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JUNE 29, 2023

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VOL. 14, NO. 44

District Elections Community Workshops Schedule

Tuesday's meeting covered a lot of issues including the proposed Beeline contract, however during public comment one speaker introduced a subject that had been hotly debated in the past- the change from Glendale's citywide election to a district election.

The City of Glendale is exploring its options for changing from citywide elections to district elections. Cities throughout the state have been making this change to avoid a potential lawsuit, citing the California Voting Rights Act (the CVRA).

In a June 13 meeting, most of the public comments were against creating districts, but Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian reminded those in the audience, and watching at home, that this decision is a proactive one.

"We are faced with the option of either going to districts or being sued and going to districts," he said at the June 13 meeting.

The preliminary proposal is to establish six council districts and have an elected mayor; presently there are five councilmembers and a rotation-style mayorship. The proposed change will be on the March 2024 ballot.

"If this plan is approved by the voters, this would take effect beginning with Council elections starting in 2026. Voters would have the opportunity to elect one city councilmember who lives in and is elected by voters in their district and all Glendale voters would vote to select their next Mayor," according to mapglendale.org.

The Council pointed out that this is the preliminary proposal and a plan to hold outreach community meetings was put in place. The problem is, according to the speaker at the Tuesday, June 27 meeting, few appear to know when the meetings are scheduled.

The speaker referred to above had attended a recent meeting held at the Pacific Community Center and, according to the speaker, only two members of the public were in attendance. Those from the City far outnumbered the residents.

The community workshops/meetings include a PowerPoint presentation of the districts with officials available to answer questions.

see GCC on page 19

Montrose Car Show Returns for 21st Annual Event

By Charly SHELTON

Those who love to hear the rev of iconic engines or to see classic vehicles, head to Montrose on July 2.

It's time for warm days, loud engines and even louder paint jobs ... all of which can be found at the Montrose Car Show.

Montrose Shopping Park is gearing up for its 21st annual car show on Sunday, July 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the 2200, 2300 and 2400 blocks of Honolulu Avenue. This free event will showcase over 300 hot rods, classic and vintage cars, trucks, exotic cars and vintage motorcycles. The car show has become a tradition in the area, bringing thousands of car enthusiasts and local families to the shopping park. And after 20 years of the event, it is an institution in Montrose.

"This car show has a tremendous following and brings thousands of folks to the Montrose Shopping Park," said



Cackle cars, like this one displayed at the Montrose Car Show in 2022, will be found along Honolulu Avenue on Sunday.

FILE Photo

Dale Dawson, event coordinator for the Montrose Shopping Park Association. "They can get to know our shops and businesses. There are no outside food vendors for this event, so our many cafés and restaurants throughout the three blocks of Honolulu Avenue will be ready for the crowd. This is a unique activity that has a built-

in following unlike any other event."

This iconic event isn't just for car enthusiasts. The car show will offer music to get everybody in the mood, featuring DJs playing classic hits from The Beach Boys, Jan & Dean, and similar artists.

Fan-favorite "Cacklefest" returns, which will be a chance to

witness the might of horsepower with four drag racing cars revving their nitro-fueled engines for the crowd during two show times: at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. To ensure that everyone is safe during this noisy demonstration, organizers have put in place all necessary public safety measures and will

see CAR SHOW on page 7

Board Votes on Hybrid Solution to CVWD Water Woes

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

Like the June 13 public hearing, Tuesday night's board meeting of the Crescenta Valley Water District was contentious. CVWD customers packed the courtyard where chairs and tables had been set up for the board meeting to accommodate the anticipated overflow crowd. However, unlike the public hearing when board members had the opportunity to listen to the public's concerns regarding a proposed property related fee and charge that would be attached to homeowners' property tax bills, Tuesday night's board meeting couldn't provide the opportunity for exchange between board members and the public. This was upsetting to the

customers present who demanded answers to questions surrounding Resolution No. 786, the approval of capital charges on the property tax roll to fund pipeline replacement and associated costs for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The option that was of most concern to customers involved a possible charge of \$404 on most residents' property tax bills. In addition to challenging the board to find alternate means to fund replacement of the aging infrastructure, including merging with another water district and exploring possible grants, during public comment questions arose as to how prior monies had been spent. Also oft repeated was the need for more transparency from the district. More than one at-

tendee recommended that the board postpone the decision until a survey or poll was circulated among its 8,600-plus customers regarding the increase and how to fund it.

Once everyone spoke who had submitted a comment card, discussion took place among the board members regarding the options being considered for raising the money to replace the aging pipes within the water district. Despite shouts from the attendees and threats by President Sharon Raghavachary to close the meeting, discussion ensued and a final vote was taken among the board members



Photo by Robin GOLDSWORTHY

During public comment, resident and homeowner Robert Manciero suggested a survey be circulated to those affected by the proposed increase and said that more outreach was necessary by the district to gather information.

and a final vote was taken.

see CVWD on page 18



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



Getting to Know Molly

I didn't grow up with dogs. We had a dachshund – Fritz – for a short time after his owners moved away and couldn't keep him any longer. But that's about it.

Fast forward to my married life. We started with one of the best dogs ever. Peanuts was a golden Lab who was amazing. For example, one day when Steve and I were living on Altura Avenue we both forgot to shut the front door when we left for work. We came back and Peanuts was lying comfortably on the front porch. He never left the house – his house – and, in fact, the next day we received two days of mail rather than just one along with a note from our postman. Apparently, Peanuts wouldn't allow him near the front door to drop off the mail.

Then there was Whiskey. Whiskey was a Blond Retriever who taught me how to truly love dogs. He was my boy and went everywhere with me. He was a little skittish around Steve but okay around the boys, who all grew too tall for his liking.

Another winner was Little Bear. Steve found Little Bear one Saturday when he was up in the nearby mountains looking for a downed aircraft. He saw a baby bear lumber across his path and, curious, went to check it out. He left his car door open, though, as typically where there's a baby bear there's a mama bear. Before he knew what was happening, the baby bear jumped into his car and he learned that it wasn't a baby bear at all – it was a young Chow mix who still had his baby coat. Thus the name Little

Bear. The "Little" didn't stick too long and we just called him Bear.

Simply put, Bear was a party on four paws. He'd often jump the back gate and check out the nearby neighborhoods. Since I worked in nearby La Cañada, my phone number was on his tag. I can't tell you how many times I'd get a phone call asking, "Do you have a dog named Little Bear? He's at our house – but you don't have to come for a while. He's so cute and just hanging out here."

When I'd have Prom Plus meetings at the house, Bear would take the arm of (little) Jessy Shelton in his mouth to show her something. He'd never bite, just lead. He really was great.

Right now we have Kona, a Korean Jindo. We got him shortly after the Station Fire in 2009 after his owners moved and couldn't keep him. A quiet boy, Kona is easy-going and super obedient – truly a joy. Over the years, Kona has had several dog mates and has behaved superbly with them all.

Over the years, Kona had to make room in his house for other pups. He had to welcome Riley, a scrawny Retriever who was also an older dog. His owner was diagnosed with dementia and had to move to a facility. We knew that we'd be his last owners. I was surprised at how much

see ROBIN on page 19

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

A couple of weeks ago I spoke with Kayla Fearheller, founder of Bleu World, a non-profit organization that is empowering people to be citizen scientists as they explore oceans and beaches. We spoke about the expeditions she was arranging and some of the science Bleu World will be exploring. During the conversation Fearheller and board member Jessy Shelton (full disclosure – Jessy is my daughter) mentioned the increased number of sea urchins and how this affected kelp forests. With the information I got from them I went on a research binge that took me from a starfish pandemic to the invasion of zombie sea urchins.

Our movie opens on the image of the Earth: beautiful, blue with whiffs of white clouds. Zoom into the ocean off the West Coast and the images of a sea kelp forest gently swaying with the tides. Close-up on a small spiny purple creature making its way ever so slowly up on the kelp's stipe (it's like a stalk). Suddenly the stipe breaks way and the kelp plant falls into the darkness of the sea. Camera pulls back to reveal that most of the kelp forest is gone as if it were clear-cut. Pan down to see the floor of the once majestic kelp forest now covered with the purple spiny creatures. The title appears: "Purple Zombies of the Deep."

Oh, if only this was just a movie! But it is real life and unfortunately humans are the real antagonists of the story.

It began with the warming of the ocean waters...

According to NOAA, when the sea surface warmed it created an "ever-expanding hot spot that soon became known as 'the Blob.'" By the fall of 2014, it had spread up and down the West Coast. It pushed sea surface temperatures as much as seven degrees Fahrenheit above average.

