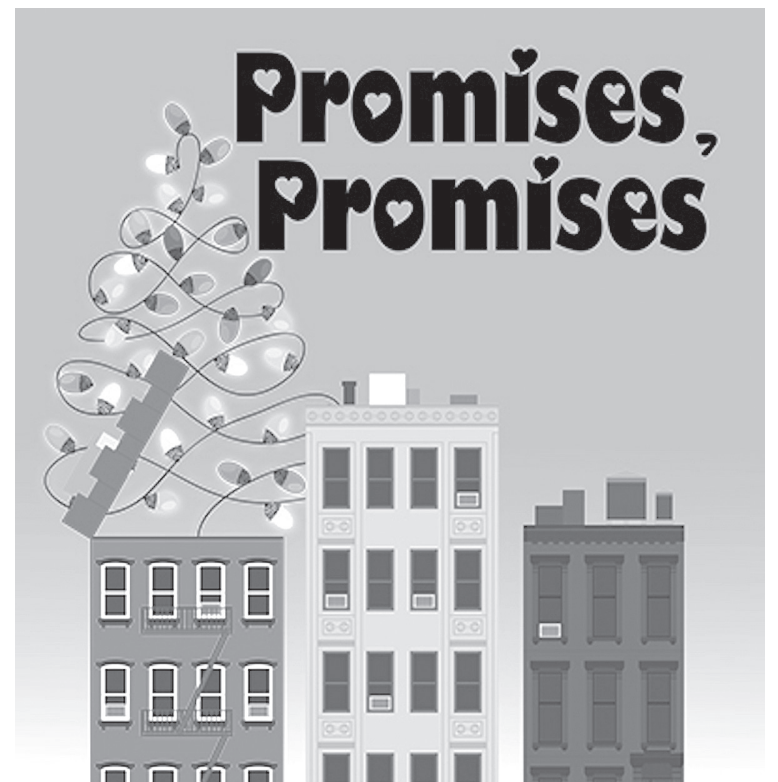
As for how the duo balances full-time teaching with their demanding director roles outside the classroom, they claim the key is learning how to conserve creative energy so that they can give it to their different projects equally. While they admit that sometimes it feels like there are not enough hours in the day, they've found a successful balance by having a strictly organized schedule and ultimately doing just one thing at a time.

"That's really what helps us the most," Beerman said, noting that they're done at school at around 3:30 p.m. and attend rehearsal at the theatre from 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on weekdays. "It's just a matter of taking it one day at a time."

Chaplar added that the entire "Promises, Promises" cast has spent nearly every day rehearsing since the beginning of October to get ready for the big opening night.

"Promises, Promises" is based on the 1960 comedy film, "The Apartment," which revolves around a junior executive at an insurance company who seeks to climb the corporate ladder by allowing his apartment to be used for trysts by his married superiors. The music is by Burt Bacharach, lyrics by Hal David and the book by Neil Simon. Chaplar said it's just a funny and quirky show that feels timely considering most of the play takes place during the holidays after trouble begins at the annual office Christmas party.

The musical first premiered in 1968 on Broadway and closed after 1,281 performances. It was revived as a West End production a year later and featured Tony Roberts and Betty Buckley. The cast album won the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, and two songs from the show – including "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" by Dionne Warwick



– became hit singles.

"We're going to truly be a part of the holidays with this performance and hopefully a part of people's holiday agendas," Beerman said. "It's been fun watching all the pieces come together and we're excited to finally share with an audience what we've been preparing for."

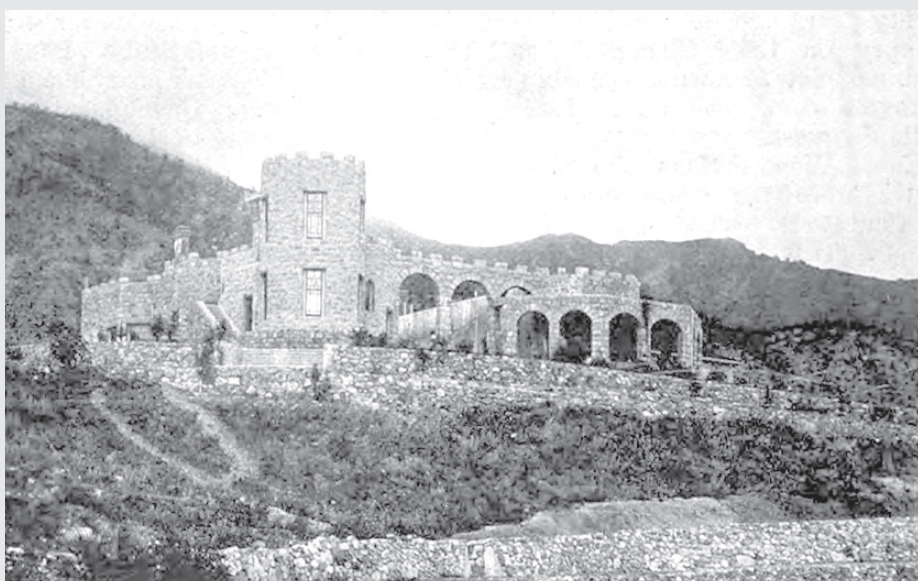
Shows will be held Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. – including on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.thegrouprep.com. For more information, call (818) 763-5990 or email info@thegrouprep.com.

