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Council Holds Brief Yet Productive Meeting

By Roman IGUANZO

Tuesday night's meeting of the Glendale City Council commenced with comments from staff. Councilmember Dan Brotman expressed a desire to help those in poverty switch from gas stoves to electric stoves. According to Brotman, transitioning to electric stoves will better the health of impoverished people/communities because harsh chemicals associated with traditional gas powered burners won't be inhaled. Mayor Ardy Kassakhian highlighted the need to address the street lighting situation on Piedmont as residents were complaining about an increase in larceny as a result of the poor lighting in the area.

Community announcements were next on the agenda. During this section, the council was urged to make a 10-year commitment to reduce the number of deaths resulting from cardiac arrest in the City of Glendale. The presenters (including first responders) also suggested effective methods to consider in order to achieve the proposed goal. These included the placement of external defibrillators near high-traffic buildings, tackling drug abuse and informing the public on signing up for and/or creating advance directives which are legal documents that provide instructions for medical care and only go into effect if a person cannot communicate his/her own wishes. Fire Chief Timothy Ernst described an app called PulsePoint. According to its website, the PulsePoint dispatch center immediately alerts CPR-trained individuals about, for example, nearby cardiac arrest events through the free PulsePoint Respond mobile app, and also lets them know the location of the closest AEDs. According to Ernst, the app can create a support net-

see GCC on page 19

Good Food, Fun Music and Dance Lesson, Too

By Lucian KUGLER

Jazz Night in the Café raised money for needed items at the high school's music department while.

The Crescenta Valley community came together to experience an outstanding performance of the Crescenta Valley High School jazz band led by music director Mathew Schick. The event, Jazz Night in the Café, took place on Friday, Feb. 10 and offered the chance to support the school's music program while having a fun night of music and dance with the talented jazz band. Crescenta Valley High School's music program has a long history of turning out successful musicians and bringing the community together.

The night was packed with popular jazz compositions, including "88 Basie Street," "When the Saints," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and "Sing, Sing, Sing" among others. A dance lesson by Katrinka Blunt (her son Lachlan plays bari sax in the band) was held at 7:30 p.m. Students and parents danced throughout the night, enjoying the jazz club-like setting that had been created in the café for the evening.

Desserts, provided by music department supporters and donations by Berolina Bakery, were served throughout the event while the CV jazz band performed its renditions of classic jazz pieces. About \$4300 was raised. That money is dedicated to purchasing new instruments, sheet music and other equipment needed to maintain the high standards of the program. It was a community affair that offered something for everyone.



Photo by Lucian KUGLER
 Attendees to Jazz Night in the Café enjoyed desserts as the Crescenta Valley High School jazz band performed live music.

see JAZZ NIGHT on page 7

Schiff Launches Campaign for U.S. Senate

By Roman IGUANZO

Rep. Adam Schiff is known across the country for his work in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and locally as a 10-term Congressman representing the foothills and surrounding area. Now Schiff seeks to utilize his political prowess in a new arena – the U.S. Senate – and has launched a campaign to replace outgoing Senator Dianne Feinstein, who has represented California for more than 30 years. The CV Weekly met with Congressman Schiff on Friday to discuss his Senate run, senatorial ambitions, policy goals and outlook on current events.

The CV Weekly also covered the kickoff rally for Schiff's campaign for the U.S. Senate, which was held the following day with an audience of

see SCHIFF on page 8



Photo by Roman IGUANZO
 Rep. Adam Schiff, who is vying for the seat of Senator Dianne Feinstein, addresses the crowd at a recent rally.



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



I Am Who – and What – I Am

I remember when I was a young adult I had drinks bought for me and was “eye-balled” when I walked into a room. Sometimes it’s hard to realize that, basically, those days are behind me. It doesn’t matter how much weight I’ve lost or how many exercises I do; the fact is that no matter how much weight I lose I won’t ever again look the way that I did when I was 19 (by 21 I already was pregnant with son No. 1).

Pondering this, I think back to those days gone by. If you wanted money on the weekend, for example, you went to Alpha Beta and hoped they’d cash a \$25 check for you. Rather than streaming music, you waited for a record to drop – an LP album (by the way, LP stands for “long play”) and not a CD or something else.

In high school I was the only girl in my auto mechanic class. We didn’t deal with computers in cars; it was simple to learn how to change oil or gap a spark plug.

I remember the days when you couldn’t wait for the week’s TV guide to arrive so you could plan your viewing.

VCRs? Who would have guessed that those are now pretty much obsolete when you consider that they came onto the scene in the late ’70s then not much later dominated the home entertainment scene. But the DVD overtook them in popularity and today streaming services are supreme.

Yes, those days are

long gone and perhaps that is good for some things. But for a girl who still sees herself with tight body parts, but never loose morals, it’s a hard pill to swallow.

Today, Thursday, Feb. 16 is the big day. Steve and I are heading to the Panama Canal via a Princess Cruise. For the last few weeks I’ve been poring over travel brochures and excursion options, checking the temperatures in the ports we’ll be visiting (in a word – hot) and considering what clothes I should bring.

When we went to Australia a couple of years ago (PC – pre-COVID), I don’t think I was as nervous. But I also had Montrose Travel on my side, planning out everything. I am so thankful that I have a new “travel agent” by my side: our office manager Rachelle Miller.

When it became apparent that I was starting to panic, Rachelle took the reins to ask the questions of Princess Cruises that I needed answered then figured out the technology employed by the cruise line that overwhelmed me.

Today, I confidently head out knowing that the people of CV Weekly will hardly miss me – hardly, not entirely.

I hope to have WiFi capability and will send my columns over to keep you abreast of our travels.

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

» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O’KEEFE

We have heard a lot lately about balloons flying over our land. These are apparently intelligence gathering balloons from China and have made many of us a bit nervous. But there are all kinds of weather balloons as well and in reading this week about this form of air flight I discovered a story of balloons used as a proposed solution to climate change.

I think the one constant in societal nature is if a solution requires sacrifice look for another solution. I am not talking about personal sacrifice; that seems to be in complete contrast to societal attitudes. The sacrifices are evident with those who have served or are currently serving in military, and early responders.

Examples can be seen everywhere of parents sacrificing for their kids and of kids sacrificing for their aging parents. What I am talking about is, as a society, when we see that we are going down the wrong path we need to adjust. Logically we see that some real sacrifices must be made and, for a moment, society is ready to do just that. But then we take a side-glance at another possible solution we could try; maybe we don’t really have to change that much after all.

That was my first thought when I heard about a company called Make Sunsets, which recently launched balloons into the stratosphere over Baja, Mexico and California that released sulfur dioxide. That release would supposedly make the atmosphere more reflective and therefore lower the Earth’s temperature, perhaps slowing down or maybe even providing a solution to global warming. And so my mind started wandering in so many directions, from sci-fi films and books to almost every evildoer in cartoons. Then I landed on Starbuck – not the coffee place but Bill Starbuck from “The Rainmaker.” (If you haven’t seen this 1956 film – find time.)

Starbuck is someone who sees a desperate group of people in need of rain as a solution to their drought. He promises them he has a way to solve their problem, and yes he is charming, but the real reason they agree to pay for his services is because they desperately want to believe him. People who fear there is no other way and feel they have sacrificed so much already are eager for another answer.

Make Sunsets is not the only group that has

discussed solar geoengineering but it has made a big step with the launch of its balloons. The process of solar geoengineering has been a concept for a very long time but is evolving from “what if” to “hey, we could do that.”

According to Geoengineering Monitor, the “technologies” are mostly hypothetical proposals advanced by various geoengineering advocates. Geoengineering technologies can be categorized by different approaches (solar radiation management, carbon dioxide removal, weather modification) or by where they seek to intervene in the planetary ecosystem (land, air, water).

Solar radiation management, like the balloons launched, proposes to spray large quantities of sulfur particles (like sulfur dioxide) into the stratosphere to act as a reflective barrier against incoming sunlight. Proposals range from shooting particles from artillery guns, using large hoses aimed toward the sky, emptying particles from the back of aircraft, and/or employing the balloon system like the one used over Baja.

This sounds akin to cloud seeding, which is a similar science, but instead of causing rain like Starbuck promised those who release balloons are trying to control temperature.

According to geoengineeringmonitor.com, geoengineering can be broken down into three techniques: *solar radiation management* – a technique that attempts to reflect sunlight into space (like the balloon launches); *carbon dioxide removal* – a proposal to suck carbon out of the atmosphere on a massive scale using a combination of biological and mechanical methods from seeding the ocean with iron pellets to creating plankton blooms to creating forests of mechanical “artificial trees;” and *earth radiation management* – a theory that suggests negative effects of climate change can be offset by allowing heat to escape into space; for example, by thinning cirrus clouds.

These ideas are nothing new to anyone who has watched/read science fiction, James Bond or Scooby Doo. My mind immediately goes to the “Paw Patrol: The Movie” from 2021. Because I am a grandma and my grandson is a Paw Patrol fanatic, I have seen this

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

ETCH EVENT

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station will be hosting a catalytic converter etching event at the Highlands Church at 4441 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta. The event will run from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Vehicles should enter the parking lot off Community Avenue and will exit on Mary Street.

It is free to the public. Vehicles will be etched on a first come, first served basis. Note that currently Toyota Prius vehicles are primary targets for catalytic converter thieves. Large trucks and R.V.s cannot be etched because the etching tools cannot accommodate their size and weight.

Questions about this event can be directed to Detective Fletcher at (818) 236-4010.

ROSEMONT PRESERVE OPEN GATE MORNING

An "open gate" event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Sunday morning, Feb. 19. This is a chance for residents to visit the Preserve and wander the trail at their own pace and enjoy the tranquil setting, the wildlife and the natural beauty. Photographers: bring your camera to capture the morning light and citizen scientists, bring your iNaturalist and Merlin apps to identify birds and add wildlife sightings!

The gate will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Friends of the Rosemont Preserve Committee members will be available to answer questions and present this community resource.

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 the Rosemont Preserve Committee.

Those planning on walking the trails should wear sturdy shoes and bring water to drink.

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

For further information, contact the Friends of the Rosemont Preserve at RosemontFriends@gmail.com.

CVCA PLANS MEETING

The Crescenta Valley Community Association will have its monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting will include discussion on local issues as well as an opportunity for Foothill area residents to bring their own concerns.

Contact the CVCA at crescentavalleymunityassn@gmail.com with questions and for Zoom meeting information. All are welcome.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

On Tuesday, March 7 at 10 a.m. Casa Adobe de San Rafael in Glendale is the location of the observance of Arbor Day by Glendale Beautiful.

Glendale Beautiful, in cooperation with the City of Glendale's Community Services and Parks Dept., asks the public to attend the annual observance. Take part in this community-wide effort by contributing to the purchase of a tree or by supporting trees throughout the city. For donation and other information, visit www.glendalebeautiful.org/arbor-day.

In case of rain, the event takes place at Brand Studios, 1601 W. Mountain St. in Glendale.

Casa Adobe de San Rafael is located at 1330 Dorothy Drive in Glendale.

Reflecting on His Time as CVTC President

By Mary O'KEEFE

Tonight's meeting of the Crescenta Valley Town Council (CVTC) will be the second meeting that president Chris Kilpatrick will helm while former president Harry Leon observes as vice president.

As Kilpatrick learns the ropes of the CVTC, Leon will stay at his side to mentor him; however, there is no doubt there is a new president in place ... and Leon feels it was time for the passing of the gavel.

"I am here to mentor and support," he said. "[But] I am still around. It is all about supporting the community. It doesn't matter if I am president or vice president."

At Leon's core is the love for his community. He has been on the CVTC since 2010, serving as vice president from 2014 to 2016 and as president from 2017 to 2022. He serves the community in many ways outside the CVTC including as a Los Angeles County commissioner on the Dept. of Consumer and Business Affairs, a member of the LA County Sheriff's Dept. (LASD) volunteer and on the LASD Advisory Board that, in part, assists in selecting the local LASD captain.

"I still want to be the eyes and ears of the community," he said.