With the warming water, a sea star wasting disease began to kill starfish ... so many in fact that scientists determined it was the largest disease epidemic ever observed in wild marine animals. Although the disease has been recorded in the past, a study by the University of California–Davis found that the warm water anomalies made the starfish more susceptible to the disease.

Sea stars are the natural predator of the sea urchin and without a threat the urchin population exploded. Sea urchins eat kelp and used to hide from predators in the crevices of the kelp forest.

Blades (leaves) from the kelp would naturally break off and fall to the areas where urchins were hiding and they would come out and eat the kelp pieces; however, with the warming water, kelp did not grow as fast so the urchins began to venture out to forage for food. They soon discovered there were no longer predatory threats and became bolder, according to a U.S. Santa Cruz report.

see WEATHER on page 7

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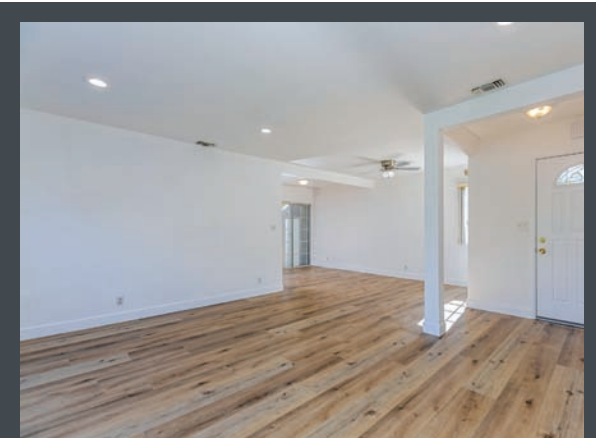
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Don't Miss Next Week's Q&A – Phyllis discusses "Requirements For Disclosing Violent Death"

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Rosemont Open Gate

An “open gate” event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Saturday morning, July 1. 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.

July 4th Fireworks Tickets

Tickets are now available for the Crescenta Valley Fireworks Celebration on July 4th. The event includes live music, inflatables and food trucks culminating with a dynamic fireworks show at dusk. For more information, including locations to pre-purchase tickets, see this week’s cover story.

Beyond the Box – Mural Art Programs Apps Accepted

Applications for this year’s Beyond the Box – Mural Art Program are now open. The deadline to apply is Aug. 4 at 5 p.m. PST.

Beyond the Box extends public art to new areas in an inventive way while creating an attractive environment. The theme for this year is “Celebrating Inclusion.” This year’s theme intends to uplift and strengthen the voices of Glendale’s diverse community.

Artists are strongly encouraged to incorporate this year’s theme in their design. The Arts & Culture Commission (ACC) will fund \$1,000 per utility

see BRIEF on page 7

Coming Soon: the Reopening of Montrose Bowl

By Mary O’KEEFE

Last week the Historical Society of Crescenta Valley (HSCV) arranged for an informational tour of the recently renovated Montrose Bowl. HSCV is an organization that strives to keep history alive and historical places intact. Its members have been watching this famous Montrose landmark for a while and are very excited about its upcoming grand opening.

“This is great,” said Mike Lawler, former president of the HSCV.

The work done on Montrose Bowl is the type of development Lawler lives for – a business that is not being torn down or remodeled to the point that all of its history is wiped away.

When crossing the threshold of the new version of the Montrose Bowl it is obvious that its new owners understand what this historic place means to the community.

“We are really excited to open up this place,” said Robert Grigoryan, operations partner. “It has been a long time coming.”

Grigoryan estimated Montrose Bowl would be reopening “soon.” There has been a lot of work done on the property and it took longer than anticipated to complete. In an earlier interview Grigoryan said the interior of the building had not been updated since the 1980s/90s. Plumbing and electrical equipment had to be repaired, not including all the wall and floor repairs.

The property was purchased by Tzvi Ratner-Stauber. His family is well established in California, doing business in the San Fernando Valley since 1910. In an earlier interview with CVW, Ratner-Stauber said he grew up going to Montrose Bowl and when he heard the business was for sale he was concerned that a developer might come in and turn it into another business, so the family decided to purchase it.

“[Our family] loves Honolulu Avenue [but] we knew this was outside our comfort zone. This could be a passion project and not just [approached] from a landlord’s standpoint,” he said at the time of the interview.

Grigoryan also grew up in the area and had come to the Montrose Bowl for birthday parties. He also knows how excited everyone is to start bowling again.

The interior design is an updated, 1950s style in beautiful green, pink and white colors that brings a smile to the face of everyone who steps through the door. The footprint of the bowling alley has been kept intact and there will be a restaurant that will serve a vegan menu.

“We are going to have draft beer on [tap],” he added.

Draft beer will be offered in addition to a variety of bottled beer.

Montrose Bowl has a rich history that was shared by Lawler during the walk through.

“The bowling alley was built in 1940 by a local doctor,” Lawler said. “Bowling was a big deal.”

Back in those days the bowling alley had a lot of teams including Dr. Johns’ Squad (he was the doctor who put up the money for the purchase of the bowling alley), Huntington Iron Works, Gladding McBean from Glendale, Nitsche Service Station, Anawalt Lumber and Harry Slack Dodge Dealership (called The Dodgers), Lawler said.

When the Montrose Bowl opened there weren’t yet automated pin machines, only semi-auto pin machines, so pin boys were hired to load into a frame the knocked down pins.

“This was loud and dangerous work. It was not uncommon for kids to have broken fingers or ribs [while loading the pins],” Lawler said.

Local resident Joe Kroening knew the risk but applied anyway to be a pin boy.



Photo by Mary O’KEEFE

The interior design of the historic Montrose Bowl has been updated in a 1950s style using beautiful green, pink and white colors.

“I had applied and was told I would be hired soon. Then those new fangled automatic pinsetters were installed and no more boys were need to set the pins,” said Kroening.

He joked he had been “aced” out of a job by advanced technology.

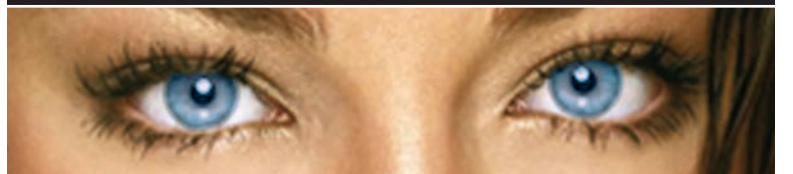
The bowling alley has been brought back to its former glory with much-needed improvements mixed with a nod to the past. There is a new updated ball return and new bowling balls; manual game scoring (no electronic scoring boards) will be kept.

The date for the grand opening has yet to be set but it will most likely be as big an event as it was on May 29, 1940 when Montrose Bowl first opened its doors.

“The first ball was thrown by Dr. Johns, who put up the money, and then had an exhibition trick bowling by Max Stein [who was billed as] ‘the famous Jewish bowler,’” said Lawler.

see BOWLING on page 4

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NOTES & NODS

'Twists and Turns' – a Vacation Bible School at La Crescenta Presbyterian

Join La Crescenta Presbyterian Church for a week of "Twists and Turns," a Vacation Bible School taking place Monday through Friday, July 10-14, from 9 a.m. to noon.

All children from age 4 to incoming sixth graders are welcome at this week of games, crafts and singing, all focused on the message that "Following Jesus Changes the Game!"

The cost of this weeklong adventure is per family unit: \$50

for 1 child; \$85 for two children; \$120 for three or more children. T-shirts are included.

"Twists and Turns" will take place at the La Crescenta Presbyterian campus at 2902 Montrose Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information, contact Jesiah@lpc.net or call 818-249-6137. To register, visit lpc.net/vbs.

Walk and Word

In July, 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 July 9, 16, 23 & 30. 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.

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.

BOWLING from page 3

Stein is listed as being the winner of the American Bowling Congress (ABC) Championship in 1937. The first bowling national tournament was for the ABC in 1901.

Prior to the purchase by Ratner-Stauber, Montrose Bowl was owned by the Berger family.

"Many remember Bob Berger. His parents were immigrants from Europe, knew nothing about bowling, but bought the business in 1981," Lawler said. "Bob came back to Montrose in 2000 to help with the business and bought it [from his parents] in 2008."

Though the bowling alley had been open to the public for years it was mainly used for private parties and filming.

"There was a lot of filming here including 'Teen Wolf,' 'Pleasantville,' 'Frankie and Johnnie' and 'Jersey Boys' plus lots of network and cable television," Lawler added.