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THEN & NOW



THEN: Gould Castle was undoubtedly the most remarkable structure ever built in the valley. Eugene and May Gould built this fairytale castle in 1892 from the profits they made from investments in raisins. Located high on the east side of Pickens Canyon, rock and sand for the castle construction was hauled up from the canyon floor by a windlass on an incline railway by Chinese labor.



Now: Soon after the Goulds built the castle they lost their fortune. The castle stood abandoned for many decades, serving as a tourist attraction and site for the filming of a few "B" movies. It was demolished in 1955, when these homes were built around it. This is the 5300 block of Ocean View Boulevard looking east. The castle was located in the center of this photo about where the umbrella-shaped Italian stone pine tree can be seen.

*Gould Castle
Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV*

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Scene in L.A. December 2022

By Steve ZALL and Sid FISH

Most theaters have returned to normal operations; however, county mandates for mask requirements are still being decided as we go to press, so check the current guidelines before leaving to attend any performances. COVID protocols also vary from venue to venue, so proof of vaccination may need to be shown and/or a mask worn during a show. Please communicate with the theater before attending an event to find out what is their current policy.

The information presented in this column is the latest available at the time of printing; however, it should be verified with the theater before making definite plans.

Here are the shows that have announced opening dates for this month, or are already running at this time:

"Chriskirkpatrickmas: A Boy

Band Christmas Musical" Holiday entertainment just got more magical. Think, "A Christmas Carol" meets "It's a Wonderful Life" meets ...*NSYNC. It's Christmas Eve 2009 and Chris Kirkpatrick from *NSYNC has a decision to make. This musical parody mashup of holiday classics features 12 original songs in a celebration of the season with music direction by Taylor Williams whose work can be heard on the Grammy Award winning albums Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen and The Color Purple (2016 revival).

Written by Alison Zatta, with music by Alison Zatta and Valen Shore, and directed by Valen Shore, it runs through Dec. 11 at the Actors Company in Los Angeles. For tickets, visit www.chriskirkpatrickmas.com.

"Bob's Holiday Office Party" Every year, insurance agent Bob Finhead's whacked out friends and clients stop by his small-town Iowa office for

their annual holiday bash. The town mayor, the sheriff, the twin farmer sisters, the stoner, the town floozy and the pastor's wife have already RSVP'd for this year's event. But Bob has dreams of a bigger life and wants to escape their narrow-minded thinking. Will he be able to fulfill his dream of becoming a professional inventor and move to the big city or will he come to realize how much he is the heart and soul of the town? Will any of this matter once the party starts, the bickering and fighting begins, and the drinks hit the floor? The play is set in the office of insurance salesman Bob Finhead in Neuterburg, Iowa (population 382). Bob is carrying on a flirtation with the mayor's wife, while the mayor himself is busy accommodating a male houseguest. Joe, the alcoholic town sheriff, is attracted to Brandy, the town party girl who is the twin sister of Carol, the minister's emotionally disturbed wife. There's one other set of twins in town, La Donna and La Voris Johnson, wealthy farmers who are proud members of the Neuterburg Tea Party.

Written by Joe Keyes and Rob Elk, and directed by Matt Roth, it runs through Dec. 18 at the Beverly Hills Playhouse in Beverly Hills. For tickets, visit www.onstage411.com/BHOP.

"A Christmas Carol" tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a prosperous curmudgeon of a man who believes that personal wealth is far more valuable than the happiness and comfort of others. With an infuriated "Bah! Humbug!" Scrooge summates his feelings of Christmas tidings and charitable giving, but he's forced to face his selfish ways when three ghosts on Christmas Eve lead him through his Past, Present, and Future. Thanks to their guidance, Scrooge eventually learns to recognize his faults and greets Christmas morning with a cheerful "Happy Christmas" before spending the day reconnecting and sharing love with those that mean the most to him.

Written by Charles Dickens, with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, and directed by Tim Nelson, it runs through Dec. 18 at the Rose Center Theater in Westminster. For tickets, visit www.rosecentertheater.com.

Steve Zall and Sid Fish of Scene in L.A. know a lot about L.A. theatre and are ready to share with CV Weekly readers. You can read more at CVWeekly.com/LEISURE.

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JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale hosts Aaron Galinis of Hollywood Burbank Airport on Friday, Dec. 9. Meetings are held on Friday at noon. The cost to attend, which includes lunch, is \$15.

The Club meets Friday afternoons at the Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale.

INTERPRETIVE HIKE IN DEUKMEJIAN

On Dec. 10, the public is invited to an interpretive hike in Deukmejian Wilderness Park, a nature craft, nature themed games and a tour of the Stone Barn Nature Center. Water, snacks and free bus transportation from Pacific Community Center, leaving at 8:30 a.m. and returning at 12:30 p.m., will be provided.

Program time begins at 9 a.m. at Deukmejian Wilderness Park. Those who choose to meet at the park should arrive by 8:45 a.m. The program ends at noon and bus riders will return to Pacific Community Center by 12:30 p.m.