He said when he first ran for the CVTC he didn't plan on being president and didn't have an agenda; he just wanted to help the community be a better place. He felt the best way to do that was to encourage members of the CVTC to be involved with many of the local organizations.

"La Crescenta is a very distinguished community," he said.

The CVTC acts as an advisory board and is a liaison between the community and the office of the 5th District of the LA County Board of Supervisors (Kathryn Barger currently holds the supervisor's position). The Council deals with a variety of local issues – some that are brought to the attention of council members by other members and some that are brought to the forefront by community members.

Leon credits councilmembers who mentored him when he was first elected to the CVTC.

"I give a great [deal] of credit to past presidents Cheryl Davis and Robbyn Battles. They were instrumental in [shaping my Council future]," he said. "I was impressed by how they allocated their time and effort for the community."

He admitted being on the Council has not always been a smooth ride especially in the last few years. He compares CVTC with a family – and acknowledges that, like in any family, there can be strained relationships.

"I took the high road," he said of the disagreements



Harry Leon credits people with mentoring him when he first was elected to the CV Town Council

and issues that occurred over the years.

Though he said the Council now "works better" he reiterated it is like a work family and relationships can become strained.

Leon added there are some issues the Council has been looking at and will continue to explore and share information with the community including SB 9, SB 10 and traffic safety especially around schools.

He said he is hoping to continue to guide CVTC members.

"There are a lot of people who come and go on [the town council]," he said. "But [those who run for a position on the Council] should work for the people of La Crescenta and not for their own political agenda or their own ego. They need to work for the constituents."

He said he knows that nothing stays the same and change is coming to La Crescenta, including new laws and ordinances, and he said it is important for the community to be informed about these changes before they are set into law.

"I know change is coming and [La Crescenta] just wants a seat at the table when it happens," he said.

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GUSD Responds to GTA

The following statement was released by the GUSD board of education.

“Our Board of Education has established priorities to maximize academic achievement for every child and protect the health and safety of our students, employees, families and community. We remain steadfast in our commitment to provide every child with equitable access to resources and to give our students voice and choice in their academic endeavors.

“As Glendale Unified Board of Education president, I am eager to come to a resolution in our contract negotiations with the Glendale Teachers Association that upholds these commitments while also meeting the needs of our teachers and certificated employees. On Feb. 28, our district and GTA bargaining teams will

meet once again with a mediator, continuing the first step of the impasse process. I am hopeful that, with the mediator’s support, we will resolve the outstanding items on the table and bring this yearlong negotiation to a close. GUSD and GTA have already agreed on many important topics, including substantial increases to our stipends for special education, dual language immersion and split grade level teachers, along with significant hourly rate increases for professional development, tutoring and intervention time.

“The issues that remain outstanding are critical to our ability to uphold our commitment to provide every student with the opportunity to learn and succeed in a safe school environment. Therefore, it is important that we continue to communicate the

district’s proposals and our rationale behind them.

“Giving our teachers a raise is highly important. The district’s proposal offers a 4.5% one-time payment for 2020-21, a 3.5% ongoing raise for 2021-22, and a 5% ongoing raise for 2022-23. Once negotiations are finalized, GTA members will begin seeing these raises in their paychecks without delay. This proposal pushes the GUSD reserve fund balance to less than 1% above what is minimally required by the state. Gov. Newsom’s January budget proposal projects that the state will bring in \$20 billion less next year than previously expected, pushing the state budget into deficit. Even a small decline in expected revenues could end up leading to painful spending cuts. We are constantly working to maintain this very delicate balance between wanting to provide more for our teachers and protecting staff and students from cuts.

“The district also proposed a provision to make certain that school administrators are on campus and when. The proposal asks teachers to give one-day notice before making a change in their schedule. In the case of an emergency, we need to be able to account for employees and ensure that they are safe. We believe this proposal is not only reasonable, but also essential to safety planning that will help provide peace of mind for our students, staff, and families.

“Finally, the district is proposing to measure prep time for secondary teachers on a weekly basis instead of daily, with individual teacher



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collaboration. To be clear: every secondary teacher will continue to have the same, if not more, prep time per week embedded in their instructional schedule. This important change is necessary to continue the block schedule and seven-period day, which GUSD launched at middle and high schools beginning in 2021 to expand educational opportunities and better meet the needs of every student. Under the district’s proposal, administrators would be required to make every effort to provide teachers who want it with a daily prep period. In the rare instance that a daily prep period cannot be accommodated, the administrator would be required to meet with the teacher, explain the circumstances and consider alternatives in good faith. This flexible, collaborative approach

to secondary scheduling ensures our middle and high schools will be able to offer all the courses necessary to meet the needs of every student, including those participating in specialized programs, those who are excelling and those who need additional support.

“I strongly believe GUSD has a good faith contract offer on the table that prioritizes the academic needs of our students and campus safety while balancing the needs of teachers and certificated employees. I look forward to the continued transparent review of the outstanding items and I am hopeful that progress can be made in our next mediation session on Feb. 28.”

Glendale Unified Board of Education President Nayiri Nahabedian

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ACA Offers a 'New Way of Living'

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

"Modus vivendi" is one of the many mottos that Al N. lives by.

"It's a new way of living, of choosing your life," he said.

He attributes that – and the many tenets he's learned over the years – as part of his time with Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA).

It was 37 years ago that Al attended his first ACA meeting. It was at the suggestion of a girlfriend – she has long since exited his life – that he attend a meeting that he describes as being for those not comfortable with spiritual structure but need spiritual help.

According to its literature, ACA is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition program of men and women who grew up in alcoholic or otherwise

dysfunctional homes. Al is quick to point out, though, that the self-run organization is not part of a church and is not a religious organization.

It's a place where grown-ups can talk about what they experienced as kids, the sometimes damaging things that kids bring into their adult life that need to be reconciled. It's a safe place where that can be done.

A new chapter of ACA begins on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church. Al said that during the pandemic, chapters attempted to meet virtually; however, meeting in person, he thinks, is "very powerful."

"There's something about looking someone in the eye," he said about the healing process.

He relayed his first meeting.

"It freaked me out," he recalled with a laugh. But he returned and, over time, learned the power of recovery available through sharing with others, of hearing their stories and being heard. The process of learning that there are people who have similar stories, who don't want to judge or "fix" others and who only want to help was appealing to Al.

He said that the meetings are not intimidating. People sit in a circle (it's easier to interact that way). Introductions are made (first name and last initial only). Many times newcomers won't say anything but instead will just absorb the information and stories that are shared.

Al said one of the benefits

he's learned over the years is when he's helping someone else, he helps himself. ACA gives him the confidence and ability to help others as they go through the journey of healing.

"It's about asking yourself, 'Are you operating okay or do you want something better?'" he said about the reasons for attending ACA meetings. "It's a way to be more happy, more relaxed."

He advised meeting attendance as the first step in moving forward in the healing journey to "express – not repress."

"It will be the first day of the 'best' of your life," he added with a smile.

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church is located at 2902 Montrose Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information, visit www.adultchildren.org or email info@acawso.org.

Search Continues for Body of Missing Soldier

By Mary O'KEEFE

Recently, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. Montrose Search and Rescue team members joined other search and rescue departments and members of the military to search for the body of U.S. Army soldier Anna Laura Costa Porsborg, 22.

Costa Porsborg is a Brazilian national who was in the Los Angeles area for a holiday with her boyfriend Luis Antonio Gomes Akay, 37, also from Brazil. Costa Porsborg has not been heard from since Dec. 27, 2022.

Lt. Omar Camacho, LASD Homicide Bureau, said the investigation and the search is ongoing.

"[Akay] did make a statement" to investigators concerning his role in Costa Porsborg's death, Camacho said.

It has been reported that Akay told officials he killed Costa Porsborg because she wanted to end their engagement; however, he has refused to tell them exactly where he left her body – only that it was left in a mountainous area.

On Jan. 4, 2023, Akay was charged with the "crime of murder" regarding his girlfriend.

Despite a body not being found officials feel confident they are able to charge Akay with murder.

Anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area of Angeles

National Forest in December 2022 should call LASD (323) 890-5500. During non-business hours or on weekends, calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (1-877-527-3247). Anyone wishing to remain anonymous can call the LA Regional Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS (800-222-8477) or go directly to www.lacrimestoppers.org. Tipsters may also visit www.lapdonline.org and click on "Anonymous Web Tips" under the "Get Involved-Crime Stoppers" menu to submit an online tip. Lastly, tipsters may also download the "P3 Tips" mobile application and select the LA Regional Crime Stoppers as their local program.

Feinstein Will Not Run for Reelection

Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein announced on this week that she will not run for reelection in 2024.

"I am announcing I will not run for reelection in 2024 but intend to accomplish as much for California as I can through the end of next year when my term ends," Feinstein said in a statement.

As the longest-serving woman senator, Senator Feinstein is a trailblazer and her accomplishments are considered immense and far from over. She is known for her dogged pursuit of gun safety, the investigation of the CIA detention and interrogation program, her championship of LGBTQ+ rights and conservation of California's greatest resources. Senator Feinstein's expansive body of work and defense of our democracy will define her legacy, stated Congressman Adam Schiff.

"Dianne Feinstein is one of the finest legislators our state and country have ever known, and her retirement in two years will be felt throughout Congress,

California, and the nation.

"But her important work goes on. Her championing of the Assault Weapons Ban and so many other measures critical to California and the nation will make a continuing contribution to the safety and welfare of our people.

"As the top Democrats on the Senate and House Intelligence Committee for many years, we worked closely together and continue to do so – and I'm deeply grateful for her friendship and mentorship.

"All of California is indebted to Dianne for her decades of distinguished service," Schiff stated in a release.

Congressman Adam Schiff is running for Senator Feinstein's seat in 2024.

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ADVANCED TICKETING

CRIME BLOTTER

Feb. 10
500 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a woman reported while at a store placing her purse in the child seat of a shopping cart. She walked through the store gathering items she wanted to purchase and placing them in the cart. When she went to pay she realized her wallet was missing. An informant stated he felt the theft was committed by two suspects who were walking around during the time of the incident and had been involved in a similar incident a few months ago. The first suspect was described as a male Black, wearing a white shirt, tan pants, white hat and a medical mask. The second suspect was described as a White female with blond hair, gray shirt, blue jeans and white shoes. The theft occurred between 2:30

p.m. and 3 p.m.
900 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a woman reported that she placed her purse in a shopping cart while shopping in a store. She then noticed her purse was missing. The theft occurred between 5 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Feb. 9
2800 block of El Caminto Street in La Crescenta, three tires on a vehicle were vandalized with what appeared to be a knife size cut overnight.

Feb. 8
600 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a witness reported that an individual entered the store. He was described as a male Hispanic, about 30 years old, 5'8" tall,

weighing 170 lbs. with short black hair, brown eyes and, at the time, was wearing a dark grey shirt, light colored long sleeve undershirt, khaki pants and a facemask. He walked to where the various creams were located and began placing them in a bag he was carrying. He then left

the store without attempting to pay. The theft occurred between 3 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Feb. 3
700 block of Angeles Crest Highway in the Angeles National Forest, a woman reported that

she had parked her vehicle at the location and went for a hike. When she returned she found her purse was stolen from her vehicle. The driver's front door lock had been punched.

The theft occurred between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



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Obituary

Regis Raymond Coyle



Feb. 1, 2023

Regis Raymond Coyle passed away early on Feb. 1 after a four-year battle with cancer. Regis, 66, was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania and moved to Bakersfield in the summer of 1969. He graduated from Highland High School where he was a standout football player. He formed some of his lifelong friendships during those years with fellow students in the East Bakersfield area. Many remember Regis as adventurous and loved how colorful a storyteller he could

be. He went on to play football at Bakersfield College before earning his bachelor's degree in business at Cal State University, Bakersfield. He moved to the Los Angeles area after graduation and remained a resident of the Glendale/Pasadena and La Crescenta communities. Regis had a long career with Roscoe Moss Manufacturing Company, working 40 years until he retired as vice president of Operations. His career took him to Egypt and Botswana, Africa where he immersed himself in other cultures and customs.