Grigoryan said he has already been contacted by some production companies interested in the reopening of the bowling alley.

When it reopens, Montrose Bowl will be available to the public and, according to Grigoryan, from the time it opens to the end of the year anyone who buys a meal at the restaurant/bar will get a free game.

"As an appreciation to the community and to the support we've received," he explained.

Summer Adult Christian Education

Confirmation class (aka catechism class) is an educational ministry of the Church for baptized Christians to equip them with the essential principles of Christianity for the purpose of helping them personally affirm the baptismal covenant God made with them, personally confirm their faith in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, personally identify more deeply with the Christian community, and personally commit to participate more fully in Christian life and mission.

Those who missed out on confirmation classes when they were young, or for those who didn't miss out but would like to refresh this instruction, the following confirmation curriculum has been adapted for adult

participants:
 July 12: Who wrote the Bible?
 July 19: Can it be proven that God Exists?
 July 26: What is the Church of Jesus Christ?
 Aug. 2: If Jesus Christ is God then why did He have to die?
 Aug. 9: Is Christ really the only way to God and heaven?
 Aug. 16: Can I accept both evolutionary theory and creation theology?
 Aug. 23: Why does God let bad things happen?
 Aug. 30: Does the Book of Revelation really describe how the world will end?

(Please note: This adult confirmation class can serve as a preparation for Holy Baptism for those who have a personal faith in Jesus Christ but have

not yet been baptized.)
 Over these eight Wednesdays in July and August, from 6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m., Mount Olive Lutheran Church in La Crescenta, through the eight topics listed above, will explore Christian life, faith, theology and spirituality, drawing upon the truth of Almighty God within the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and various key passages of the Holy Bible.

All those seeking to deepen their understanding of Christ and to strengthen the foundation of their personal relationship with God are welcome to attend! And bring a friend!

Mount Olive Lutheran Church is located at 3561 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta.



A division of Crescenta Valley Publishing, LLC

Robin Goldsworthy
 Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
 robin@cvweekly.com

Mary O'Keefe
 Lead Reporter
 mary@cvweekly.com

Designers
 Steve Hernandez
 Senior Artist
 steve@cvweekly.com

Matthew Barger
 matt@cvweekly.com

Columnist
 Mike Lawler
 lawlerdad@yahoo.com

Contributing Writers

Julie Butcher • Rev. Beverly Craig • Roman Inguanzo
 Lucian Kugler • Charly Shelton • Ruth Sowby
 Anne McNeill, proofreader
 Sofia Lopardo, intern

Advertising

Jon K.
 (818) 248-2740
 jon@cvweekly.com

Sonya Marquez
 (818) 381-2000
 sonya@cvweekly.com

Lisa Stanners
 (818) 523-1234
 lisa@cvweekly.com

Office Manager/Inside Sales

Rachelle Miller
 rachelle@cvweekly.com

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To contact us, call (818) 248-2740, fax (818) 248-2444

E-mail info@cvweekly.com. Visit the web at www.cvweekly.com

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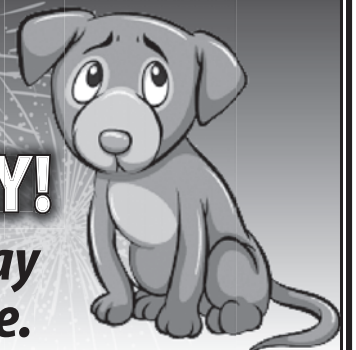


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AI: Helping Criminals to Scam

By Mary O'KEEFE

It seems like bad actors are finding more and more ways to scam people out of their money, and their security, and artificial intelligence (AI) has become another weapon in their arsenal.

"You get a call. There's a panicked voice on the line. It's your grandson. He says he's in deep trouble – he wrecked the car and landed in jail. But you can help by sending money. You take a deep breath and think. You've heard about grandparent scams. But darn – it sounds just like him. How could it be a scam? Voice cloning, that's how," warns a consumer alert from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

This type of scam has been around long before the prevalence of AI; however, the ability of AI to create a voice that sounds like a person's loved one who is in danger brings an added level of believability to the scam.

Sgt. John Gilbert, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. - Crescenta Valley Station, said his family member was a victim of this type of scam.

"[My grandfather] was a skeptical person," he said. But a few years ago he received a phone call. The person on the other end of the call said he – Gilbert, his grandson – was in Mexico and in jail. He needed

money immediately.

Gilbert was a deputy at the time and was not in Mexico; his grandfather knew this and was skeptical but yet this call gave him pause. He considered every possibility and, ultimately, didn't buy into the scam. But, Gilbert said, this experience affected him long after he received the call. He continued to question whether he did the right thing while still worrying, in the back of his mind, that his grandson was in danger.

This vulnerability is what criminals are counting on ... that moment of doubt that turns into fear that a loved one is in danger. Today, this scam is super-charged when a voice on the phone sounds like a family member who is supposedly in trouble.

Criminals use voice recognition software to create a copy of someone's voice by recording him/her speaking. Getting that recording is as easy as making a phone call.

AI has captured and recreated the singing voices of well-known artists, for example, or of public figures who have a wealth of recordings that are accessible to duplicate; however, scammers can get people's voices even if they never gave a recorded speech. It does this by calling victims and secretly recording their voices.

Many people have received

calls when it appears the no one is on the other line, yet they continue to say "Hello" or ask, "Who is this?" People can also receive a call from what appears to be a wrong number; many will politely tell the person they reached a wrong number. Sometimes these conversations last a few seconds but other times they last minutes as people try to explain to callers that they reached a wrong number and "No, we don't know anyone by that name." It could be a scammer on the other end recording the victim's voice and using AI to replicate that voice for future use.

Anyone who has seen a law enforcement film or television show may think this technology has been around since the days of "Perry Mason" – someone records someone else then edits the recording to create any type of message. AI, though, has brought that technology forward. All that is needed are statements from a person and AI can create a voice that is difficult to discern from the real human voice.

Those who answer a phone call from an unknown number should let the caller speak first. Whoever is on the other end of the line could be recording snippets of the prospective victims' voices – and later using those to impersonate them in a very convincing manner,

according to the FTC.

The scenario is similar to what Sgt. Gilbert's family member experienced. The victim receives a call; a panicked voice is on the other end. Loved ones say they are in trouble and need help. Scenarios may include that the loved one is in jail, has been in a car accident or is in the hospital – whatever the story, the bottom line is money is always needed. And this is when the scammer works to maintain a heightened level of fear. It is meant to disarm victims, to panic them so that when they are told to send money by gift card or Green Dot transfer, victims do it because they are nervous for the safety of their loved ones. It is a performance by the criminal made easier through the aid of AI.

Scams usually come in waves and it is important for people to be vigilant. There may be an increase in IRS scams or of people claiming they are part of a non-profit organization trying to raise funds or from a utility company. There is a scam when victims receive calls concerning unpaid bills and the caller demands payment. Sometimes caller ID appears on the phone as "Unknown" or from another number that is not recognized; however, there are now ways for victims to receive calls from what appears as a known caller ID.

"One we see across the nation is when someone calls and [says] they represent a law enforcement agency," Gilbert said. He added the call from "the law enforcement agency" could be from a variety of agencies including the district attorney's office. He has even heard of criminals stating they represent the U.S. Border Patrol.

"They call you and say there is a warrant out for your arrest," he said. "They try to scare you with [legal action] if you don't pay what they say you owe."

However, it is advised not to trust the voice on the phone. Instead, call the person who supposedly made contact to verify the story. Use a phone number that is known as theirs – don't call the number given by the caller. If loved ones cannot be reached, try to get in touch with them through another family member or via their friends.

"The scammers usually direct the victim to go to a [store] to get a Green Dot card or some type of [gift] card and transfer or send money," Gilbert said.

There are other ways for scammers to get their victims to send money that will be nearly impossible to track; however, the best way that consumers can protect themselves is to stay calm and trust their instincts. Don't let the scammers push

see SCAMS page 7

Mosquito Awareness to Reduce Deadly Viruses

As spring days become warmer – and mosquitoes more common – the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health advises all residents to take precautions now to help prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

Illnesses such as the West Nile and the Saint Louis encephalitis viruses can be spread through the bite of an infected mosquito in Los Angeles County. Public Health recommends the following actions to reduce the risk of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne disease infections:

- Take steps to control mosquitoes indoors and outdoors:

- Use screens on windows and doors. Check for and repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors.