- To ride the free bus, arrive by 8 a.m. to check-in with the staff.
- Please wear sturdy shoes, long pants, and a hat or cap.
- Adult supervision is required! One adult for every three children 17 and under is required.
- Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/36dsn4rc> to RSVP. For more

information, please call (818) 937-7428.

Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road, La Crescenta/Glendale

LCWC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The La Crescenta Woman's Club is hosting a Christmas luncheon meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. The Verdugo Women's Chorus will provide entertainment signing Christmas songs. There is also a potluck luncheon. Either bring a dish to share or pay \$10.

Community guests are welcome to join in by calling the clubhouse to make a reservation: (818) 957-9806. The philanthropy for December is the sheriff's toy and food drive so bring along a toy or food donation.

Come and see the festive clubhouse decorations and be part of the fun getting into the holiday spirit!

The Clubhouse is located at 4004 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta.

DRIVING SAFE: A FREE WORKSHOP FOR TEENS

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge is hosting a workshop to teach teens aged 14-15 the importance of driving safely and distraction-free. Hosted by the Impact Teen Drivers Organization.

With a focus on engaging teens and their influencers, this presentation gives attendees evidence-based educational materials that engage, educate, and empower individuals to make better choices behind the wheel – whether as a driver or passenger.

Register for this free workshop at CCLCF.org or call the Main Office at (818) 790-4353 to join this workshop on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

CCLCF is located at 4469 Chevy Chase Dr., La Cañada Flintridge

THE RANDY VAN HORNE SINGERS AT BOLTON HALL

Bolton Hall Museum welcomes the Randy Van Horne Singers again this year for its 2022 Annual Holiday Party. The program, led by Sunland-Tujunga's songstress and mistress of ceremonies Franny McCartney, entertains with a new and unique selection of holiday songs. Visitors are invited to participate in a Christmas carol sing-along, drawings for great prizes and refreshments.

This event takes place at Bolton Hall Museum on Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Bolton Hall Museum, 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga

see CALENDAR THIS on next page



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT LANTERMAN HOUSE
Sunday, December 18
1pm to 4pm (FREE admission)

Celebrate the holiday season at the Lanterman House

- Caroling, crafts and treats!
- Display of vintage cars and model trains!
- Holiday Boutique featuring the work of local artists.

For more information, please visit www.lantermanhouse.org
No reservations necessary.

The Lanterman House is located at 4420 Encinas Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Edited by Timothy Parker

ACROSS

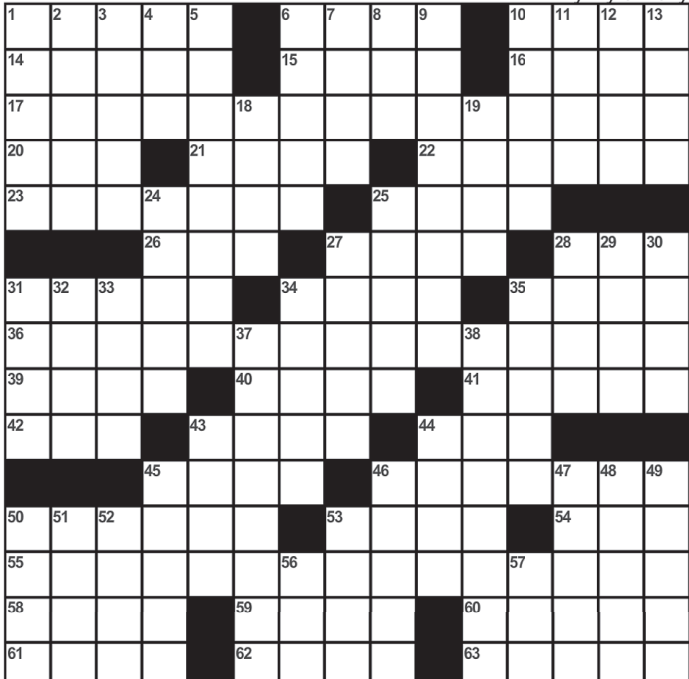
- About half of all humans
- Did something with
- Admire amorously
- Bearded brethren in buggies
- "Not guilty," e.g.
- Beach toy
- Popular garden plants
- Went "gobble gobble"?
- Weaver's machine
- Give, as blood
- Painter Homer
- Ringling or Warner abbr.
- Massachusetts cape
- Dutch South African
- Have, as a fever
- Pear variety
- Tale of Vikings, e.g.
- Go it alone
- Rural rubes
- Sharpen, as one's skills
- Albatross, figuratively
- Olympic race
- Just manage (with "out")
- Big galoots
- Trials and tribulations
- Tree with cones
- Worsens over time
- "... need is a friend ___"
- Suit material?
- Farm sound
- Fuse box alternatives
- Varied mixture
- Finch's home
- Skid-mark sources
- Beaks
- Drop one's jaw
- What a password permits

DOWN

- Rain forest parrot
- Cremona artisan
- Sheets on a shelf, collectively
- Prefix with "low"
- Fork over
- Kind of violin stroke
- Poverty district
- Always used by a poet?
- Space out, in a way
- Begins admitting customers
- Dressy event
- Spirited tune
- "If all ___ fails ..."
- Forty square rods
- Mannerless chap
- Biscuitlike pastry
- Like a \$3 bill
- Hindu misters
- Muddy, as waters
- Arm bone
- Minding everyone else's business
- Muscle malady
- Sheltered spot
- Big month for matrimony
- "The Playboy of the Western World" author
- Moving targets, of a sort
- Making 98 into 100 (with "up")
- Gland in men
- In ___ of (rather than)
- "___ all in this together"
- River to the Rio Grande
- Loud, in music
- Film critic Roger
- Less common
- Talking back
- Clickable picture
- Cairo's river
- Small amount of liquid
- Cook's meas.
- Wonderland drink
- What's all relative?