Football was one of the joys of Regis' life. He was an active member for over 35 years of the Long Beach Referee Association. Regis was an avid fisherman and often fished the Kern River and the central coast.

A lifelong Catholic, Regis was a daily mass attendee in the later years of his life. Holy Redeemer Church in Montrose was his home church. He became a knight with the Knights of Columbus (K of C). Service and volunteerism were both hugely important to Regis. He was a devoted member of

Brothers' Helpers, an organization committed to feeding the homeless population. Whether through his generosity or his colorful personality, he always looked for a way to make life for others a little better, more enjoyable, more exciting and more festive. Regis will be remembered for his caring spirit, his originality and his zest for life.

Regis was preceded in death by his parents Bill and Gloria Coyle and brothers Michael and Daniel Coyle. He is survived by brothers Pat (Nancy) and Tim (Karen); sister-in-law MaryAnne; three nieces; four nephews; seven grandnieces and nephews and his ex-wife Tammi Smith-Coyle.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated today, Feb. 16 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 2411 Montrose Ave., at 11 a.m. and a memorial service will be held at Greenlawn Funeral Home Northeast, 3700 River Blvd. in Bakersfield on Friday, Feb. 24 at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, Regis' family asks that you honor him by donating to caltrout.org, fishforlife.org or your favorite charity.

"If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever".

Obituary

Alicia Rivas



June 13, 1935 - Feb. 4, 2023

Alicia Rivas, aka Alicia Flores Murillo, passed away on Feb. 4 at Glendale Adventist Hospital ICU after having developed bilateral pneumonia. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her daughter María-Alicia, granddaughters Tabitha and Samantha, son-in-law Craig Jerpseth, and her nephew/godson Luis-Ruben Reyes.

Alicia was born in Tacámbaro, Michoacán, Mexico on June 13, 1935. She was the third of four children born to Guillermina Murillo Alvarez and Luis Flores Gomez. She attended Catholic school up to the end of middle school. She spent part of her adolescence in Mexico City until her family was forced to moved from their hometown due to economic reasons. She attended a trade school where she learned accounting. Per her older brother's insistence, Alicia stayed home helping her mother with housework instead of joining

the workforce.

Alicia met Francisco Rivas Valdes while he was making a hardware store delivery near her home. She married him two years later. Alicia and Francisco had two children, José Francisco and María-Alicia. Alicia was a homemaker. Francisco was the sole provider at the time.

After his parents passed away, Francisco took over the ownership of the family's hardware store. It was at that time that Alicia would juggle taking care of the children while working in the family business. Due to growing economic problems and job uncertainty, the family left Mexico in 1979 to settle in an apartment in South Glendale. Alicia was once again a homemaker looking after the children while Francisco worked to support the family.

When her teen son José Francisco developed a chronic and disabling incurable illness that made him bed-bound shortly after the onset of his disease (chronic progressive multiple sclerosis), Alicia for many years lovingly and selflessly took care of all of her son's needs to the point that she herself developed bilateral carpal tunnel and osteoarthritis as a result of having to lift and move her bed-bound son.

Immediately after José Francisco passed away, Alicia's husband was diagnosed with an incurable advanced blood cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome, or "MDS"). Once again, Alicia took on the role of caretaker, which involved taking care of Francisco's

needs as his condition became more disabling. She spent hours by his side when he was hospitalized toward the end of his life.

Less than 17 months later, Alicia's husband passed away.

Due to her advanced age and increasing health issues, she was forced to leave her apartment to move in with her surviving child, María-Alicia, and her family.

Alicia spent her days at her new home watching old music videos on Facebook, calling her siblings in Mexico, chatting with her daughter and grandchildren, and watching cooking shows on the Food Network and an assortment of game shows, specially Jeopardy and The Wheel Of Fortune. She insisted on doing the dishes and light cleaning around the house, picking up the mail and special deliveries as well as occasionally feeding the family pets if they "asked" to be fed.

Alicia was a very humble, non-materialistic and pious person. She always made sure her children and grandchildren knew and grew in their faith. Her daily spiritual routine consisted of morning and evening prayers as well as online Mass, followed by the rosary and the Caplet of Divine Mercy. She was unable to attend Mass after COVID but her faith never faltered.

She is survived by her daughter María-Alicia; granddaughters Tabitha and Samantha Jerpseth; nephew and godson Luis Ruben Reyes Flores; older sister Teresa; younger brother Enrique Flores Murillo; and other extended family members living in Mexico.

Valentine's Day Celebrated in Montrose



LEFT: With roses ready was "Charlie Chaplin."
RIGHT: "Charlie Chaplin" handed out Valentine roses to shoppers on Saturday.



"Is this for me?" "It's free?" Those were the questions from several people who strolled down Honolulu Avenue near Ocean View Boulevard on Saturday and were pleasantly surprised to see silent film star Charlie Chaplain, aka Audrey Ruttan, handing each person a rose –

making everyone Montrose's Valentine. The Valentine flower giveaway has been a Montrose Shopping Park tradition for years and is sponsored by the Montrose Shopping Park Association.

Photos and story by Mary O'KEEFE

WEATHER from page 2

particular film at least 100 times. I even find myself watching it when he is not around; it is an excuse for my exhausted grandma brain to zone out.

In this film, Mayor Humdinger tries to make everything perfect in Adventure City, the metropolis, by controlling the weather with a floating cloud extractor allowing only the sun to shine. Of course it turns out badly, as it always does, because the cloud-sucking device had not been fully studied and was not meant to be used in this

extreme way.

And so we come back to geoengineering. These methods do seem to come from the desperation that not enough is being done quickly enough and the realization that we can't recycle or electric car our way out of the effects of climate change, so we have to do something. Maybe these methods are part of the solution but it seems there should be a lot more study done before we start releasing chemicals into the air – on purpose.

For the next few days the weather (that has not been yet modified by anything except old fashioned greenhouse gases) will include a freeze watch from last night to this morning. Later today the high will be near 59 degrees, lows in the 40s and winds from the northeast at about 10 mph. Friday through next Tuesday, the highs will be in the high 60s, lows in mid 40s. There is a slight chance of rain on Saturday night after 10 p.m. through Sunday.

JAZZ NIGHT from Cover

The swing dance lesson was a highlight of the evening. The music was lively, and the dance floor was packed with enthusiastic participants. Both seasoned dancers and beginners joined in, and everyone seemed to be having a great time. The lesson took time to teach the basic steps while keeping things fun and engaging. By the end of the lesson, everyone in the room was feeling confident and ready to dance the night away. The energy in the room was electric, and it was clear that the swing dance lesson was a huge hit. With so many students and parents involved the community feel of the event was apparent. Even those who were initially hesitant to join in couldn't resist the infectious energy of the crowd. Between the dance lesson and musical performances people couldn't help but get up and move with everyone letting loose and having a good time.

"Jazz Night is held annually by the Crescenta Valley Instrumental Music Foundation at CVHS to bring the community together, to showcase our amazingly talented jazz students, and to raise funds for our entire

instrumental music program," said Ana Lee & Rola Masri, CVIMF Co-VPs of Special Events.

Jazz Night in the Café was a night demonstrating musical excellence and fun. The event

showcased the talent of the school's music department and was an opportunity to support an important cause. No doubt it was an evening that will be cherished for years to come.

The Flintridge Riding Club

A film by John Newcombe

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Founded in 1922, the Flintridge Riding Club was formed by a small group of horse-lovers who wanted a place where they could ride, fellowship, train and even compete. It has a surprisingly dynamic history, including conflict with JPL, help from Richard Nixon, not to mention a huge nationwide scandal that broke just a few years ago.



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SCHIFF from Cover

more than 600 people in attendance. At the rally, Schiff called on all Americans to stand together and fight for a brighter future.

“Only together can we strengthen our economy and save our democracy,” he said. “Only together can we fight for a just and fair society – one that our kids can be proud of. Only together can we protect our planet and create millions of green jobs. These are the fights that really matter – for an economy that works for everyone, for a democracy we can pass on to our children and for a planet where we can live in peace.”

It appears that Congressman Schiff means business. He maintained a confident disposition that displayed his intellect and political aptitude while also speaking with passion and sincerity.

Below are excerpts from the interview.

CVW: If elected what will you bring from your congressional history into the senate?

The knowledge and the relationships to get things done on behalf of people in California. I worked extremely well with my colleagues to deliver funding to California for transportation, infrastructure, healthcare and unemployment compensation during the pandemic. I think it’s why Speaker Pelosi has endorsed me, as well as over 20 of my current and former House colleagues.

House members generally don’t like to choose among their colleagues, but I think their endorsements are recognition that I have a track record of getting things done that are important to Californians. California is the biggest state with one of the largest economies in the world; as a result, a senator from California has the opportunity to play an outsized role in the policy of the whole country. I think that having played a similar role in the House, it would make me an even more effective advocate for the values of Californians and the interests of our state.

CVW: California has the nation’s largest agriculture industry. Of California’s 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water, almost 90% goes to agriculture; but seven states, several tribal nations and Mexico are now competing for the Colorado River’s water. What will you do to preserve and protect California farmers’ water rights?

I’m going to the Central Valley next week for 10 days and am looking forward to meeting with farmers, environmentalists and others about how we reconcile competing interests. I think that the Central Valley has some of the most acute challenges – water being foremost among them – but also higher rates of unemployment and higher rates of poverty. I look forward to learning more about how I can represent the interests of people in that consequential part of the state. I do think as an overarching matter that many of the answers involve aggressively attacking the problem of climate change. We will negotiate these competing water interests to the best of our ability among the various states dependent on water from the Colorado River. But, at the end of the day, as long as the temperature keeps rising there’s never going to be enough water.

In light of this, I’m proud of what we did with the Inflation Reduction Act – the most substantial investment we’ve made in tackling climate change in our history ... but that has to be just the down payment. We need to wean ourselves off of fossil fuels, do a much better job of conservation and rapidly develop alternative and green sources of energy. Doing so is vital as an economic matter, but also as a national security matter to deprive petrol dictatorships like Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela of their war-making wealth.

I’m running for the senate on three fundamental issues: unfairness in our economy, the challenges to our democracy and the threat to our planet. Those issues – democracy, the economy and the planet – are my priorities.

CVW: How will you support scientific advancement, R&D and alternative energy as a senator?

This is absolutely a big, big part of my focus.

I’ve been so proud to represent the brilliant people at Caltech and JPL. Scientists here in our backyard have played a key role in our economy and in our understanding of our place in the universe. I’m so proud that we were able to pass the CHIPS and Science Act because that will provide vital funding to make America the leader in R&D once again. We need to do a lot more where that came from.

CVW: What California issues will be your top priorities?

Priority number one is to make sure that California’s economy works for everyone so that everyone who’s working full time can have a roof over their heads, can provide for their family, can have a safe neighborhood to raise their kids and have good schools for their kid. During the pandemic, we increased the child tax credit. We lifted 40% of the kids out of poverty in this country; millions of those kids are in California. When that expired, millions fell back into poverty. I want to see us raise that tax credit again and, more than that, I want to see a comprehensive policy to uplift working families and make life easier for middle class families. This is priority number one for me: meeting the everyday needs of Californians.

First, I want our state to have a climate that is welcoming of small businesses (where so much of the job growth comes from). Anyone who’s trying to start a business should not have to overcome all kinds of obstacles to do so.

Second, Californians are also deeply devoted to our rights and freedoms ... They don’t want to see reproductive rights curtailed, they don’t want to see their right to vote restricted, they want to live in a democracy; this is very important to our state and our residents. I think many of us have never been prouder to be Californians during this dark and reactionary turn the country took over the four Trump years.

The third priority is the planet. California led the way in the telecommunications revolution and it can lead the way in the energy revolution. I want those technologies to come out of California and I want to make sure we protect our coasts and our coastline from oil drilling. For years I’ve been working on trying to double the size of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and I want to be the champion for open space up-and-down the state. I want to make sure that every community has access to parks and open space ... that’s a real [quality of life] priority for me and for my fellow Californians.