- Stop mosquitoes from laying eggs in or near standing water. Once a week empty and scrub, turn over, cover or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pet bowls, flowerpot saucers, rain barrels, or other containers. These are places where mosquitoes lay eggs.

- Empty and wash birdbaths and wading pools weekly.

- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools; drain any water collecting on pool covers.

- Stock garden ponds with

fish that eat mosquitoes such as mosquitofish, goldfish or koi. These feed on mosquito eggs and larvae.

- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn during warm mosquito season when mosquitoes are most active.

- Use insect repellent. Choose Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Find the right insect repellent by using EPA's search tool.

- Cover up. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors, particularly at dusk and dawn, and in areas where more mosquitoes are present, such as ponds with stagnant water.

- Report stagnant swimming pools or "green pools" to the Public Health Environmental Health Bureau at (888) 700-9995 or to a local vector control agency.

- Report dead birds to the California West Nile Virus Dead Bird Hotline at (877) 968-2473 or online: <https://westnile.ca.gov/report.php>.

"The best ways to prevent West Nile virus infections and other mosquito-borne diseases are to take steps now to eliminate mosquito breeding spots and to protect our families from bites," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., director of the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health. "Because there are no vaccines to prevent West Nile, or a treatment to cure this disease, we can all follow simple steps to reduce the risk of West Nile virus including removing standing water around our homes and avoiding mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk."

- About West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States and each year cases are detected among residents in Los Angeles County.

While everyone is at risk for West Nile virus, people over age 50 and those with health problems are at greater risk of serious illness. West Nile virus can affect the nervous system and result in meningitis, encephalitis, limb paralysis and even death.

Symptoms may include fever, headache, nausea, body aches and a mild skin rash. Severe symptoms include high fever,

see MOSQUITO page 6

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Business Spotlight

Emma Abramyan, DDS, AIAOMT, IABDM Certified Biological Dentist

Get to know Dentist Dr. Emma Abramyan who serves patients throughout the State of California.

Get to know Dentist Dr. Emma Abramyan who serves patients throughout the State of California.

An established dentist, Dr. Emma Abramyan is in practice at Dr. Emma's Integrative Wellness and Laser Dentistry Center with offices in San Francisco and Glendale.

Dr. Emma's Wellness Center offers a comfortable, relaxed environment where patients

can look forward to their dental appointment instead of dreading it.

They are proud to provide a wide range of services, including laser dentistry. They provide both cosmetic and general dental treatments so that patients can reach a healthy, beautiful smile. Their office is modern, using the latest in dental techniques and technology. They utilize CEREC® technology, a high-definition intraoral camera, panoramic 3D X-rays, ozone generator, red light therapy, different wavelength lasers and new generation centrifuge. They also provide airway-centered pre-orthodontic treatments like MYOBRACE, snoring laser treatment Nightlase and PRF treatment.

Before embarking on her professional journey, Dr. Abramyan graduated with honors from the University of the Pacific Dental School as a recipient of the Dean's Clinical Excellence Award. After graduating, her focus on the relationship of oral health and its effect on the overall wellbeing of the body led her to advanced studies with International Academy of Biological Dentistry and Medicine, International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, and the American Academy for Oral Systemic Health.

Seeking ways to further benefit her patients, she then focused on ozone therapy and laser use in dentistry and medicine, and became a board certified laser

surgeon and ozone-certified healthcare professional. Her latest passion is using anti-aging regenerative laser assisted treatments.

Recognized as a SMART (Safer Mercury Amalgam Removal Technique) certified dental provider, Dr. Abramyan is an active member of the International Academy of Tongue Tie Professionals, the American Academy

of Craniofacial Pain, the American Laser Study Club, the Team Airway Study Club, and the Holistic Dental Association,

the American Academy of Anti-aging Medicine and the International College of Integrative Medicine.



the American Academy of Anti-aging Medicine and the International College of Integrative Medicine.

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GEF Hosts Annual Recognition Evening

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

The Glendale Educational Foundation held its 2023 Donor Celebration on Thursday night, June 22, at the Glen Arden Club in Glendale. The evening was a welcome respite from the battles that the Glendale Unified School District board of education has recently endured with members of the school board on-site to celebrate the accomplishments of some of its alumni.

Recognized with the Paragon Diamond Award was Armen Karaoghlanian. A graduate of Glendale High School, Karaoghlanian was recognized for his work in the film industry. Among his recognitions, in 2021 Karaoghlanian was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the City of Glendale.

The Premier Rose Diamond Award was presented to Alireza Ardekani. Ardekani, executive director of the Farhang Foundation, who was recognized for his career in media including marketing, development, project management and digital promotions. A graduate of Hoover High School, Ardekani is noted as a "proud Iranian American passionate about Iranian politics, history, art, film, music and cuisine."

Finally, Hoover High School graduate Eric Spillman received the award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts. Spillman is perhaps best known as a reporter for the KTLA 5 Morning News. During his career he has received several Emmys, Golden Mikes, LA Press Club and other awards.

All the recipients were grateful for



the recognition and thanked those who influenced them throughout their lives.

Another highlight of the celebraton was the recognition of outgoing GUSD superintendent Dr. Vivian Ekchian. Ekchian announced her retirement from the district at the June 20 GUSD board meeting.

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Attending the celebrate were (from left) GUSD board of education members Kathleen Cross, Jennifer Freemon, Nayiri Nahabedian, GEF immediate past president Marvel Ford, GUSD superintendent Dr. Vivian Ekchian, board of education members Shant Sahakian and Ingrid Gunnell.

TOP: From left are Premier Rose Diamond Award recipient Alireza Ardekani, Distinguished Achievement in the Arts recipient Eric Spillman and Paragon Diamond Award recipient Armen Karaoghlanian.

Photos by Robin GOLDSWORTHY

MOSQUITO from page 5

muscle weakness, neck stiffness and confusion as well as coma.

While not all mosquitoes carry West Nile virus, the type of mosquito that spreads this virus is found throughout Los Angeles County, and across the state.

For more information on West Nile virus, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/westnile. To find a local vector control district that helps protect residents from mosquitoes, visit <http://www.socalmosquito.org>.

WEATHER from page 2

The urchins thrived. Divers began reporting areas blanketed by the purple sea urchin. They would watch the urchins climb the kelp and break the stalks off. As the urchins grazed they destroyed the kelp forest creating urchin barrens. By 2018 it was determined that about 80% of the kelp forest cover in northern California had been lost.

“We believe several factors initiated the urchin outbreak,” said Joshua Smith, a UC Santa Cruz student who studied the issue in 2017. “The loss of a major urchin predator was soon followed by a decline in kelp productivity due to climatic stressors.”(From an article in UC Santa Cruz Newscenter.)

So why did the urchins not get killed off by their predator the sea otter? That is the question Smith asked. It appeared that sea otters were only eating the urchins that were near the areas of the old sea kelp forest. They did not eat the urchins in the barrens because they had less nutrition and in fact had been called by some “zombie urchins” because when they were opened up they were empty inside.

The sea otters were helping in the areas of what was left of the kelp forest but problems remained with the zombie urchins.

Between the urchins, warming water and – oh yes over-harvesting, which I hadn’t even mentioned yet – the Nature Conservancy found that 96% of kelp forests in northern California have disappeared.

Sea otters are helping by eating as many healthy urchins as they can while human scientists are thinning the population by removing the urchins from the kelp area and barrens. The plan was to give/sell the urchins to restaurants; however, it appears that neither otters nor humans want zombie urchins on their menu. So scientists are working on revitalizing the zombies on urchin farms to bring them up to the standards to be approved both by otters and humans.

Scientists are hopeful but, as always, cautious of this method.

Returning to a movie scenario: The sun begins to set. Scientists in a lab are attempting to save the zombie urchins. They slice open one and it appears to be less empty than the others. The scientists look relieved. Camera pulls back to reveal a never-ending blanket of purple urchins.

New scene: A sailboat off the coast of California. Four friends wearing scuba gear get ready to dive. They carry with them small cameras and underwater notebooks. These are citizen scientists and are the closest thing to protagonists in this story.

Camera follows them into the sea. One diver sees one healthy starfish on a rock and motions for her friends. They take photos, write in their notebooks and give the thumbs up sign. Maybe this is a sign the starfish are coming back.

The camera pans to see the sun streaking through the blades of the kelp forest.

Fade to black.

Okay, I’m an optimist; I like my films to end on a hopeful note. I know it may be one person who starts ringing the danger bell but that can lead to another ... and another. I still believe that humans will find a way to work together to save the planet. I have seen it with the citizen scientists I wrote about a couple of weeks ago. What better group of heroes than people from all walks of life working together to help save the world?