AN EYE ON TV

By Kyle Kelly



ANSWERS on page 18

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church presents

Our Christmas Choir Concert

Come All Ye Faithful!

Friday, December 16

7:30 PM

A Community Musical Celebration featuring the LCPC Choir with an orchestra of professional musicians.

Free admission. A freewill offering will be taken. Dessert reception to follow.

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church
 2902 Montrose Ave, La Crescenta
 818.249.6137 lcpc.net

MOVIE MORNING WITH SANTA

The La Crescenta Woman's Club is hosting Movie Morning with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at their Clubhouse, 4004 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta.

Featured movie is the TV movie "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Light refreshments available for purchase. There will also be a silent auction, craft time and story telling by Mrs. Claus. The highlight of the morning will be a visit by Santa Claus.

To RSVP call (818) 427-3459.

E-RECYCLING EVENTS

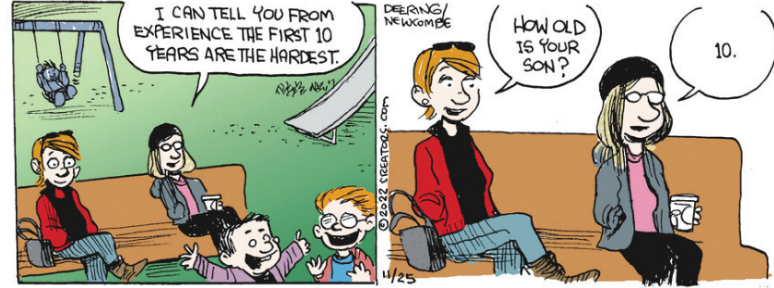
The Verdugo Hills Council – Boys Scouts of America is having its second annual e-waste recycling event to benefit the environment and local Scouts. Consider recycling old electronics at one of three locations throughout the district on Dec. 10 and, for those who cannot make that date, a fourth event will be held on Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Dec. 10: American Legion Post #288, 4011 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta, American Legion Post #377, 10039 Pinewood Ave. in Tujunga, and Gain Federal Credit Union, 1800 W. Magnolia Blvd. in Burbank. On Dec. 17 only: Glendale Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale.

HOLIDAY FUN AT STONE BARN

A family-oriented evening of holiday entertainment will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the

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amphitheater of the Stone Barn Nature Center in Deukmejian Wilderness Park. There will be singing and dancing and even a magician. Nights are chilly in the park so dress in layers and bring a blanket or a seat cushion. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Seating is limited; please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/8kyanum3>.

Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road, La Crescenta/Glendale

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT LANTERMAN HOUSE

On Sunday, Dec. 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. celebrate the holiday season at the Lanterman House! The free event will include peeks into the festively decorated Lanterman House, light refreshments and live holiday music. The Glendale Model Railroad Society will have a special display of HO model trains and the Santa Anita A's will be showing off their vintage cars. Members of the LCHS Chamber Singers will perform.

There will be craft tables for visitors to create holiday themed ornaments. Visitors can also shop at a holiday boutique, filled with hand-crafted art, ceramics and other gifts made by local artists, including members of the Verdugo Hills Art Association.

For more information, visit www.lantermanhouse.org. No reservations necessary.

The Lanterman House is located at 4420 Encinas Drive, La Cañada Flintridge.

WORKS ON PAPER AT THE BRAND LIBRARY & ART CENTER

Glendale Library Arts & Culture announced the Brand Associates' opening of its 50th Annual National Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper at the Brand Library & Art Center continuing through Dec. 30. The exhibition, also known as Brand 50, marks 50 years of featuring the best in local and national contemporary art with 89 artworks chosen from 1200-plus submissions selected by juror Shannon Currie Holmes, Exhibitions supervisor at Brand Library & Art Center.

Brand 50 brings together artists from diverse backgrounds, including artists making their first foray into a gallery, as well as seasoned professionals whose work is widely known. In conjunction with the Brand 50 juried exhibition, there will also be a gallery looking back on the history of these exhibits with artworks spanning the earliest years when ceramics were featured, to today's focus on the paper medium. All exhibit artworks and a printed catalog will be on sale with proceeds benefitting the Brand Associates' efforts to support a rich array of cultural, arts, and educational programming at the iconic Brand Library & Art Center.

Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 W. Mountain St. in Glendale

NCL CONTINUES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Glendale Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. (NCL), the nation's premier mother-daughter volunteer organization, continues its annual membership drive. NCL is accepting applications from women with daughters currently in grades six through eight. The Glendale Chapter is comprised of nearly 300 members who reside in the Glendale, La Cañada, La Crescenta, Pasadena,

Burbank and surrounding areas of Los Angeles. Applications for membership are only accepted during the annual membership drive, which is from Oct. 1 – Jan. 6 each year.