CVW: People nowadays are asked to give away such personal information. Did you ever think you would have to fight for basic privacy protections regarding an individual’s own data?

I would have never imagined the emergence of these circumstances. Earlier in the week, my staff sent me a video of Donald Trump attacking the transgender community ... picking on the most vulnerable members of our society in order to compete with Ron DeSantis or others ... It’s just shameful. DeSantis, Trump and others are willing to invade people’s privacy. They’re trying to make healthcare decisions for people, interfere with families and risk rising suicide rates among young people ... it’s just despicable. I look forward to being an even more effective voice in the senate by speaking out and defending these vulnerable communities in California and elsewhere.

CVW: How do you plan to combat misinformation during your campaign?

I think by engaging with and lifting up important sources of good information, like local journalists and responsible national journalists, by continuing to push out good information as the antidote to a lot of bad information. When I was taken off the intelligence committee by Kevin McCarthy in an act of fealty to Donald Trump, Hakeem

see SCHIFF on page 19

VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

La Tuna Canyon's Belmont Country Club – Part 2

Last week, I related that for many years I've been intrigued by some abandoned foundations, stairways and roadbeds on the north side of La Tuna Canyon just above the debris basin. I found that they were the remnants of the ritzy Belmont Country Club, opened in 1926. The opulent country club featured a huge two-story clubhouse. It had arched doorways and windows and a tiled roof, and was shaded by large sycamore and oak trees. Tennis courts, a swimming pool and miles of hiking trails were available to members. A top-notch golf course was a major feature. The long straight roadway, what we know today as La Tuna Canyon Road, was essentially built as the country club's driveway.

It advertised itself as being "close to nature – close to home" and offered home sites available for club members. One member described ease of access: "I can leave my office in the city at 5 o'clock and be at home at 5:45... through the beautiful flowering groves of Orange Cove to the sheltered and yet elevated site of the club." (Orange Cove is the old name for the agricultural

community that then existed on La Tuna Canyon Road.)

"Lodges" of rustic construction were featured in advertisements: "... shakes, rough bark slabs, and native rock to harmonize with the natural beauty of the surroundings..." A photo showed a party dining outdoors in front of their rock home. The Belmont Country Club became a favored site for events such as conventions and company picnics.

"The accessibility of the club and its naturally scenic surroundings, heavily wooded canyons, clubhouse nearly completed and the golf course now in play provided an ideal spot" An unusual event in 1928 was a 100-member choir assembled from local community singing groups. The massed choir would take advantage of the natural amphitheater of the canyon Belmont had been built in. It was to be a nighttime event with special lighting. The conductor would be Hollywood's Hugo Kirchhofer, one of the musical founders of the Hollywood Bowl and the man who is credited with naming it.

But like so many things, the Great Depression apparently put an

end to Belmont's glory days. I have found few references to it after the crash of 1929. (Perhaps they should have gone the speakeasy route, like our local speakeasy Mountain Oaks. Prohibition allowed Mountain Oaks to continue its good business until the end of Prohibition in 1934.)

In July 1937 there was a huge fire on the Verdugo Mountains above the country club. In our classic Southern California scenario of "fire and flood," rains the following winter created debris flows that wiped out the golf course. Apparently that was the final nail in the coffin of the Belmont Country Club.

But like a phoenix it rose from the ashes (and mud) as a religious retreat. Just like the Flintridge Hotel was purchased by the Catholic Church to become Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, the Belmont Country Club was purchased by the church to become the St. Elizabeth Retreat. St. Elizabeth was founded in 1947 by Archbishop McIntyre (soon to be the somewhat controversial Los Angeles Cardinal McIntyre). The retreat, the former clubhouse of the country club, had rooms for 41 guests. It was supported by a very

active Glendale-based St. Elizabeth Guild. The members raised funds and assisted with accommodations for the retreat's guests. But in an article from 1960 it's referred to as the novitiate of the Sisters of the Company of Mary, so it appears to have changed its purpose.

Also in 1960, an article states that while the clubhouse itself was still owned by the church, the 45 acres of land around it had been acquired by the City of LA through tax foreclosures. The next year, 1961,

the clubhouse itself was razed to make way for the flood control basin that is now there.

And that is all I know about the short-lived Belmont Country Club, save for the few chunks of concrete that still hang on the hillside. I hope that more will come out about this fascinating history.

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 SACRAMENTO » ASSEMBLYMEMBER LAURA FRIEDMAN

Throwing the Penalty Flag on Abuse in College Athletics

On college campuses there are few individuals who hold the same amount of influence and power over a student athlete than collegiate coaches and athletic department staff. The overwhelming majority of staff is there to help student athletes reach their full potential and lay the groundwork for a lifetime of success in their chosen careers. When coaches and staff fail to put the well-being of student athletes first, it can have devastating consequences.

California schools alone have had their share of cases in the headlines. In 2019, the "Varsity Blues" bribery scandal cast a spotlight on an organized corruption scheme that used college athletic programs as a gateway for families with the resources to buy a spot on the roster and college admission into otherwise highly selective schools. More recently, a CSU baseball coach who was found to have sexually and racially harassed players and staff resigned from the university, but was still able to serve as a volunteer for a community college team and as the principal and athletic director of a high school.

Over 10 years ago, California established the Student Athlete Bill of Rights, which enshrined in California law basic health, safety and scholarship protections for student athletes on college campuses across the state. Over the past decade, the legislature has strengthened and expanded those protections to ensure student safety both on and off the field of play. For the over 58,000 student athletes in California, these protections have guarded against abuse and retaliation. However, you don't have

to look too far to see that loopholes in the law and the shortcomings of administrative practices at our colleges and universities are continuing to put student athletes at risk.

To be fair, California schools and their counterparts across the country have oversight and administrative bodies in place to govern athletics and competition. Student athletics are governed by many different sanctioning bodies with different rules, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Association of Intercollegiate

Athletics, the National Junior College Athletic Association, the California Community College Athletic Association and the National Christian College Athletic Association. Even within these major sanctioning bodies rules differ. For instance, the NCAA rules governing Division I, II and III institutions of higher education are not necessarily the same across divisions. While these associations have a role to play, they historically have not put student athletes first and they certainly haven't established strong safeguards

see FRIEDMAN on page 19




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BETWEEN FRIENDS

La Crescenta Woman's Club Hosts Bingo Night



By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

The historic La Crescenta Woman's Club held a fundraising night of bingo on Saturday at the clubhouse on La Crescenta Avenue. Nearly 200 people gathered among the tables set up for the evening, ready to holler "bingo!" and bring home some prize money.

Among the dignitaries that called numbers for the games was City of Glendale mayor Ardy Kassakhian, State Senator Anthony Portantino and Crescenta Valley Water District director Kerry Erickson.

Club president Danette Erickson welcomed the night's guests and spotlighted the various dignitaries that attended including Assemblymember Laura Friedman and CV Town Council members Harry Leon and Donna Libra.

The organizer of the fundraiser,

which benefitted the American Legion Post 288 and VFW Post 1614, was Silvana Casalegno, who recruited family members to help with the evening's festivities.

The La Crescenta Woman's Club boasts a rich history. In 1908 a few women formed the Little Literature Circle, meeting in homes to discuss books and the problems of the day. On May 18, 1911 a group of these women gathered together to form an organization for the development and improvement of the community, the beginning of the oldest woman's organization in the area. Mrs. Seymour Thomas was president in 1918 when the club had amassed a whopping \$436!

On Feb 12, 1924 the club became part of the General and California Federated Clubs. The General Federation of Women Clubs is the oldest service organization in the

world.

Escrow on the lot on which the building would be built closed in December 1924 and the clubhouse was erected in 1925. On May 1, 1925 the cornerstone of the clubhouse was placed. The first meeting in the new clubhouse was held on Oct. 14, 1925.

The organization was incorporated in 1931 and changed its name to The La Crescenta Woman's Club.

The La Crescenta Woman's Club has been a dynamic organization since its inception. A scholarship fund was started in 1949 by President Roberta Kurtz to provide financial assistance to local graduating seniors intending to attend college.

The club's 50th anniversary was celebrated in 1961 with a vote to enlarge the clubhouse, adding a tearoom, dressing room and a half

bath, which was completed in 1962. Unfortunately, disaster struck the club in November 1965 when an arsonist set a fire that extensively damaged the clubhouse, especially the beloved tearoom. While the clubhouse was being rebuilt the American Legion offered its facilities for the LCWC Christmas Tea and Boutique.

More than 100 years later, remembered are the dedicated women who gave so generously of their time to assist in the advancement and general welfare of the community. Friendship, fellowship and philanthropy are still the aims of the La Crescenta Woman's Club.

The philanthropies of the LCWC are supported by renting the clubhouse and through fundraisers, like Saturday night's bingo and the upcoming Fritz Coleman Comedy Night planned for April 29.

Danette Erickson supplied the historical information in this article.

Photos provided by LCWC

TOP ROW
LEFT: State Senator Anthony Portantino presented to Club President Danette Erickson an award for the Club's long time support of the community.
MIDDLE: Aram Kassakhian and his dad, City of Glendale Mayor Ardy Kassakhian, with LCWC President Danette Erickson.
RIGHT: Assemblymember Laura Friedman supported the LCWC event.
BOTTOM ROW
LEFT: Harry Leon was introduced by LCWC President Danette Erickson.
MIDDLE: Spence Charles was a winner of the night. Club Treasurer Bob Mortimer confirmed the winning numbers while Spence's wife Cindy was obviously surprised at her husband's luck.
RIGHT: Checking in people at the door were (from left) Mary Nolte, Carol Torres and Michele Pashayi.

People Making News

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2022-23 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

From La Cañada Flintridge, Braden Beagle, expected graduate year 2026, undeclared major, Andrew Kim, expected graduate year 2023, majoring in mechanical engineering and Hanan Phillips, expected graduate year 2026, undeclared major, have each earned a spot on the dean's list.

Jared Nishimura from La Cañada, majoring in electrical & computer engineering, was named to the fall 2022 president's list at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. The president's list recognizes students who have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester to receive this honor.

LeTourneau University is the Christian polytechnic university where educators engage students to nurture Christian virtue, develop competency and ingenuity in their professional fields, integrate faith and work, and serve the local and global community. LETU offers more than 140 undergraduate and graduate degree programs online and at LETU's residential campus in Longview, Texas.

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

When Is It Time For A Price Reduction?

Dear Phyllis,

As an avid follower of your column, I have yet to see this question discussed. I have three siblings and am the trustee of my father's estate. We listed his Palm Springs residence and, after a week on the market, the Realtor suggested a price reduction. Am I wrong to be put off by this? We have had a few open houses with just a handful of lookers. The Realtor sent me the lockbox report proving there have not been many showings. I always thought it was simply a matter of finding the right buyer. So, my question is: When is it time for a price reduction?

Sally

Dear Sally,

Although the market has changed, well-priced homes continue to sell – sometimes in multiple offers resulting in an over-asking price sale. I am unfamiliar with the Palm Springs market, but likely the best time to sell is in milder weather.

Initially, listing at the right price is critical to selling quickly, ideally at a great price. If the price is set too high, the home may stagnate on the market and push you into a price reduction, possibly multiple ones.

What is the feedback from

real estate agents that have shown the home? Is there anything you can quickly and easily change to make it more sellable?

If potential buyers are viewing the listing online but have not come to look personally, it indicates a problem. Typically, the first week of open houses will get the most traffic. After that first week, other than luxury homes listings begin to get stale if there are no offers. I look at the number of "saves" my listings have on Zillow. When there are a lot of "saves" but few showings, it indicates that buyers are waiting to see what happens. If

you reduce the price, the people who have "saved" on Zillow will be emailed the price reduction.

Check out the competition. If homes in your price range are selling while yours is not, then it's time to reevaluate your price. The longer a home is on the market, the less likely it will sell for the asking price. Most of our neighborhood homes that sell for full price or higher are getting offers in the first week. Don't think of it as a reduction but rather a price improvement.