FYI – it was citizen scientists who gathered a lot of data for the scientists regarding kelp, urchins and otters.

Again, like in the June 15 article, for anyone interested in more information or would like to join future expeditions and learn how to be a citizen scientist, whether it as a diver or on land, contact Bleu World by going to bleuworld.org.

Our weather will be warmer, too, though hopefully not zombie creating warm.

Today we’ll see patchy fog, again, but a high of 81 degrees is predicted. That warming trend will continue with temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s through the week, according to NOAA.

SCAM from page 5

someone to action. Take the time to double-check whatever is being said. Whatever agency scammers state they are calling from, find that number independently and call them, whether the IRS, a utilities company or law enforcement agency. And check on loved ones; call their number directly if a call is received stating they are in trouble.

“Call or message the family member or friend who [supposedly] contacted you. Call them at a phone number that you know is right, not the one someone just used to contact you. Check if they’re really in trouble. Call someone else in your family or circle of friends – even if the caller said to keep it a secret. Do that especially if you can’t reach the friend or family member who’s supposed to be in trouble. A trusted person can help you figure out whether the story is true,” according to FTC.

And don’t engage after answering a phone call from a number that is not recognized. Wait for the person on the other line to speak first. When someone gets a call from a trusted phone number but something doesn’t seem right, hang up and call that number back. Normally scammers cannot intercept that call and it will go directly to the trusted person.

People who think they may have been victims of fraud can contact ReportFraud.ftc.gov or call their local law enforcement agency to report any losses.

CAR SHOW from Cover

provide free earplugs to the crowd.

The car show has always had a positive response from the community, with many families and friends attending the event each year. In line with the previous events, this year’s car show promises to be another successful family-oriented occasion that offers safe entertainment for everyone.

“The community response has always been positive and the event itself provides safe and fun family entertainment for all,” Dawson said. “Even if one is not an aficionado of hot rods and classic cars, the amazing variety of vehicles on display will astound and fascinate any and all who come to see them.”

The Harvest Market will operate alongside the car show, occupying the east end of the shopping park between Market Street and Verdugo Road. The unique experience offers plenty of opportunities for all attendees to stroll and enjoy everything on display.


For more information on the Montrose Car Show, visit ShopMontrose.com/montrose-car-show.

IN BRIEF from page 3

box and anticipates selecting artwork for up to 15 utility boxes. Artists are responsible for prepping, priming and painting the utility boxes, and are encouraged to incorporate volunteers in the painting process.

Beyond the Box is open to all local and regional artists. The ACC encourages both new and established artists to apply. Artists may apply as an individual artist or as a group at <https://www.glendaleartsandculture.org/beyondthebox>.

Beyond the Box is supported by the City of Glendale and the Glendale Arts and Culture Commission.



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BETWEEN FRIENDS

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital earns Leapfrog's 'A' Hospital Safety Grade

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital (USC-VHH) has earned a rating of "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, for achieving the highest national standards in patient safety. This achievement places USC-VHH among top tier hospitals in the nation for safety and quality.

"Our entire staff is dedicated to improving and upholding the highest standards of patient care," said Mary Virgallito, MSN, RN, chief quality officer at USC-VHH. "This score reinforces our ongoing efforts to implement the most current, evidence-based practices for patient safety and outcomes."

The Leapfrog Group assigns letter grades to general hospitals throughout the U.S. based on a hospital's ability to prevent medical errors and harm to patients. Hospital Safety Grade results are based on more than 30 national performance measures and are updated each fall and spring.

"We are proud of the unwavering commitment of our staff in ensuring safety and quality care for our patients and will continue striving to ensure that this is the first 'A' grade of many," said Armand Dorian, MD, MMM, CEO of USC-VHH.

USC-VHH recently employed several initiatives to improve quality and patient



safety. The hospital has maintained rigorous infection prevention programs and has dedicated staff providing specialized 24-hour care for inpatients, intensive care and labor and delivery through its hospitalist, intensivist and laborist programs.

The Leapfrog Group grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. To see USC-VHH's full grade details and access hospital safety tips for patients, visit hospitalsafetygrade.org.

Dr. Kaustabh Ghosh Recognized With Prestigious Catalyst Award

Doheny Eye Institute, one of the nation's leading vision research institutions, announced that Kaustabh Ghosh, Ph.D. was recently recognized by Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) and the International Retinal Research Foundation (IRRF) with the Catalyst Award for innovative approaches for age-related macular degeneration (AMD). RPB and IRRF are two of the preeminent non-profits supporting eye research.

AMD is the leading cause of blindness in older Americans and, because it currently has no effective therapies, there is a significant need to recognize, understand and inhibit AMD progression at the earliest stages. As a principal investigator at Doheny Eye Institute and associate professor of ophthalmology in the UCLA Dept. of Ophthalmology, Dr. Ghosh is currently working on novel ways to understand or treat AMD. The Catalyst Award brings a grant of \$300,000 for Dr. Ghosh to continue his important research.

"Our team is very grateful to have received the prestigious Research to Prevent Blindness and Retinal Research Foundation Catalyst Award as it is a testament to the high impact that unique, multidisciplinary approaches might have

in addressing long-standing complex problems like AMD," said Dr. Ghosh.

Dr. Ghosh's work integrates the principles and techniques of physical, biological and medical sciences to understand the problem of vascular loss in the eye in early AMD. His approach is distinct from the traditional emphasis on the role of genetic or biochemical cues in AMD.

Early AMD, which most often is symptomless, is marked by significant degeneration of blood vessels in the outer retinal tissue called choroid. Vascular stiffness is increasingly being recognized as a major contributor to various other debilitating conditions such as cancer, atherosclerosis, and lung edema. Inspired by these findings from non-ocular diseases, Dr. Ghosh is currently investigating whether and how changes in vascular stiffness contribute to the onset/progression of AMD.

For more information about the groundbreaking ocular research that takes place every day at Doheny Eye Institute, visit www.doheny.org.

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LCFOG Enjoys Evening of Fun and Magic



The 2023 La Cañada Flintridge Orthopedic Guild (LCFOG) "Stand for Kids Gala" was in full swing on Sound Stage 15 at Universal Studios on Saturday, June 10. The gala was in support of the Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children (LuskinOIC) whose mission is to advance health equity to every child. Guests of the gala provided many opportunities to make high-quality medical care available to any child who needs it.

Those interested in keeping away from the slight drizzle of the evening took a shuttle to the gala. Danette and Kerry Erickson, Marie Baker, Joan Clevon, Jeanne and Hart Long, Joanne and Ron Ploszaj and DeeDee and John Nuanes all had seating in front rows. There were several highlights of the evening including a special treat: the opportunity of taking a photo with "Marilyn Monroe." LCFOG guests were greeted with a large white ball noting LCFOG and its commitment to LuskinOIC.

Guests enjoyed a night of entertainment, awards, dining, dancing and celebrity performances. Wizardry, inspiration and a silent auction were also part of the gala, which was decked out in green décor.

The LCFOG group made its way to Harry Potter Village, walked through the castle and enjoyed a light show (as well as dessert) to complete the evening.

LCFOG members are already looking forward to next year's gala; however, in the meantime members are preparing for their annual Book and Author Luncheon in October at the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club. More information on this event to follow.

Submitted by Arlene MASSIMINO



Photos compliments of LCFOG members

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Almost Flawless and Close to Perfect

Casa 0101 presents a beautiful opening night performance of Arthur Miller's, "Death of a Salesman"

By Lynn SHER

Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Death of a Salesman" opened on Friday, June 16 at Casa 0101 Theater in Boyle Heights.

This production is special for many reasons, the first being that the cast is almost entirely Latino. Classics like "Death of a Salesman" have historically been predominantly cast with White actors and it's always refreshing and so right to see these roles made available to other ethnicities. Plays like "Death of a Salesman" that explore identity and change delve so deeply into the human experience that nationality and ethnicity are ultimately peripheral.

"Death of a Salesman" is a tragedy, set in 1940s Brooklyn, New York and focuses on the psychological and mental decline of Willy Loman, the play's leading character. Throughout the play he comes to terms with the fact that, despite his decades of commitment to his craft of salesmanship, success has eluded him. Even worse, his children, who once held great promise, are floundering as they grow older, choosing roads that lead nowhere. As the truth

of this reality becomes too painful to accept, he drifts in and out of excruciating memories that reverberate with regret. Emmanuel Deleage, the show's producer and executive director of Casa 0101 Theater, eloquently boils down the play's essence.