Interested mothers are encouraged to attend one of the prospective member meetings. To receive an invitation, please contact the chapter at membershipglendale@nclonline.org. For more information, prospective members are encouraged to visit the Glendale Chapter's website at National Charity League, Inc. or by sending an email to membershipglendale@nclonline.org.

MONA ANNOUNCES DISPLAY

The Museum of Neon Art display of "Leticia Maldonado: The Storytellers" continues through Feb. 11. This is the first solo museum exhibition for the artist. Maldonado challenges the conventions of sculpture as well as the constraints of the medium of neon through her multimedia works. In this exhibition, life-size sculptural forms made out of neon, Plexiglass, found objects and vintage technology speak to narratives that bind memory, intimacy and history.

The museum is located at 216 S.

Brand Blvd. in Glendale. It is closed Monday and Tuesday; open Wednesday – Saturday from 10:45 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. and on Sunday from 10:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

VHHS PLANS REUNION

"Team 74" is planning a 50th high school reunion in 2024. Friends and graduates of Verdugo Hills High School are invited to attend to trade stories of family, careers, adventures and anything else.

Currently Team 74 is in the planning phase of collecting names and numbers of classmates and putting together a database; emails from classmates can be received at cls74reunion@yahoo.com. Information should include a mailing address, cell number and graduate's name at graduation (if different than now).

A list of frequently asked questions will be provided to keep everyone updated as the reunion plans move forward. Those who belong to various VHHS groups will see redundant information to ensure all classmates are notified and have an opportunity to attend.

At this time the FB VHHS groups will be the reunion information outlet until a more focused site is created.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Valley View Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Rosemont Middle School	<input type="checkbox"/> Clark Magnet High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Crescent Valley High School	<input type="checkbox"/> Local (5013) Non Profit:	_____

ANSWERS for page 17



PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Can you help me with this \$80 cleaning charge from Lyft?

Svetlana Milina receives a surprise \$80 cleaning bill from Lyft after a seven-minute ride. But Lyft won't tell her what she did to deserve it.

Q I recently took a seven-minute ride on a Lyft in New York City. Shortly afterward, I received a text and email that there was damage to the car and my credit card would be charged \$80.

Lyft refused to provide any evidence of any damage caused by me and only sent a form letter in response to my questions. I repeatedly asked for additional information or any evidence of damage.

The ride took only a few minutes and I didn't do anything except just sit in the back of the car. Lyft stated in the chat that they provided pictures. But they didn't send any pictures. They refused to provide any additional information about the damage or even a phone contact to discuss this. I would like these charges and the claim to be reversed. Can you help me? –

Svetlana Milina, Brooklyn, New York

A: Lyft should not charge you a dime unless it can prove you damaged the car. Lyft requires its drivers to send at least three photos of the damage when they file a claim. And the company should have shared those pictures with you.

Lyft also requires its drivers to describe what happened and it needed to share that with you, too. I asked you to share the paper trail of correspondence between you and Lyft and it shows that Lyft just kept repeating that the claim was valid. That's not good enough.

Lyft should have offered some way to appeal

this damage claim, but it didn't. Instead, it sent a series of maddening responses. Here's a typical one:

"Svetlana, per our terms of service, we charge a damage fee to help drivers repair and clean affected areas of their vehicle, once drivers provide evidence," one of them read. "We re-opened your case and, after extensive review of the information provided by both you and the driver, no adjustments will be made to this claim."

Don't worry, I publish the names, numbers and email addresses of Lyft's executives on my consumer advocacy website. A brief, polite email to one of them might have helped. I also have a free guide to advocating your own case that might have helped you convince Lyft to take a closer look at your case.

It turns out your driver had sent Lyft photos of muddy footprints in a car. Your seven-minute ride had taken place on a sunny day. I contacted Lyft on your behalf.

"Our customer team reached out to Svetlana and handled the matter and provided a refund," a representative told me.

Lyft refunded your money and told you it would treat the claim by your driver as fraudulent.

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>. © 2022 Christopher Elliott



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WEEKLY HOROSCOPES Provided by horoscope.com December 5-11, 2022

♈ ARIES March 21 - April 19
 Aspects now could have a profound effect upon you. If you feel tired, relax your schedule and get more rest. Don't use fatigue as an excuse to indulge in emotional eating when buried feelings rush to the surface. Try to walk in the fresh air as a way to counteract this.

♉ TAURUS April 20 - May 20
 Don't let job stress get to you. You may find that the more you give in to worry and tension, the worse you feel. Current aspects could add to the emotion. You have to take a break and get yourself into relaxation mode. If you can do this, it will help to heal you.

♊ GEMINI May 21 - June 20
 Aspects may encourage you to look at your health and evaluate how you're doing. This period may also coincide with a pulled muscle or stiffness that keeps you from being as agile as you'd like. Use this chance to review your health routines. Get a massage to help release any tension. You'll feel much better!

♋ CANCER June 21 - July 22
 This period may bring up a number of feelings associated with your job. The worst thing you could do is sit around and get even more stressed. You'll do much better over the coming days if you're prepared to eat well and exercise. Any frustration or resentment you feel will melt away like morning mist.