To recap: showings and open house visitors drop off quickly. Thus, don't wait to reduce the price. Reduce it quickly while there is still interest.



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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Local Family of Authors Bring Behavioral Science to Light in New Books

By Matthew ARAT

Teaching kids when to eat, when to sleep or how to play an instrument is all part of behavioral science. Studying how humans act can be a fascinating and varied subject for both parents and kids.

Recent works published by Glendale residents Julie Riggott (with illustrations by her son 12-year-old Haydn David Schlinger) and Hank Schlinger cover different sides of behavioral science with their books dedicated to the subject and the pioneer who developed it, B.F. Skinner.

"I fell in love with children's books when I was reading to Haydn," said Julie Riggott, author of "B. F. Skinner and the Revolutionary Science of Behavior." "I was impressed by behavioral science and B. F. Skinner, an incredible person [who was an inventor] and

was very positive about science. Then I found out there were no books on Skinner."

Riggott spent time in Cambridge with Skinner's daughter, going over his notes, paintings and inventions to get a better sense of who he was.

"He had a creative childhood," Riggott said. "Being a scientist allowed him to make big discoveries. He wanted to use science to make the world a better place."

Riggott's book is more biographical and is intended for middle school students. To aid them, her son Haydn produced illustrations of Skinner and his inventions that are peppered throughout the book. Haydn said he hopes that his artwork will help students understand Skinner and increase interest in his work.

"It might inspire them to go into the arts and sciences," he said.

While he was a kindergarten student in the Glendale public

schools, Haydn won a national Scholastic Books drawing contest and earned a set of books and CDs for the school library. He was also a winner of the Vroman's Bookstore bookmark contest as a third grader, and his bookmark was placed in a time capsule in the wall of the store's new wine bar.

Henry D. (Hank) Schlinger, Ph.D., husband to Julie and father to Haydn, wanted his book, "How to Build Good Behavior and Self-Esteem in Children," to appeal to educators looking to improve their studies and work in behavioral science.

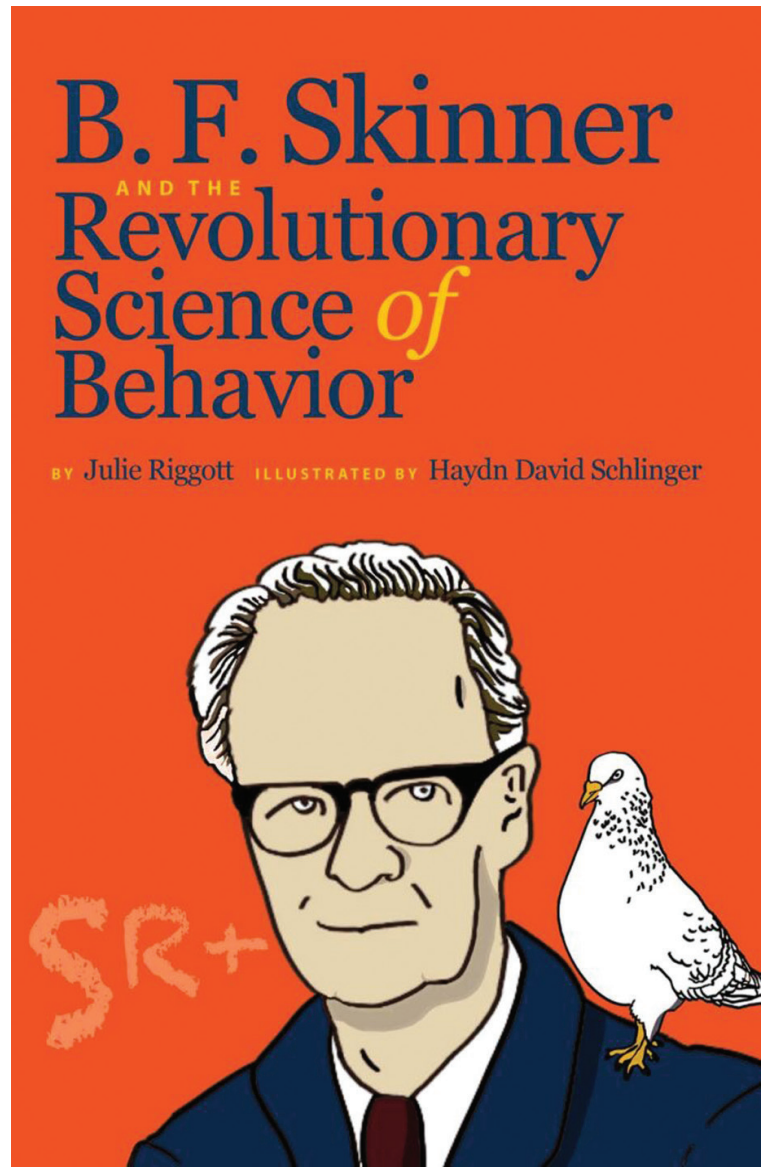
"I published articles and books on child development. The book is meant to be training for teachers and staff members," he said.

Schlinger is a professor of psychology at California State University Los Angeles and scholar who is invited to speak around the world. He wrote his book as a manual for creating lasting positive change in behavior.

The effort to bring Skinner's work to light has been difficult for Riggott and Schlinger.

"[Julie's] goal was to help kids with behavioral science (like getting kids to sleep). Mine was a general problem book, to get all the

see BOOKS on page 13



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» ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Free Opera Singing Competition Showcases Rising Stars in San Marino

The Pasadena Vocal Competition presents its final round of performances featuring a national cast of eight young rising stars of the opera world on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at the San Marino Community Church, 1750 Virginia Road in San Marino. The event is free and open to the public.

Each singer will be accompanied at the piano by artistic director Catherine Miller and will perform for three distinguished judges – all professionals in the operatic world: Daniel Mallampalli, senior programming manager at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, maestro Kostis Protopapas, music director for Opera Santa Barbara, and Alfreynn Roberts, chorus mistress of Fort Worth Opera in Texas. At stake is \$25,000 in prize money, which the judges will decide on how to distribute. The Pasadena Area Opera Trust funds the awards along with the support of the Barbera Foundation, led by Robert Barbera of San Marino.

The Pasadena Vocal Competition is a non-profit arts organization promoting community interest in opera and financially supports the next generation of operatic talent.

see SPOTLIGHT on page 13

BOOKS from page 12

solutions into one book," said Schlinger. "I think behavioral science isn't as foreign as biology or chemistry. It's difficult for behavioral scientists to persuade people." Riggott hopes that kids will be inspired enough by

Skinner to become creative and take on the study of how one acts.

"I added a chapter about the science of behavior and where reluctance comes from," she said. "If people believe in free will, they don't

believe in behavioral science. I asked a group of kids what they thought when they read it, and they loved it! They said it was their favorite chapter."

Both books are currently available online.

SPOTLIGHT from page 12

Former first place winners from 2021 and 2022, baritone Blake Denson and soprano Magdalena Kuźma respectively, are already enjoying international careers on the world's greatest stages.

Denson, a graduate of the prestigious Houston Grand Opera Young Artist Program, was awarded a yearlong contract singing in Hamburg, Germany and has made debuts with the Washington National Opera, the English National Opera and the Bayrische Staatsoper. Kuźma is a young artist in the prestigious Lindemann Young Artist program at the Metropolitan Opera and has made her debut as Pamina from "Die Zauberflöte" with Opera Orlando. She

will make her Santa Fe Opera debut as Frasquita from "Carmen" this summer.

This year's competition is hosted by the PVC mistress of ceremonies soprano Jamie

Chamberlin who will also entertain during the judge's deliberations.

For more information visit pasadenavocalcompetition.org.



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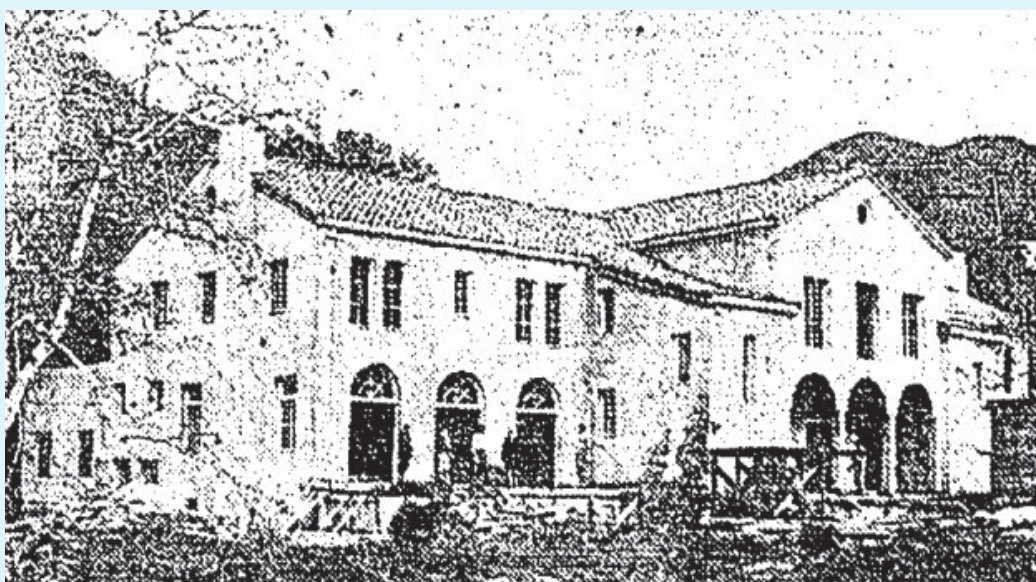
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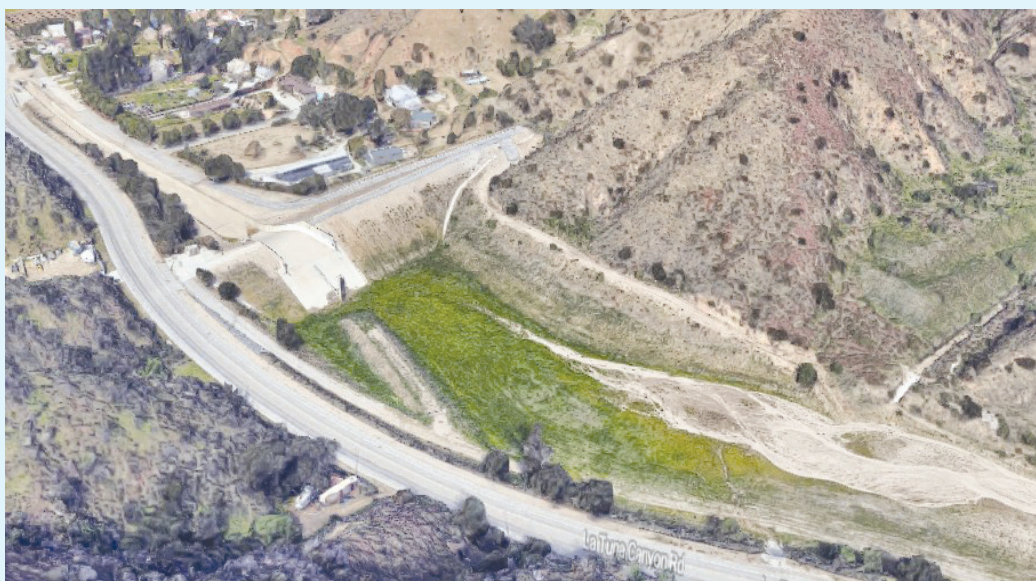
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THEN & NOW

Belmont Country Club Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then: This was the clubhouse of the upscale Belmont Country Club in 1926, located in La Tuna Canyon. The club featured tennis courts and a world-class golf course, and it hosted many large events. Homesites were also offered to club members. By 1937 the Great Depression and a flood had put the Belmont out of business.



Now: In 1947 the clubhouse was acquired by the Catholic Church and became the St. Elizabeth Retreat, while the rest of the land went to the City of LA. In 1961, the clubhouse was razed and this flood control basin was built. A few remnant stonewalls and roadways are still visible on the north side of the flood control basin.