"['Death of a Salesman'] explores the quintessential battle taking place in one way or another inside the heads of each one of us: the pursuit of success, the difficulty of accepting reality, the love of family [and] the struggle to force the hand of destiny," Deleage said.

The company of actors is phenomenal and brilliantly cast. Vance Valencia gives a virtuoso performance as Willy Loman that deserves packed houses every night. He slips in and out of Willy's psychoses with undeniable elegance. Every word he utters drips with the reality of the moment he's in.

Christine Avila plays Willy Loman's wife Linda Loman, and their sons, Biff and

Happy, are played by Eddie Diaz and Adam Hollick, respectively.

Even the actors playing smaller roles gave powerhouse performances. Gor Leo Babakhyan who plays the quintessential old-school

New York City waiter Stanley, and Jeff Blumberg who plays Willy's boss Harold

see DEATH OF A SALESMAN on page 19



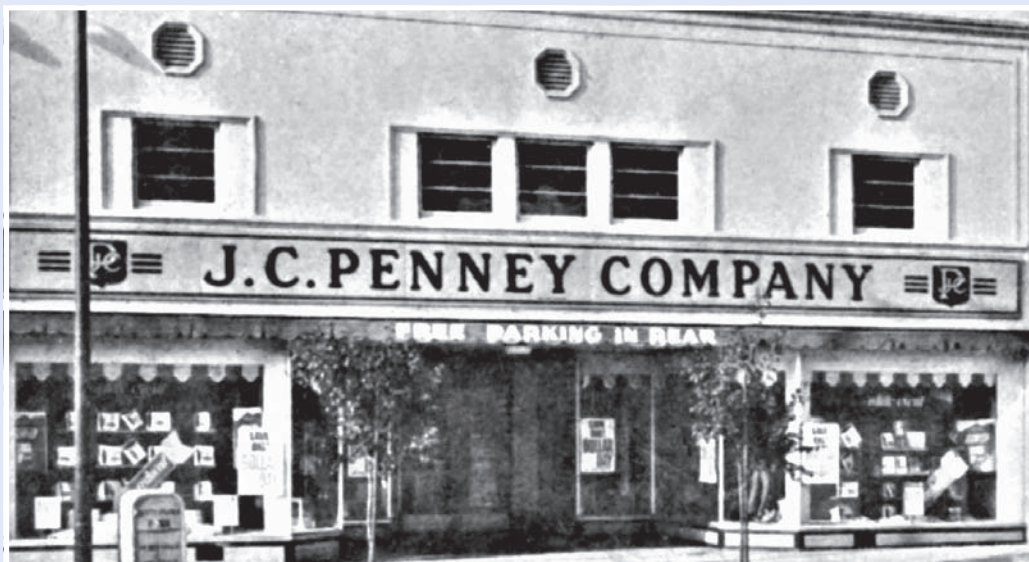
Vance Valencia gives a virtuoso performance as Willy Loman.

Photo by Rudy TORRES

THEN & NOW

J.C. Penney

Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



THEN: A J.C. Penney store was built in Montrose in 1939. It was a small department store but it had everything a growing community could need. It was the "Amazon.com" of its day. J.C. Penney was located at 2270 Honolulu Ave., and was a longtime fixture of Montrose. The department store lasted until about 1980..



NOW: The J.C. Penney building has been many things since Penney vacated, even a "craft and antique mall." Currently Sake, a sushi bar lounge, is part of the renaissance of restaurants in Montrose. Spa Pura occupies the west half of the building and offers skin care and massage services.

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ReflectSpace Gallery presents “It’s Clever, But Is It Art?” a solo exhibition that showcases several pieces by well-known Mexican artist ERRE (Marcos Ramirez) whose work reflects the sociopolitical issues surrounding the Mexico-U.S. border in various forms, including text-based art. Through works that resemble crossword puzzles and the Snellen Optometry chart, the exhibition explores the impact of written language within the context of a public library. The exhibition includes public art in four large-scale eye-chart-like banners featuring quotes from notable writers displayed on the library building’s facade. A floor installation referencing the Tower of Babel completes the exhibition, offering insight into the biblical story of a multilingual world. “It’s Clever, But Is It Art?” titled after a quotation by Rudyard Kipling, is curated by Alma Ruiz, former

senior curator at MOCA, Los Angeles. In Central Library’s Passageway Gallery, two accompanying projects will be on display: a series of community portraits entitled “If You Had A Magic Wand” is a socially engaged art project by Johnny Pérez, in collaboration with Edison Elementary, and Glendale Central Library. The portraits act to further validate the students and their wishes for the community.

“Letters to Parents,” a postcard project by Kevin Ly, invites the public to respond to the writing prompt, “What do you wish your parents had told you?” It is intended to start a conversation and have people interact with not just the exhibit but with each other. All exhibitions will be available through July 23 at Glendale Central Library, 222 E. Harvard in Glendale.

Celebrating the Nation’s Independence in (Musical) Style



The Fourth of July is an opportunity for the nation to slow down and celebrate the founding of the United States. While fireworks, barbecues and family are some of the facets that make up a successful celebration, Noel Collins of the Foothill Brass Septet invites the community to enjoy some patriotic music before the fireworks show at CV High School.

Americana 2023 is a concert that features music by Sousa, Gilmore, Anderson, Greenwood, Springsteen, Berlin and more including two engaging “sing-along” numbers. There will also be a special vocal number by Collins’ granddaughter Lexie.

Held in the courtyard of La Crescenta Presbyterian Church, 2902 Montrose Ave.,

Collins said this is the second year the concert has been held.

“It was so well received we opted to do it again this year,” he said. “It’s an activity being presented for the enjoyment of the church congregation and community in general.”

Attendees to this free performance will enjoy music reflecting the diversity of the country before moving to the front of the church to see the fireworks display.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. and is a “family-friendly” event. Dogs are not allowed. It is suggested that attendees bring a chair (and a snack, too) and plan to enjoy this patriotic celebration.

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

New Playground at the Y Promotes Diversity and Inclusion

An exciting and innovative addition has come to the YMCA of the Foothills – Verdugo Hills: a new accessible playground at the Learning Tree Preschool made possible through the generous donation of the Mary Pinola & Crescenta Valley Chamber Education Fund.

The playground's unveiling and dedication took place on Friday, June 16 where members of the foundation gathered with YMCA of the Foothills CEO Vince Iuculano for a ribbon cutting, demonstration and dedication of the new playground, sponsored by J's Maintenance. The Learning Tree Preschool's playground will allow students of all ability levels to participate in activities and learn without boundaries.

"We were delighted to partner with the YMCA to complete the fundraising for the project," said Mary Pinola, chair of the Mary Pinola/Crescenta Valley Chamber Education Fund. "In keeping with the Y's mission, the Education Fund is also dedicated to supporting exemplary educational programs and providing opportunity for all members of our community to participate. We believe in the power of play to stimulate imaginative thinking and communication skills. A special thank you to our Board of Advisors who voted to provide a gift of \$35,000 to help make this inspiring Y preschool project possible: Rick Dinger, Jo Loomis, Jean Maluccio, Bobbi Parker, Julia Rabago, Teri Rice, Patty Steur, Eleanor Wacker and Chris Waldheim."

The new playground was specifically designed to ensure the ability to interact with inclusive play settings, an essential part of the development of students with disabilities. Inclusive playgrounds help to promote awareness and acceptance throughout students' time at the Learning Tree Preschool in line with the mission of the YMCA of the Foothills.

The mission of the YMCA of the Foothills is to organize, develop, finance and conduct programs for an association of persons of all ages that will, by putting Christian principles into practice, enrich the quality of their lives spiritually, mentally, physically and socially.



Photo provided by Y

TOP: Celebrating the new Learning Tree Preschool were (back row) Pat Mulcahy, Chris Waldheim, Patty Steur and Jo Loomis and (front row from left) Vince and Noah Iuculano, Mary Pinola, Kristie Baker, Teri Rice, Bobbi Parker and Eleanor Wacker.



Photo by Robin GOLDSWORTHY

MIDDLE: Helping Mary Pinola cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony was Y CEO Vince Iuculano.



Photo by Robin GOLDSWORTHY

BOTTOM: The users of the new play equipment gave it their seal of approval.

Baby Whisperer Gives Kids CPR Classes at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital



La Cañada resident Jenn Merkel performs two-finger chest compressions on a baby mannequin at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital. She teaches children to perform CPR in "Baby Safe Sitting" one-day classes on Saturdays at the hospital.