♌ LEO July 23 - August 22
 It's time to get out of a complacent state where your health is concerned and try something different. If you've reached a comfortable stasis, take action. Try a new workout or get involved in a sport or dance that requires skill and movement. It will renew your enthusiasm for life.

♍ VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22
 You continue to thrive. There's a burst of energy that's perfect for helping you get over any lingering ailments. You may be wondering how to improve your health and stay within your budget. This is the best time to reflect on your needs. The cosmos will pave the way for improvement all around.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
 It's time for a reality check. Compare your current health to the goals you set for yourself. You have the opportunity to align your body with your ideal image of health. As well as working out, it's also time to work on the inside. Correct any beliefs that may be keeping you chained to unhealthy habits.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
 This is a great time for a vacation, especially one where you do nothing but relax and have fun. You'd benefit the most from this kind of break right now. Other than that, your health looks good. You have energy for socializing and lots of opportunities to join groups with like-minded friends.

♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
 Exercise does more for you than make you fit. It changes you from the inside out. You're more aware that you can overcome any lack of willpower and do what you set out to do. This encourages you to aim that much higher and be more consistent in your diet and exercise routine. Exercise chases those cobwebs away and makes you dynamic.

♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
 You may need to work out your priorities when it comes to money and health. If you have an opportunity to stash money away for something that gives you a lot of pleasure

but isn't that great for your health, maybe you should reconsider your motives. Your health is your best resource. Your money is better spent on being good to yourself.

♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
 Keep your feet on the ground where your health is concerned. You may be in danger of thinking you can accomplish more than is possible. If you're just starting a new exercise regimen, don't burn out unnecessarily. A vacation would be a good idea. Make time to relax deeply and pamper yourself. Look to your diet to reap extra health benefits.

♓ PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20
 Your health and creative ability seem to be linked. The more willing you are to share your skills and talents with the world, the better you'll feel inside. Give yourself a focus and make sure you're grounded. It will work wonders for you. If you have a regular exercise and health routine, it will help you feel more energized..

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E-mail info@cvweekly.com to receive an e-mail with the latest community news.

CVWD's CANNED FOOD DRIVE

CVWD will be conducting a Canned Food Drive through the holidays to help those in need by replenishing stock at several food banks and charities in the area including:

Valley Food Bank

WAYS TO DONATE:

DROP OFF
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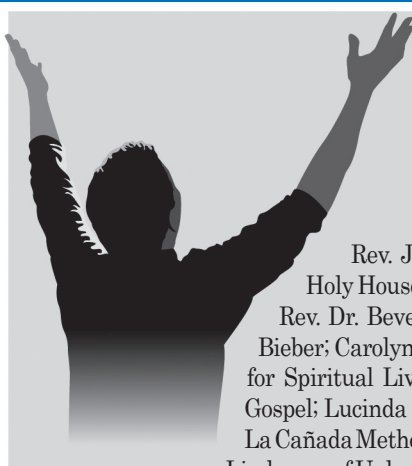
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 St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Jon Karn of Light on the Corner Church; Rev. Kimberlie Zakarian of Holy House Ministries; Anthony Kelson, RScP, Laney Clevenger-White, RScP, and Rev. Dr. Beverly Craig of Center for Spiritual Living – La Crescenta; Rabbi Janet Bieber; Carolyn Young; Sharon Weisman; Rev. Mary Morgan of Redondo Beach Center for Spiritual Living; Rev. Dabney Beck of International Church of the Four Square Gospel; Lucinda Guarino; Pastor Randy Foster of Christian Life Church; Karin Ellis of La Cañada Methodist Church; Rev. Rev. Sharri James of UP Church; The Rev. C. L. "Skip" Lindeman of Upland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Rob Holman of St. Luke's Anglican Church; Rev. Sharri Johnson of One Heart Retreat Center; Rev. KC Slack of Unitarian Universalist of the Verdugo Hills; Rev. Jeff Blanton and Rev. Emanuel David of Highlands Church.; Rev. Karen Mitchell of High Desert Center for Spiritual Living; Rev. Kyle Sears of La Cañada Congregational Church; Michelle Gillette, Unity Chaplain/Pasadena; Andy Gero, VFW Chaplain; Katie O'Brien, runningstream48@yahoo.com

Responses are offered from the perspective of individual Spiritually Speaking respondents, which may or may not be in agreement with other respondents of Spiritually Speaking nor the editor and staff of the Crescenta Valley Weekly.

Question: When our two daughters were young we did everything we could to make Christmas special. We taught them that it wasn't just about gift giving and receiving, but about kindness and compassion to others. We also were then, and still now, active in a local Christian church. Our daughters were often in Christmas plays. Our family spent many Christmases first serving Christmas dinner to those less fortunate before we began our own celebration.

Now, as young adults, we have a difficult time getting these girls to church. We're baffled because that's not how they were raised. They are busy with college and living at home but still – we would like to see them attend church with us, even if infrequently. Please help us say the right things to help put them on what we consider the right track.

~ Unsure Parents

Dear Unsure Parents,
 As a parent of three teenagers in high school, I certainly empathize with your concerns for your children to be in church. But as loving and good as that desire is that needs to be the result not the goal.