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JUST FOR FUN

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Lyft charged me \$80 for spilling a drink. But there was no drink!

Lyft charges Peter Leung \$80 for spilling a drink in one of its cars. But he says he didn't drink anything. Does he still have to pay?

Lyft charged me an \$80 damage fee for spilling a drink in one of its cars. However, my friend and I certainly did not bring any drink – not even water – on the ride. We are not responsible for the spill.

The driver has sent me photos that show liquid on a floor mat. But I've asked Lyft multiple times to provide evidence of when it took the picture. Lyft has ignored my request.

I don't know how to appeal this to Lyft. The company keeps giving me the same reply and will not share the driver's damage report. Can you help me?

– Peter Leung, Etobicoke, Canada

Lyft needs to send you the evidence that you spilled a drink in one of its cars. If it can't, it shouldn't charge you for the damage.

But that's not how Lyft works. Its drivers can report damage to their cars and receive \$20 to \$150 in compensation. Drivers must submit a written report noting where the

damage occurred, including the time and date. And they have to include two clear photos of the damage. Unlike Uber, however, drivers do not need to show a receipt for the cleaning.

But here's the problem with your damage claim: First, the photos did not have any metadata attached to them, which would have shown when they were taken. And second, Lyft did not give you access to the driver's incident report, which would have helped you argue your case.

The only option you had was to deny the report was true. Lyft responded to your denials by saying it had conducted an investigation and found that you were responsible. But that didn't make any sense. Had it investigated the matter, it would have asked you more questions and gathered more information. Instead, it just reiterated its position.

You could have refused to pay Lyft's charges, but then Lyft would have blocked you from using its app again. You needed to fight this charge and win. I list the names, numbers and email addresses of the Lyft executives on my consumer

advocacy site, Elliott.org. Also, check out my free ridesharing guide, which shows you how to avoid these pesky Lyft charges.

If you're using a rideshare, especially Lyft, you might want to take "before" and "after" pictures of the back seat of the car. If your driver files a claim, you can show photos of the vehicle to dispute the charges.

I contacted Lyft on your behalf. A representative responded quickly. "The best way to handle these issues is to contact customer care by submitting a help request through the app or via Lyft Help and go through the process," she told me.

But you had already done that and you appeared to be stuck in a loop of denials. Lyft needed to look at your case again and decide who was telling the truth. I asked Lyft to review your complaint one more time. It fully refunded your \$80.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him on his site. © 2023 Christopher Elliott

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale next meets on Feb. 17. All are invited to the Not So Newlywed Game.

Meetings are held on Friday at noon. The cost to attend, which includes lunch and program, is \$20.

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

BURBANK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

The Burbank African Violet Society will be having its next monthly club meeting on Thursday morning, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Little White Chapel Christian Church, 1711 No. Avon St. in Burbank.

The program will be a video presentation on "Growing Texas Size Trailers" by Ben Herring, an A.V.S.A. Convention Program. The learning lab will be the PH balance testing of the African violet potting soil samples that members and guests will bring to the meeting. A discussion with questions, answers and suggestion will follow.

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

HUUT CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY SHOW

HUUT—UU short for hootenanny – returns on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. with its fifth anniversary show that is all about love. It includes a fun-filled musical (and comical) evening with choice of beverages and home-baked snacks!

Hosted by Marty Barrett. Performers on Feb. 18 include screenwriter/ author Heidi Mastrogiovanni, "Classics Slacker" author Olivia Negron, bands Magickly Delishus, Vampyr 79 and troubadours Carol McArthur, Don Cummings, Justin Curtis, Tom Bishel, Richard Pittpenn, Art Stucco, and Dolly Ramirez, among others. There will be a premiere release a song arranged and performed by Tom Bishel and Dolly Ramirez, both favorites on the LA scene.

Tickets at the door are \$15 and \$10 for seniors. Pay at the door or at verdugohuut.com. Mention this blurb for a discount.

COVID precautions are practiced.

UU is located at 4451 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

WILDERNESS WORKDAY

A wilderness workday in Deukmejian Wilderness Park is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 18 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The bigcone

spruce and coast live oaks need to be watered; volunteers are also needed to assist with trail repairs and remove invasive plants. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes and bring sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and water. Families, individuals, clubs and students needing community service hours are welcome. In case of rain, this event will be canceled.

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

LCWC HOSTING GUEST SPEAKER

On Feb. 20 La Crescenta Woman's Club Evening Section will have a guest speaker from Ascencia. Ascencia is a non-profit homeless services agency and emergency shelter located in Glendale that provides a range of services such as enrichment activities, food and housing to help move homeless families and individuals off the streets.

LCWC's monthly Evening Section meeting is held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.) at the LCWC Clubhouse, 4004 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta. Programs consist of speakers, philanthropic projects or game nights. Refreshments are served. Opportunities are available to join this organization and help support the local community; for info call (818) 957-9806.

Website: www.lacrescentawomansclub.org

MARCELO BUCATER QUARTET FREE CONCERT

There will be a free concert by the Marcelo Bucater Quartet on Friday, Feb. 24 from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Garage at LACM, 300 S. Fair Oaks Ave. in Pasadena. <https://lacm.edu/>

Marcelo Bucater is a drummer/percussionist from Brazil based in Los Angeles since 2013. Currently, as part of the Drum Faculty at Los Angeles College of Music (LACM), Bucater has also worked as a session and touring musician for several years, recording and performing live with different artists all over the world. The quartet plays mostly Bucater's compositions bringing a variety of Brazilian rhythms, jazz and odd meters.

To learn more, visit <https://lacm.edu/2023/01/20/marcelo-bucater-quartet-2-24/>.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

A Friday night lecture titled "Eco-Gardening & Composting" will be given at the Stone Barn Nature Center at Deukmejian Wilderness Park on Friday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Seating is limited. RSVP at glendaleca.gov/garden.

see CALENDAR THIS on next page

ACROSS

- 1 Thunderstruck
- 5 Baitic natives
- 10 Settles a bill
- 14 Window glass
- 15 Moron
- 16 Asseverate
- 17 Chances
- 18 Explosive substance, for short
- 19 Near East liquor
- 20 Gaps
- 23 Feels regret
- 24 Coloratura features
- 25 Help out
- 28 Of a fatty acid
- 30 Checked for mines
- 31 Crevasses
- 35 Slightly acidic
- 36 Suit
- 38 Throw off
- 39 Cure
- 41 Island near Sicily
- 42 Mutter's Herr
- 43 Medieval attendant
- 44 Take
- 47 Prefix for john or monde
- 48 Changing letters to a different alphabet
- 54 Like a blue moon
- 55 Subjects of fanzines
- 56 About
- 57 Match points, in bridge
- 58 Daring
- 59 Oath of surprise
- 60 Bonobos, e.g.
- 61 Former LAPD

- chief
- 62 Without, in Le Havre

DOWN

- 1 Footless reptile
- 2 Arid riverbed
- 3 Concludes
- 4 Exposition
- 5 European finch
- 6 Prepares for publication
- 7 South American monkey
- 8 Ambivalent
- 9 Most stalwart
- 10 Minute details
- 11 Be of value
- 12 Turnip truck passenger?
- 13 Like Klee
- 21 Drum out
- 22 Mascagni opera

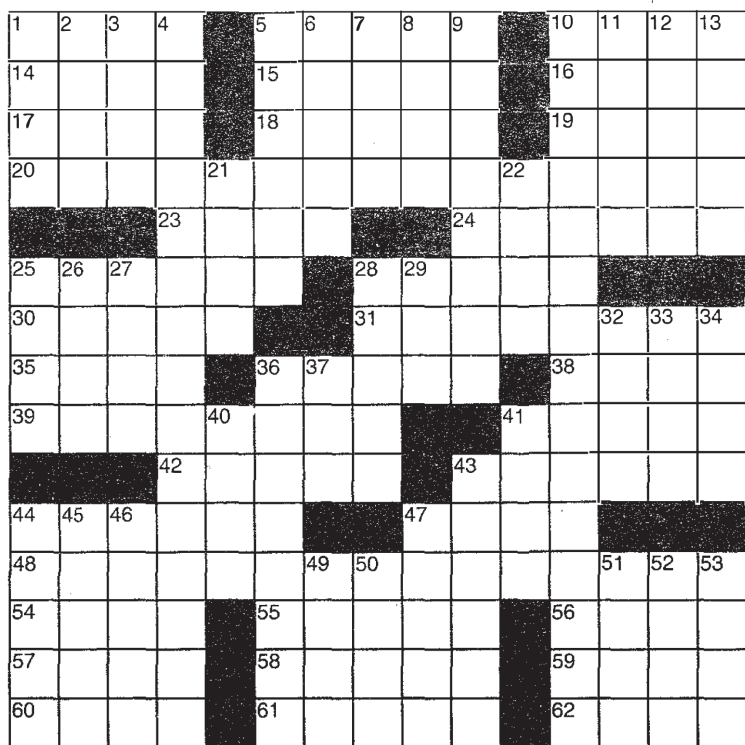
- 25 Hammett schnauzer
- 26 Constellation Cygnus
- 27 Painter José María
- 28 Make a proposal
- 29 Weeks in a Roman year?
- 32 Bagel or bialy
- 33 Paduan town
- 34 Stock exchange membership
- 36 Activity at a Coors plant
- 37 Monaco season
- 40 Jiggles bait
- 41 "___ Day" (Gloria

- Naylor novel)
- 43 Sections between choruses
- 44 Inner courtyards
- 45 Spasm
- 46 ___ diem (hay-maker's motto)
- 47 Research intensively
- 49 Brainstorm
- 50 Legal wrong
- 51 Meryl's role in "Holocaust"
- 52 Jazzman ___ "Hot Lips" Page
- 53 Sparks and Rorem

February 16, 2023

FREEDAILYCROSSWORDS.COM

see ANSWERS on page 15



CALENDAR THIS from previous page

BINGO NIGHT PLANNED

On Saturday, Feb. 25 the Community Scholarship Foundation of La

Cañada Flintridge (CSF) will host a community bingo night. The benefits will support the needs-based scholarships given annually to seniors attending high schools in La Cañada Flintridge and Crescenta Valley High School.

Doors open and food available at 5 p.m.; bingo starts at 6 p.m. at Community Center of La Cañada, 4469 Chevy Chase Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. The cost is \$50 per person and includes 10 bingo games and three Shamrock games; cash prizes ranging from \$100 - \$300 per game;

hamburgers, all the fixins', chips, beverages and dessert. Bring cash for extras (one dollar bills preferred) including 50/50 opportunities.

To purchase tickets, visit https://www.csflacanada.org/donate.

INTERPRETIVE HIKE

"These Boots Are Made For Walking," an interpretive hike, is planned for

Deukmejian Wilderness Park on Feb. 25 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is a moderately difficult hike on the Mummy Rock trail, the Le Mesnager Loop trail and the Vineyard trail. Hikers should bring flashlights (red covers are

available), water and wear sturdy shoes. Space is limited. Please RSVP at glendaleca.gov/hike.

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

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL - BINGO

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale Foundation is hosting a bingo night on Saturday, March 4 at the Elks Club in Glendale. Doors open at 6 p.m.; first game is 6:30 p.m. No outside food allowed. Individual tickets are \$40, which includes one bingo book and one meal ticket - however, sponsorships are available!

Proceeds benefit programs serving the children, youth, homeless, veterans and other non-profits in the local community.

For more information, including how to sponsor the event or how to buy tickets, visit www.glendalekiwanis.info or email glendalekiwanis@gmail.com.

TUESDAY MUSICAL FREE CONCERT

On Tuesday, March 7 at 12:30 p.m. a free concert will be performed at

Altadena Baptist Church, 791 E. Calaveras St. in Altadena.

On the roster is "Trio" by Mozart. Emily Denney will be on clarinet, Sue Reinecke on viola, Sharon Chan on piano. "Violin Sonata" by Grieg will be performed by Ann Levi on violin and Louise Earhart on piano.