Photo by Ruth SOWBY

By Ruth SOWBY

La Cañada resident Jenn Merkel knows how to work CPR, especially on a baby who has stopped breathing. With summer fast approaching, the number of pool accidents will most likely increase. Babies and toddlers are especially at risk for drowning.

Merkel teaches Saturday classes for children to learn CPR. They need to be 11 through 15 years old to attend. The "Baby Safe Sitting" one-day classes are from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and held at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, 1812 Verdugo Blvd., Glendale 91208.

For further details, contact the hospital at (818) 790-7100.

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Montrose Search and Rescue – A Special Rescue

I generally stick to things in my subject matter that are at least a couple of decades old. But Montrose Search and Rescue tales are so amazing that I just have to write about their thrilling stories. This tale is special in that it featured a tracking dog and involved the rescue of an individual who was disabled.

The call came in on a Sunday night with deteriorating weather conditions. On Sunday morning, one member of a hiking group had gotten separated from his group. This person was severely disabled, both deaf and autistic, and was wearing only shorts, a T-shirt and sneakers, and had no supplies, no water or food. The hiking group looked all day for the lost man and finally, as night was coming on, they called authorities. Any time a child or special needs person is lost, it's an "all-hands" situation for local search and rescue organizations. The Montrose Search and Rescue

team was called out, along with LA County Sheriff's Dept., Altadena Search and Rescue and Sierra Madre Search and Rescue.

It was dark and fog was setting in as the teams deployed at various trailheads. The Montrose team had a search dog with them and, sure enough, it was the dog that found the missing man. The dog stopped the team on a dark trail and looked down. When all was quiet, the team heard faint moaning from far below the trail. They would have missed him had it not been for the dog's sharp hearing.

One rescuer went over the side on a rope and into the canyon and found the man 500 feet down the side with only minor injuries. However, it would take much work to get the deaf and autistic man out, and it was 1 a.m. and was drizzling. The Sierra Madre team hiked to their location with coils of rope, medical equipment and a rescue litter.

Several team members rappelled into the canyon and the lost man was helped about 300 feet up the side until it got too steep and choked with brush. For the remaining 200 feet, a special rope system was set up. Because of the lost man's disabilities, the team set it up so that one man on the rope system would be below the man to help guide his legs and another facing the lost hiker to help communicate with the man face-to-face. With this complicated rope system, they were able to get the man to the trail where he was treated for several deep cuts. The lost hiker was in good spirits and helpful to the rescuers.

It was now 7 a.m. The teams had been hiking and working in the cold and wet for 10 hours. How to get the lost hiker out was a complicated decision. The trails out were just too treacherous. It was decided that instead of carrying the man out on a rescue litter, a helicopter rescue should

be attempted.

A fire department helicopter flew in but the weather was too marginal for a hoist rescue. Instead the team assisted the lost man to a relatively clear area. At just the right time the fog momentarily cleared. The copter cautiously came down, placed one wheel on a flat spot on the steep slope, the other wheel hanging in space. The team helped the hiker into the open door of the helicopter, and they took off for a hospital.

Now the exhausted teams had to hike back out after an all-night effort carrying all their rescue equipment. Fortunately another SAR team from San Dimas met them on the trail and helped carry the heavy ropes and rescue equipment. All the crews finally reached the command post at Red Box at 9:30 a.m., after a full 12 hours of all-night strenuous effort in cold and wet conditions.

The Montrose Search and

Rescue team is an all-volunteer group. It performs these rescues for free. These men and women are truly local heroes, our community's best. For more of these stories, check out my book "Thrilling Tales of the Montrose Search and Rescue" available at local bookstores.



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

From the Desk of the CVWD Interim General Manager

This is the first of what I anticipate to be regular letters to the community regarding the goings on at your public water and wastewater utility.

To begin, at Tuesday night's meeting the District board of directors made perhaps the most difficult decision this or past boards have had to make. But before we talk about that, let's look at the purpose of the agency. Although the District is a governmental agency that does not turn a profit, it is a business. We are in the business of providing water, the basic building block to life (and the ability to flush it away once used).

The same reason we don't have life on Mars (that we know of) is the reason that water availability is what paved the way for life out West. As recently as the 1940s and 1950s, this was keenly understood.

In today's fast-paced and high-tech world, it's easy for us to lose sight of the absolute criticality of water. I sometimes take it for granted, too, and I manage a water utility.

That doesn't change the fact that our implicit and explicit obligation is to provide this community with safe, clean water that must reliably flow for health, safety and emergency services regardless of any circumstance. There is no option for failure and, as the manager of your public utility, I am obligated to promise you that the District will always prepare resiliency measures and backup plans, that we will monitor the real-time changes across the operational and regulatory landscapes, that we will always be planning well into the future and that we have processes in place for the next generations of managers once this generation of public

servants have moved on.

The Board's decision Tuesday night was to place a charge on the property roll for homeowners. The charge, which was originally proposed at \$404 for the majority of homeowners, was designated for replacing the backbone of your infrastructure: pipelines. This is a tough, tough decision for the board to make whose members pay the same bills you do, who are elected by you (and can be elected out), and who have to answer to you beyond a public meeting or two, whether at the local grocery store, church or school.

After a series of outreach efforts through mailers, mass emails, ads in the papers, several town hall meetings (see it on YouTube, I'm famous!) and announcements at local associations, the board listened

to the community at a public hearing on the matter a couple of weeks ago. After careful deliberations over the subsequent weeks, the board met again last night to make a decision. I believe they legitimately heard the community's concerns and ideas and acted in the best interests of everyone, in several concrete ways:

- The proposed charge of \$404 for most homeowners (those who have 3/4" meters) was lowered to \$194, less than half of what was proposed;

- A commitment was made to the consistent use of bonds. Bonds

mitigate the immediate impact to the current generation of users by stretching the financial commitment over time. It also promotes equity as each generation pays for its share of use of the system. There is a double benefit, because implementing a charge on the property roll raises the District's credit profile, likely lowering the cost of borrowing and further stretching your dollars while getting ahead of inflation;

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/VIEWPOINTS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I wasn't aware of the newsroom staff cut at the LA Times until today, when I read your column. I'm sad for the people who will no longer have a job there, but I'm happy to see you reach out to them! No doubt some of them live in our area and I can hope we benefit from their new life path.

Growing up in Massachusetts, The Boston Globe was my father's preference, and my brother and I picked up a copy for him each Sunday morning after mass at the local general store. Being a voracious reader, he read it from beginning to end each Sunday, before turning it over to my brother and me, usually on Monday evening.

Later while living in New York, I read the New York Times and the New York Daily News. One I read for the accurate information reported and one I read basically for the gossip. I loved both of them equally.

When I relocated here, I subscribed to the Los An-

geles Times that was delivered to my front door early Sunday morning. After mass and laundry each Sunday morning, I sat down to breakfast and that huge and wonderful paper. Bill Plaschke was my favorite columnist because my sons and I were huge LAKER fans, and he told it like it was, (whether we liked it or not.) There was so much information in that huge paper that it often took me a week to completely read it, but most often I did.

Times have changed, and I no longer have a Los Angeles Times subscription. Today I have a subscription to this weekly local paper which does a wonderful job of filling me in on what I want to know and, more importantly, what I need to know about local and worldwide events.

Tracy Collins
La Crescenta

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YOUTH



SCHOLARSHIPS



Scholarships Presented by Oakmont League



From left are Shauna Hagemann, Stela Fejteck, Ellen Oppenberg, Tara Peterson, Ellen Farewell and Pam Sorem.

Two local high school seniors – Alex Boghossian of Clark Magnet High and Naomi Leader of Crescenta Valley High – received scholarships from Oakmont League of Glendale.

Boghossian will pursue a major in mechanical engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. He was involved with the Robotics team and Career Technical Education Pathways at Clark and hopes to work in space exploration.

Leader plans to attend UC Berkeley this fall. After completing her undergraduate education she hopes to attend medical school and pursue a career as a physician or in medical research.

The scholarships were presented by Oakmont League's scholarship chair Jackie Kubel, who also presented scholarships to GCC students Jasmin Balasarian and Stacy Hovhannisyian, who both plan to transfer to UCLA, and to Nicole Shahi, who plans to continue her education at West Coast University.

Scholarships also were awarded to Melinda Khechumyan of Glendale High and Kristen

Marshal of Hoover High.

League President Pam Sorem set a goal of "Making an Impact in our Community" at the beginning of the 2022-23 club year. Their successful event "All in for Oakmont" raised funds to provide scholarships, plus provide assistance to YWCA's Camp Rosie and much-needed equipment for Glendale Community College's disabled students programs.