Let me explain what I mean by way of mini-testimony. Much like your children, I was raised with Christianity as my cultural heritage. For much of my young adult life I thought church was probably a good thing to do, but I had a long list of things I would rather be doing on any given Sunday. Going to church only became a desire of mine after I had a change in faith and believed in God.

My recommendation to you is to ask your children about faith, engage them in spiritual conversations and find out what they think and believe about spirituality and God. You may be surprised at how much things in

social media have shaped your children's thinking over your time in church.

To help you with this, I recommend a short article "How to Talk to Your Family about Christ, Spiritual Conversations with Loved Ones Do Not Have to Be Intimidating" at www.cru.org (<http://www.cru.org/>) (just Google it). I would also recommend you take the Alpha Course, which will help give you a simple, clear presentation of "Mere Christianity," meaning the universal basics of the faith and not some denominational emphasis. I know Lake Avenue Church and Vintage Church, both in Pasadena, offer them regularly.

Finally, make sure you pray for your children's faith. All good things are birthed in prayer!

May your Christmastide be blessed!

Fr. Rob Holman
rob@stlukesanglican.org

Dear Unsure Parents,
 I wouldn't say your daughters are on the wrong track. You certainly gave your children a good beginning and that will follow them throughout their lives. Now they have busy lives studying for college classes so going to church isn't a priority anymore. I went to church every Sunday growing up but when I went to college, I stopped. It didn't mean that I had abandoned my faith; I just didn't have time. But once I graduated, got married and had a baby, I returned with my child so he could go to Sunday school. And I'm still going.

Don't pressure your girls to go to church with you. You don't want to alienate them. Just be glad they had those years in church. I am now a senior citizen and just last weekend I was telling someone how much those early years in Sunday school meant to me.

Carolyn Young, LCSW
cjymesalila@gmail.com

Question: I know this is a difficult question but I have to ask: Why do people do the things they do? Our neighbors have three beautiful young children. Both parents work and provide a nice home for their kids. The mom recently told me she was so happy to get much of her Christmas shopping done online.

Well, guess what? Even though the other neighbors and I have been vigilant about porch pirate thieves, four out of five packages were stolen from our neighbor's front porch. We do have surveillance cameras and even though we have provided the information to law enforcement the thieves have not been found and arrested.

Many of us are retired and comfortable financially so we pooled our funds and anonymously sent gift cards to the neighbors who, at this time of the year and with the loss of gifts, can probably use the help. Were we wrong to help them financially?

~ Alarmed Neighbors


Dear Alarmed Neighbors,
 First of all, that is very thoughtful and generous of you and your friends/neighbors to send the gift cards. No doubt they appreciate the kindness. And what you have done will return to you multifold at some point. It's a matter of re-circulating the energy in whatever form it takes.

Your question of why do people do the things they do is a challenging one, for sure. And there is no clear-cut answer ... because it involves humans and how we think and behave. Society has gone quite mad; values have changed, times are difficult, people are living in fear and lack ... what the heck has happened to us?

And it's people like you and your neighbors who are turning the tide, bit by bit, with kindness and

see SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING on next page

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from Cover

generosity, love and support, positivity and good will that will overcome the world's negativity and fear. Have faith in that. I do. It's the light at the end of the tunnel ... that's where we ultimately will be.

There are no accidents in life. There is Divine Order and Divine Right Action always taking place, regardless of the appearances. I always try to look for the blessings in a situation, especially if it's challenging. What happened to your neighbors may cause them to rethink things and have a shift in attitude and certainly they reaped the reward of receiving the kindness and generosity from others. And in turn they will pass their "reward" on to others.

I had my wallet stolen from right behind my back while shopping last Christmas. Oh gosh, such an intrusion and violation to my soul! After I quit asking, "Why me? I'm a good person, I didn't deserve that," I then told myself that I guess I made someone a nice Christmas with the gift cards, charges and cash that they took. It released my anger. And now I always watch my purse. "Trust God and tie up your camel," it says in the Bible.

The Universe is so abundant.

There really is no lack and limitation in God's world; only humans believe that. That's why they take from others. I believe it's all energy, circulating, giving and taking and returning to us what we give out. And when a violation happens to us it's time to step into love and forgiveness in the situation. This may sound crazy but it's a healthy way to deal with humans who we may never understand.

Many blessings to you and your neighbors. May the good you do keep the ripples of love and light in the world moving toward peace.

Laney Clevenger White, RScP
Emeritus
laneycl@ca.rr.com

Dear Alarmed Neighbors,
Response: You have two questions. The first is basically, "Why is there evil in this world?" It is a legitimate question and deserves an answer. Unfortunately, I am only allowed 500 words for this article, which I continually exceed anyway. A clear and concise response would take a couple of pages and well beyond the scope of this column. However, for your own mental exploration, I will briefly say we live in what appears to be a divided and

dualistic world of light and dark with every possibility in between. When the mental passions of fear and desire (which we are all subject to as human beings) are combined with ignorance, there is always a chance for the possible appearance of what we consider evil.

Your second question is basically, "Was it okay to give them the money?" As one would expect, living in a seemingly dualistic world, we have mixed views on giving. On the one hand, in the Christian religious tradition selfless giving to assist another is a virtue. On the other hand, there are strong political beliefs in this country that any giving, especially of money, is wrong and ultimately harmful to the recipient. So what is the truth?