Piano soloist Anna Ching will perform "Nocturne" by Chopin. A duet from "Aida" by Verdi will be performed by Diana Briscoe and Bernice Brightbill, vocalists and Geraldine Keeling on piano.

LIFE ON THE SHELF

Eden Ahbez, composer of the pre-flower-power anthem "Nature Boy" (made popular in 1948 by Nat King Cole), released his lone LP, Eden's Island, in 1960. Soon thereafter he wrote a dozen more songs intended to be the creative content of his second album. But because Eden's Island sold less than 100 copies in its initial release, and because his wife Anna contracted bone cancer in 1961, Eden's second album never got past the sheet music stage. In 1995, Eden passed away at the age of 86.

In 2009, fan turned researcher Brian Chidester found, tucked away on a shelf in the Library of Congress, more than a dozen hand-written lead-sheets of never recorded Ahbez compositions. In 2021, collaborating with the Swedish Band Ixtahuele, many of these songs were recorded and released.

Eden Ahbez had lived much of his time in the local Big Tujunga Canyon. This suite of new music was very much concerned with the spiritual qualities of this landscape.

Local history hunter Craig Durst will introduce the sights and sounds of the local canyons in the

form of music by Eden Ahbez.

This free presentation is on March 11 at 1 p.m. at Bolton Hall Museum, home of the Little Landers Historical Society, 10110 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga. Suggested donation is \$3 per person.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

The community is invited to play games with supporters of Bolton Hall Museum on March 25 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The afternoon of exploring and playing family friendly board and card games is suitable for ages 6 to 96. Based on the Museum's current exhibit, Toys & Games, Past & Present, young people are invited to see and learn vintage games and adults will relive the games of their youth.

This event is co-sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and is free and open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Bolton Hall Museum, Home of Little Landers Historical Society, 10110 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga.

Additional information is available from Little Landers Historical Society, (818) 352-3420 or by visiting BoltonHall.org.

ASCENCIA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL GALA

Sponsorships and tickets are now available for the April 22

Ascencia gala We Rise Together. Held at the City Club LA from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the event will raise funds for the Ascencia programs.

For more information, visit https://one.bidpal.net/ascenciagala2023/welcome.

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 clsof74reunion@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.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com 2.13.23-2.19.23

ARIES March 21 - April 19

You need to ensure that your emotions will be protected as much as your body. Now emotions are even more important. Since aspects affect your house of romance, children, and fun, these are areas that could be mined for additional income and emotional satisfaction. A new idea may provide a way to get out of your current employment in favor of something that means more to you.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

You're thinking about making some changes to the way you work and how you put your ideas into the world. A supportive aspect means you could easily take your work home, start a new home-based business, or transition your current job to something involving the home, such as building or decorating. The only challenge lies in the fact that your ego may find it hard to adjust to the changes.

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

Most important now isn't how much you have but rather the quality of your life as you consider how to make some important changes. Love and affection join with action and assertion to help you engage in creative pursuits like writing, film, radio, and television projects. If you've secretly harbored an urge to get involved, take a class or seminar.

CANCER June 21 - July 22

Money is usually a means to an end for you. You'd rather surround yourself with beauty than worry about how to make more money. But now, with activity in your house of cash and values, you've got so many opportunities that it's hard to manage them all. If you feel overwhelmed, keep a list of possibilities and whittle them down to the ones you can realistically accomplish. Money will be plentiful.

LEO July 23 - August 22

You have an extra-special surprise now. A harmonious aspect provides plenty of creative ideas, not to mention the talent to pull them off. Meanwhile, you also get the impetus and drive to take action on everything you want to achieve. Since it affects your self-expression, it's a great time for creative people to sell their products. Brainstorm about new places to sell what you've made.

VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

With activity in the area of your chart governing past lives, karma, and institutions, you're likely reevaluating your working plans going forward. Companies or people you thought you wouldn't want to work with seem to have all you want and need now, from distribution networks to access to deep-pocketed donors. To earn more, find a way to work within the system this time. You'll find it isn't nearly as bad as you think.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

This period is about all the ways you reach out to others for business or pleasure. Since harmonious activity affects your house of groups, social activities, and self-employment, you may be thinking about how to use your social networks to launch a new business endeavor of some kind. Even if it's on the side for a while, you may find that connecting to others can make all the difference.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Now you have a boon in your career sector. Your long-term career goals have been coming into focus for some time. But now you have the creativity, brainpower, hunger, and inventiveness to get things done. The only drawback is that career changes you make may not always sit well with your ego. Know that they're for the best in the end.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You love to delve into the spiritual and metaphysical. You could even choose this as a career path and develop your skills. Now your spiritual or psychic skills could receive a sudden boost. Since the astral activity affects your house of learning, traveling, and metaphysics, you could lead a tour of spiritual sites around the world or share your knowledge through teaching.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

This period is about how to adopt a comprehensive debt-repayment plan to get that part of your life sorted out for the last time. In the recent past, you may have been overwhelmed by the amount you owe for mortgage, credit cards, or loans from family and friends. But you have the benefit and the impetus to get it done. Divert ten percent of your income to this area.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You need to feel secure in all aspects of life, and that usually requires cash. Now your relationships become extra important when it comes to making more money. If you need a new job or recommendation, ask the most powerful person you know. This aspect is favorable for things working out and letting you build that security you crave.

PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

Now you're thinking about not only how to make more money and establish more security in your life but also how to make your working life more rewarding. With a harmonious aspect affecting your work, it's more likely to be noticed. This will allow you to move up the ladder without too much trouble. Make sure to ask for what you're worth instead of taking whatever the boss offers.

Animation Movies Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to solve the puzzle!

- 1. EUBYTA NAD TEH STEB
2. OFX ADN HET UDHNO
3. UDBOM
4. IKEMYC EMOSU
5. ADDNILA
6. IBABM
7. LNEAGDT
8. OYT OTYRS
9. SOWN WEIHT
10. MACSDAGAAR
11. LAEPNS
12. RASC
13. LTILET MDAMERI
14. RSMTNOSE
15. ANLELIREDC
16. CIAEL IN ELORADDWNN
17. TREEP APN
18. ERTIKN BLEL

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ANSWERS for page 14

Grid of letters for word scramble answers, including words like AVATAR, NIMBLE, and others.

RELIGION

Question: Five years ago my husband and I moved into this most welcoming neighborhood. We just found out that a neighbor's father died suddenly and unexpectedly from a heart attack. We neighbors have organized food for at least two weeks. Most of us who could attend the father's memorial did. Our challenge is what to say to someone who is grieving. Neither of us have had a sudden loss like this. I know our actions show we care but in my heart I'd like to have a comforting conversation with them instead of just saying, "I'm sorry." Suggestions are welcome.

~ Kindhearted Neighbor

Dear Kindhearted Neighbor,

Helping people grieve can be one of the most gratifying and challenging aspects of the work I do. Over the years, I have gained (some) wisdom in how I approach grief, personally and professionally. I am grateful there are those like you who willingly enter into others' grief to provide support.

First, understand that grief often comes in waves surrounded by mixed emotions like shame, regret, relief and comfort. Because of that, those who grieve may genuinely answer, "I'm doing okay" when asked. Checking in is important but allow whatever reply (or even no reply) to be enough to either prompt a follow up or let it be.

Grief takes time, especially with a sudden loss. Likely a year of missed birthdays and holidays can prompt reminders about loss. If you are aware of any of these special celebrations, a simple "thinking about you during this time" is fine. Promises made like "It gets better" or (even worse "heaven must have needed another angel" or other clichés do more harm than good for those in the midst of grief. Many times a faithful presence is all that is needed.

My mother died suddenly five years ago. There are times when it still hurts. Finding occasions to talk about her, sharing a fond memory, making a dessert that she liked helps me to allow her memory to be a blessing. Rather than talking about my grief as the primary topic, talking about the loss I am grieving is more therapeutic. Perhaps you can allow the conversations you hold move in that direction rather than focusing solely on the emotions that are being felt.

We often share grief with others but our culture tends to try to put on a happy face, to solve the "problem" of grief. Instead, enter into these conversations with the perspective that grief is a gift. It allows us to know our love for others remains powerful even in their absence. As long as that grief does not become destructive, we can make friends with it. And often others help us to experience that presence of faithfulness. Thank you for your willingness to be that sort of friend and neighbor!

Rev. Kyle Sears
kylesears@lacanadachurch.org

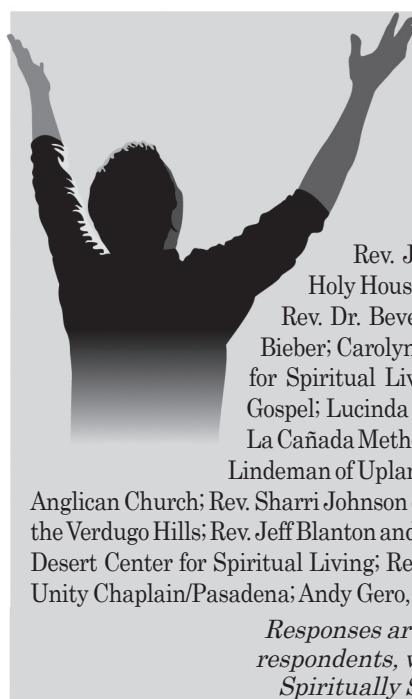
Dear Kindhearted Neighbor,
God's love is flowing through you and your husband. Reaching out

with food, a tender hug and a gentle word are always appreciated. People feel the love and care from others during a time of tremendous loss. It helps a lot. When something very sad happens to people we know it is difficult to find words of comfort. Even though we know, as human beings, loss is part of our physical time on earth what do we say to the person who has lost a loved one? No matter whether the loss is sudden or expected, it is always heartbreaking for them. The time right after a loved one's death is always overwhelming. We are caught up in the whirlwind of so much to take care of, so many people to talk with and so many details and decisions to make. During this very difficult part of our lives all we really want to do is cry, sleep and hide. When someone is going through a loved one's passing, people often talk about closure, getting past this trauma, etc. They are trying to help but being so vulnerable at this moment makes the idea of moving on feel like pressure. It feels as though you are turning your back on your loved one.

You will know what to say and when. God will give you the right time and the words. The best thing we can do at the beginning of helping anyone through times like this is to remind them to be gentle with themselves. Only time and the presence of God bring release of sorrow. Our belief in God's love gives us courage – not by closing the door but by opening it. We know through our faith that Divine Presence holds us, surrounds us in love and lifts us up throughout our whole life. In both, in times of happiness and sorrow, God is always present. Sometimes the loss is even worse a year later. The noise has diminished and we are left with the silence of our own thoughts. With encouragement and time, sorrow is gradually replaced by knowing love is forever. When the time is right, for a deeper conversation with them, either today or a year from now, invite your neighbors to share something meaningful that they shared with their father. Is there a star in the night sky, the rising light of the sun in the morning or an object that their father always treasured? Perhaps a song or a dance? Was there something they did together with their father that was a wonderful moment in both their lives? Sharing those moments and thanking God together for the blessings that this beloved person brought into their life brings comfort. It reminds all of us that love is forever.

Michelle Gillette
mgillette24@aol.com

Question: My friend and I organized a dinner for a local organization. We had about 60 guests. As we were having dinner, a homeless man came to the door and asked if we could give him some food. We brought him in, sat him at a table and gave him food and coffee. One of the couples asked if they could sit with him. That warmed our hearts because at first when we brought him in we had many inquiring looks



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.

as in, "Why are you doing this?"

My friends and I attend the same church and take Jesus' words to heart: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me." By the end of the evening, we found that the man's entire family had died in a plane crash, his wife and two adult children. He said he was so broken he couldn't work. When his money ran out and he couldn't pay his mortgage or had the energy to find out what he could do to keep his house, he began living on the streets. The couple who were sitting with him shared his story, with his permission, to the other guests. Offers of help came from many of the guests. Three couples, though, walked out. We feel in our hearts we did the right thing, even though those six individuals disagreed.

Now, we're in a quandary. We had no intention of causing trouble for the organization. Perhaps we should withdraw our membership? There will be a discussion about what we did at the next meeting.

~ Our Brother's Keeper

Dear Our Brother's Keeper,

Doing the right thing, despite adversity, takes an enormous amount of courage. However, the loveliest part of the act of kindness that you bestowed upon the homeless man is that you didn't even think twice about offering what you could. That's an actual act of selflessness and humility allowing, without question, your faith to take seriously the mercy and grace that our Heavenly Father freely gives. And the impact of your kindness for this man generated others to respond in kind rendering an additional outpouring of love and care for a man at the depth of despair.

Living out our faith is often fraught with criticism. However, Scripture reminds us that we are not of this world (John 18:36) and that sometimes the way is rough (John 16:33). We also know that we will overcome the world because the spirit of God lives inside each of us as believers and that He is greater than any adversity we might face (1 John 4:4).

There is an undeniable sadness for those who left the gathering for which we may face myriad emotions. Perhaps there was a twang of anger, maybe guilt or condemnation, or maybe even

questioning the validity of your choice to entertain the stranger (Hebrews 13:2). As much as we're called to support those in need and the lost, we are likewise called to extend grace and thoughtfulness to those who sidestep the calling, blessing those who condemn us (Matt 5:44; Romans 12:14). We are blessed because we bless (Ps 128:1).

I would submit that leaving the organization is premature at this point. Communication is generally a better first step. When you discuss this situation, my hope is that the other group members will hear your heart and understand why you invited that man in for a meal (Proverbs 1:3-6). Of course, there's the possibility that the action goes against protocol but I believe change happens when rules are questioned and reviewed.

Perhaps that other couple who supported you would be willing to stand with you as a show of solidarity. If the outcome hastens your departure from the group, that would be a sad day. On the other hand, leaving may also be a way to move you on to a greater calling where your actions may have more impact. Prayers for discernment will definitely be beneficial (Phil 1:9).

Blessings to you for answering the call to action, standing in the gap for a brother in need and modeling faith-in-action. Hopefully, the connections made that day provided a path to healing for the stranger to whom you ministered. Your choice reminds me of this passage in Scripture: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast,

immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" 1 Corinthians 15:8 (NKJV).

Continued blessings for your servants' hearts and the work He will do through you!

Be well & be blessed!

Lucinda Guarino
lucindagurino1@gmail.com

Dear Our Brother's Keeper,

Well, I think you did exactly as Jesus would have done and which we are all called upon to do. On the one hand, the cost truly was minimal ... so minimal one could hardly be upset over any expense your club may have incurred. What was it? A place at the table; a little food and coffee; a little attention; a kind, sympathetic ear and a little donation to help him get by for a while on the streets. The cost was not great. Yet, there is no price that can be put on such a great, kind, generous and compassionate gift. It was an act of love in its purest sense. It gave without asking for a return.

I would add my thank you for making the gentleman feel, for a moment, as if he was once again a valued and worthwhile human being. On the other hand, there appears to be a price you seem to be faced with in light of the couples who took offense to it all. If it is of any comfort, Jesus was always offending people, too. There is a saying that "the one who gets upset is the one with the problem." Some people do not take well to challenging surprises.

Since I take it this was not a



Rev. Kyle Sears



Michelle Gillette



Lucinda Guarino



Anthony Kelson, RScP

see SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING on next page

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NOTES & NODS

LCIF News

Lutheran Church in the Foothills will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 19 beginning at 10 a.m. LCIF will commemorate the milestone with a special worship, followed by a catered luncheon and a walk down memory lane. Special guests will include former longtime LCIF pastor Bruce Johnson (2002-2014) and his wife Gwen as well as Rev. Brenda Bos, bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA. All are welcome to attend. Those attending the luncheon are kindly asked to RSVP by contacting the church's office.

LCIF encourages attendees to bring canned goods to help feed the hungry. Donations to food pantries typically drop after Christmas and, according to LCIF, there is a particular need at this time in Lake View Terrace. The food collected will be delivered to Heart of the Canyon Church for distribution. Canned goods can be dropped off during Sunday's worship service or at anytime during the week.

Visit lcifoohills.org for event details. Weekly Sunday worship is

held at 10 a.m. in person and online. For more information or to request/offer help, email office@lcifoohills.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.

Wahlberg To Make Presentation

Melanie Wahlberg, practitioner of Christian Science healing and international speaker, will present her talk, "Giving Freely of Ourselves and What We All Gain" on Saturday, March 11 at 3 p.m. at 2406 Honolulu Ave. The talk will focus on universal healing precepts found in the Holy Bible, especially in Christ Jesus' life and teachings, and show how they are available for anyone to understand and experience.

The event is free, open to the community and is sponsored by two Churches of Christ, Scientist – in Montrose and Glendale. For additional information call (818) 249-8807. csmontrose.org; fccsglendale.com.

Walk and Word

In February, Walk and Word participants will meet in the parking lot of Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale at 8 a.m. on Feb. 19 and 26. Participants will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

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

Those with questions can email [Jeanne at jnlavieri@earthlink.net](mailto:Jeanne@jnlavieri@earthlink.net).

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

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

church group, this clearly was not something they were expecting or prepared to encounter. But that is the thing about spiritual lessons. They can appear at the most unexpected and sometimes inconvenient moments in our lives. They challenge us on an existential level. Some rise to it like the ones who asked to sit with the gentlemen. Others leave angry and offended. Even though you are still to face their ire over your act of kindness, do not think that the lesson for them was wasted. The roots of any seed grow unseen. In time it bears fruit. You may think the gift you gave was to the homeless man alone. In my opinion, there were six

others who received a gift that day. It was a gift meant for them, too. They will struggle to accept it.

Instead of fear and anger over their reaction and forthcoming attempt to hold you to account for their taking offense, we (and by that I mean our readers, too) should hold out our compassion for them as well. We should understand and accept the limitations of others as well as our own and do our best to meet them with understanding and forgiveness as we would hope others would offer us when we err. It is not easy to be a human being, which is why Jesus, perfectly aware of our limitations as humans, was always ready to forgive and

pardon even when they hung Him on the cross. His last words were for the forgiveness of human kind. That too was an act of love in its purest sense, a gift given with no expectation of a return.

As to your upcoming inquisition, please don't be afraid. You are protected. You cannot be harmed. You are surrounded by the goodness, grace and protection of the Divine. If ever you feel challenged with any fear over this please read Psalm 23 whenever you need comfort. Those words are your truth and reality in this matter.

*Anthony Kelson, RScP
penworth3@yahoo.com*

JULY/AUGUST 2023

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PUBLISHING THE WEEKS OF: August 4 & August 11, 2022

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME: AIDEN JOHN CARRETO (a minor by and through his parents Jasmine Sanchez and John Carreto), Case number 23BCCP00011, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles North Central District - Burbank, 300 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91502. To all interested persons: 1. Petitioner JASMINE SANCHEZ AND JOHN CARRETO, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. Present Name: AIDEN JOHN CARRETO to Proposed Name: AYDIN JONATHAN CARRETO. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: MARCH 3, 2023 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: A Room: N/A b. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Published Crescenta Valley Weekly February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

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I am so sad to have to sell this beloved car but my commute has increased and I have had to move to a smaller vehicle. My ideal buyer is someone who will love this car as much as I do. I bought the car used and I am its second owner. It's a 2WD with rear differential lock. The seats lay back and makes for a perfect car camper. I have maintained regular maintenance and have recently purchased all new tires, including the spare. It has a built-in subwoofer and adjustable roof racks. The body is in pretty good shape, but has a paint issue on the hood and the side window switch needs to be repaired. It has 177K miles, and asking price \$14,500. Anyone interested can call (818) 238-7248.

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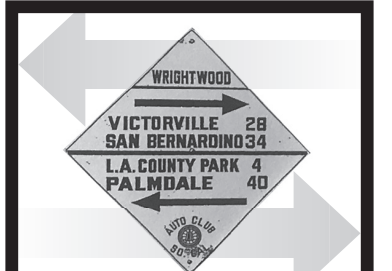
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FRIEDMAN from page 9

to keep abusive or corrupt coaches and staff from moving from one campus to another without consequences.

To better protect student athletes, I've introduced Assembly Bill 810, which requires colleges and universities to keep a record of athletic department staff who have been convicted of misconduct related to their position at the school, and use that information to guide hiring and contract renewal decisions with both potential and existing staff.

Colleges and universities in California should be making informed decisions on all of their hiring, especially for positions like those within athletic departments where there is close and often personal contact with students. It's inexcusable for staff with a proven record of misconduct to be allowed to quietly leave one school only to be placed in a position of power at another school without any oversight or transparency.

I'm looking forward to moving AB 810 through the legislature this year.

California's student athletes are the best in the nation – they deserve a level playing field and a system of accountability that protects them from abuse.

I hope you will join me in supporting AB 810 and student athletes. As always, please reach out to me with any comments, questions or concerns through my District Office at (818) 558-3043 or Assemblymember.Friedman@Assembly.ca.gov.

GCC from Cover

work; this network could improve response time for those in critical condition, leading to a decrease in cardiac-related deaths.

The Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Installation Phase Two Project was the only item of action discussed during the meeting. According to the agenda the RRFB Installation Phase Two Project is a "resolution to designate (the) City Manager, Director of Finance & Information Technology, and (the) Deputy Director of Finance as authorized representatives to apply and obtain disaster assistance from FEMA and Cal OES when major disasters strike."

The council discussed locations for the new crosswalk safety measures. These safety measures include adding a standard push activated button on crosswalks that notifies drivers of pedestrians entering a crosswalk via a flashing light; these systems will likely be implemented on Colorado Street. After tackling some questions from the council, the motion passed.

The meeting ended after a community member urged the council to allocate additional police officers to Griffith Park (specifically on the land next to the equestrian center). This topic will be discussed in greater detail in a future meeting.

SCHIFF from page 8

Jeffries asked me to take his place on the judiciary committee. Well, the judiciary committee under Jim Jordan is going to be a font of misinformation. It's going to be a deep state conspiracy theory and I've seen my role in the committee as exposing all the falsehoods that are going to come out of Jim Jordan and his colleagues.

You know, one of the reasons why we are vulnerable as a democracy right now is because social media provide [pathways for fear, lies, anger and conspiracy theory to viral]. I'm going to do my part to combat misinformation by pushing out good information, continuing to combat falsehood with the truth and working with good journalists who are exposing falsehoods.

CVW: You served on the House Intelligence Committee for years. Are you hoping to

become a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee as well?

I would love to serve on the intelligence committee. There are some profoundly dangerous challenges facing the country – and it's more than surveillance balloons from China, although those are concerning. Russia's making a brutal war on its neighbor ... there is a risk of the use of nuclear tactical weapons in that war. China is eyeing a potential invasion of Taiwan and Iran has continued to enrich uranium to near weapons grade. The intelligence committee sits at the center of these threats, receives information and helps policymakers make good decisions on the basis of good information. I would love to continue that work in the Senate.

CVW: Do you think there

is a greater chance for bipartisanship in the Senate than in the House right now?

I think at this moment in time, yes, there's more opportunity to get things done for the American people in the Senate. For the next couple of years, the House is just going to be a crazy town with the George Santoses and the Matt Gaetzes and the Marjorie Taylor Greenes calling the shots with McCarthy beholden to every one of them for his continued speakership.

Basically what the Republicans intend to do for the next two years is take our economy to the cliff with the debt ceiling, probably shut down our government and, apart from that do endless investigations of Hunter Biden's laptop. The Senate has its own share of destructive personalities – the Josh Holleys, the Ted Cruzes and

others – but there is also some important work that goes on in a bipartisan basis. So I think there's a bigger opportunity to find common ground to get things done.

CVW: How will you set yourself apart in a Democratic primary field filled with similar candidates sharing similar ideology?

I will be running on my record of getting things done for California for my constituents. I'll be running on the leadership I've demonstrated in protecting our democracy and fighting for an economy that works right now. I'm fighting against the extreme MAGA forces that are threatening the country – that's going to be the focus of my efforts: not fighting my fellow Democrats.

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