There is a wonderful line in the old hymn "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing," which is "Streams of Mercy (aka Grace), never ceasing."

I am of the opinion that we all live a life of Divine Grace. Grace is that which is given. Everything we receive, no matter from whose hand it comes, is an act of Divine Giving and continuing example of Divine Grace and Mercy. If we could see with the "single eye" that Jesus talks about, we would recognize the underlying unity that sustains the multiplicity of creation. In other words, we would see the primacy of the "Kingdom of God" throughout the world. We would see that all we need is already there for us. The receipt only awaits our asking and/or our acceptance of the Divine gift. As a brief aside, I am amazed at how many of God's gifts we turn away because we do not feel worthy or entitled to them. I once knew a young man who turned away the love of a woman who was his heart's desire. He did not feel worthy of her because she came from a higher social/economic class. They were both heartbroken. A good example of evil brought about by fear, desire and ignorance.

While God is the giver, we are not only the receivers but also God's agents for His gifts in this world. God does for us what He does through us. He uses our individual

hands and our individual agency to help, to bless and to raise up one another. Often we are not even aware of the gifts and life lessons we give to others, but God is ... streams of mercy, of grace and blessings, ever flowing and never ceasing. In the selfless and compassionate gift to your neighbor, you were an agent of, and a channel for, God's grace in this world to bless humanity. No regal crown, no order of esteemed knighthood, no human honor is greater than being chosen as His servant to give to and bless others.

As to your concern whether or not they needed the money, I am certain you saved Christmas for one family. But even if the money

was not needed, perhaps what was needed for them in your gift was a manifestation of, and a renewed faith or reaffirmation in, the Divine goodness and love that sustains this world especially when that whole notion was being challenged by the theft.

You may never receive a thank you from the family for your anonymous gift. But that doesn't matter. The thanks is ultimately always due Him anyway.

In my opinion, your selfless act of service was your own return thanks and a gift to the father of us all on Christmas. God bless you for that.

Anthony Kelson, RScP
penworth3@yahoo.com

NOTES & NODS

LCIF News

Lutheran Church in the Foothills welcomes all to attend its weekly family devotion time to celebrate the season of Advent. People of all ages are invited to meet in the church's conference room each Sunday in December from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. to study a passage from the Bible, consider questions from author/pastor Becca Ehrlich and participate in a fun activity. LCIF also invites the community to enjoy a morning of decorating "gingerbread churches" on Sunday, Dec. 18 starting at 8:30 a.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Advent worship services begin at 10 a.m. and are held in person and on the church's YouTube channel with Pastor Chuck Bunnell. From the Latin word "coming," Advent is a time when Christians begin the liturgical year with preparation for the celebration of Christmas and anticipation of the second coming of Christ.

Children's church is offered every Sunday for young children, and confirmation class is available after worship service beginning at 11:15 a.m. for students in grades six-12.

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.

Community Christian Church Hosts Live Nativity

Community Christian Church of the Foothills' is hosting the 22nd Annual Free Drive-Thru Nativity on Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The Drive-Thru Nativity includes scenes of Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem, the shepherds visited by an angel – literally on high – and the little baby Jesus in the manger surrounded by live animals. Those interested in fellowship are invited to CCC's Coffee House to enjoy a cup of warm cocoa and homemade Christmas goodies (even dog treats for your four-legged family members) while enjoying live Christmas music. A prayer team will be on-site to pray for whatever needs are presented – pressure free.

Community Christian Church, 10193 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. For info visit churchofthefoothills.com or facebook.com/CCCNativity/.

Community Christian Church offers a Sunday morning worship service at 10 a.m. and community prayer on Sundays at 5 p.m. Kids' programs are Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

RAIN BARREL DISTRIBUTION EVENT!

Burbank Water and Power, along with Foothill MWD, Crescenta Valley Water District, Liberty Utilities, Glendale Water and Power, and Pasadena Water and Power are hosting a rain barrel distribution event. Customers will be given the opportunity to easily pre-order a rain barrel and have it ready for pick-up at

Foothill Municipal Water District. The cost of the rain barrel is \$65 but partial and full amount rebates are available.*

*Pasadena residents get rebates for the full price of the rain barrel making them FREE after application. All other cities/water agencies give a \$35.00 rebate per barrel. The maximum quantity is 2 rain barrel rebates per household.

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To whomever took my little red wagon and all the candy, cookies, juice etc. that was in it, on parade night this past Saturday, from the corner of Honolulu and Agner in Montrose: at the very least return our wagon, and our refrigerator carafe, both of which have sentimental and practical value. Place in the parkway at the NW corner of Agner and Sycamore where we can retrieve it. Or call Roberta at (818) 248-8151 if you have any info on who stole it.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take Notice - SpaceSpots - 427 W. Ave G, Lancaster CA 93534 intends to hold a lien auction to sell goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. Sale starts at 7:30 AM December 16th, 2022. General unknown household items: Sylvia Myers, Adam Girard, Summer Messenger. This sale may be withdrawn at any time. Terms and conditions apply. Published in the Crescenta Valley Weekly, December 1, 8, 2022.

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