At a recent event, Philanthropy Chair Ellen Farewell presented checks to Tara Peterson, chief executive officer at YWCA Glendale & Pasadena, and to Shauna Hagemann and Ellen Oppenberg of GCC's Disabled Students Programs and Services.

Sorem, who continues as president for a second term, thanked Mary Broerman, Amanda Duffy, Carol Eldred, Ellen Farewell, Mary Jo Ferrell, Kim Klosterman, Jackie Kubel, Mary Kay Prather, Liz Reed, Pam Riley, Nancy Spencer, Lydia Brown Trout and Allison Weir, for accepting leadership roles for the coming year.

St. Francis Graduates Class of 2023

One hundred and fifty-five Golden Knights from the Class of 2023 graduated from St. Francis High School in La Cañada Flintridge on May 27. Surrounded by their families and friends, these young men received their diplomas and officially joined the ranks of the St. Francis alumni community.

Fr. Joseph Seraphin Dederick, OFM Cap., the Provincial of the Western American Province of the Capuchin Franciscan Order, represented his Excellency Bishop José

Gómez, archbishop of Los Angeles, at the ceremony. Fr. Tony Marti, OFM Cap., school president, Tom Moran, school principal, Mark Heydorff, chairman of the board of directors, and Fr. Matt Elshoff, OFM Cap., pastor of St. Lawrence of Brindisi, also officiated during the 74th annual commencement exercises for the local Catholic, college preparatory institution. Tracy Traver, the dean of studies, served as master of ceremonies for this special celebration.

The Glendale Latino Association Distributes Scholarships at Breakfast

by Ruth SOWBY



Glendale Latino Assn. (GLA) scholarship winners pose on stage at the GLA Scholarship Awards Breakfast on June 14 in Glendale
Photos by Ruth SOWBY



Hispanic journalist and image consultant Palmira Perez was the keynote speaker at the Glendale Latino Assn. 2023 Scholarship Awards Breakfast on June 14.



GLA alumna speaker Jessica Palacios received her GLA scholarship in 2012 when she graduated from Clark Magnet High School. Currently, she is the manager of the Once Upon a Time Bookstore in Montrose.

Lincoln Elementary Celebrates Scholarship Recipients



This year's Lincoln Elementary scholarship recipients are (row one): Eric Badalian, Christopher Seropian, Emmett Bringas, Kayden Lee, Giovanna Aldaz, Josiah Ro and Amira Morcos; row two Angelina Thomas (left) and Principal Barbie Fariss; row three Lily Hinkle, Audrey Hill, Tabitha Jang, Claire Yang, Calvin Emery, Jose Cisneros and Edwardo Barera-Grimaldo; row four Juliette Ramirez, Cynthia Mele, Mila Music, Aleen Derbarsegian, Daniel Duaybis and Serra Tarverdians. Not pictured: Arleen Nazari..

A wonderful tradition at Lincoln Elementary School is the annual recognition of its scholarship recipients. A scholarship assembly for 12th graders who attended Lincoln Elementary is one of the highlights of the year. Kindergarten teacher Angelina Thomas once again chaired the scholarship committee and organized the event. Senior students returned to the Lincoln stage

to talk about their favorite memories of elementary school, reconnected with their kindergarten buddies and shared their future college goals with the current Lincoln student body. The scholarship recipients also participated in the Lincoln 500 Parade and then were treated to a luncheon with their parents and former teachers.

Submitted by Nicolas JAMES

The Glen Arden Club in Glendale was the scene of this year's Glendale Latino Association (GLA) Scholarship Awards Breakfast. The event celebrated academic excellence and achievements of high school and college students within the Latin communities.

On Wednesday, June 14 thousands of dollars in scholarships were given by the GLA to deserving students at four schools. Among those were Crescenta Valley High School scholarship recipients Camila Amanda Acosta, Christian Ovilla, Aurora Gabrielle Reedy-Solano, Milan Sidoni Nadjarrians and Miles Edwin Vallejo.

The program started with a buffet breakfast followed by guest speakers, including Glendale Mayor Dan Brotman, and ending with the scholarship awards ceremony. Keynote speaker was Hispanic journalist Palmira Perez who is also CEO of an image consultancy company. She coaches youth on how to make their own

branding.

"Why do you think I'm wearing red today?" Perez asked. "I want you to see me [just as you need to be seen by decision makers.]"

Handing out scholarship awards were members of "Partners in Giving" made up of those GLA officers and community leaders who donated scholarship funds. GLA President Anita Quiñonez Gabrielian and Glendale City Council member Paula Devine handed out the awards to each student as they came up to the stage.

The closing speaker was Jessica Palacios, a previous GLA scholarship winner. She received her scholarship in 2012 when she graduated from Clark Magnet High School. Currently, she is the manager at Once Upon a Time Bookstore in Montrose. The bookstore is considered the oldest children's bookstore in the U.S., established in 1966.

Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the GLA Annual Scholarship Fund.

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

I want to cancel my ADT contract. Can I get out of this \$527 fee?

When Robertann Usher's home security company merges with ADT, he discovers he has a five-year contract with a higher price. Getting out will cost him \$527. Is that legal?

Q: I have a problem with my ADT bill and was hoping you could help me. I had a home security system through Ackerman Security, which recently merged with ADT. I recently received my first bill with ADT and decided to discontinue my service.

I paid \$63 quarterly for security service with Ackerman Security. ADT's prices are higher.

When I called ADT, a representative told me I was under a five-year contract with ADT and that I could not cancel.

This is a mistake. My agreement is with Ackerman Security. I appealed to a supervisor who said that in order to end the contract I would have to pay a \$527 cancellation fee. The representative placed me on hold and promised me a call back in 48 hours. I have not heard anything back in weeks.

I am requesting that I not be charged a \$527 cancellation fee for a contract I know nothing about and ensure my service is canceled. Can you help me? –

Robertann Usher, Snellville, Georgia

A: You're right. Your agreement was with Ackerman Security. Even though ADT acquired Ackerman, that does not give it the right to start charging you more and impose a \$527 cancellation fee.

Or does it? Contracts like these can be filled with consumer-unfriendly clauses that allow the company to raise rates without notification and impose cancellation fees. I'm sure the ADT lawyers reviewed the Ackerman contracts before they signed off on the acquisition. So maybe they shouldn't have raised your rates, but they probably could.

Still, this doesn't look right – and it isn't right. A business must notify its customers before raising its rates, and it should give them a way to opt out of its services if the cost is too high. A \$527 cancellation fee seems outrageous.

I publish the names, numbers and email addresses of the ADT

customer service executives on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. A brief, polite email to one of them might have helped.

Your case is a cautionary tale for anyone who is interested in a home security system. These can certainly be worth it if you live in a high-crime neighborhood or need a sense of security, but the contracts can be tricky. You need to read them from front to back before signing and be sure to monitor your monthly bill for price increases. If you don't, the systems can quickly become unaffordable as they did for you.

I contacted ADT on your behalf and it agreed to cancel your account without penalty.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (https://elliottadvocacy.org), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/.

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CALENDAR THIS from previous page

view Balinese rehearsals, attend beginning classes, private lessons, dance lessons and workshops or want to come for a studio visit to learn more about this art contact Wendy at Wendy@ucla.edu or call (818) 951-8996 or visit website: <https://merdukumala.wixsite.com/merdukumala>.

CASINO NIGHT CCLCF FUNDRAISER

The 10th Annual Casino Night Fundraiser, hosted by Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge, has been rescheduled to July 29.

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.

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD ON PAGE 16

CONNECT FIVE By Timothy E. Parker

1	C	R	A	M	5	I	S	A	A	C	9	T	A	T	A
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DEATH OF A SALESMAN from page 10



Photo by Rudy TORRES

Adam Hollick (left) plays Happy Loman and Eddie Diaz plays Biff Loman in the play "Death of a Salesman" at Casa 0101.

Wagner, gave standout performances. Leah Verrill's interpretation of "The Woman" is sexy, captivating and even funny, though in the end she is the catalyst for Willy's undoing.

Corky Dominguez directed the play, his 40 years of experience in the theater apparent throughout the production. His creative staging and interpretation of the characters in the flashback/delusion scenes added to the pacing of the play, which was just about perfect. The energy only dipped for me at the very end but I think as the players relax more into their work that little wrinkle will iron itself out.

The talent and technical abilities of technical director and sound designer Max Brother, lighting designer Kevin E. Vasquez, set designer Marco De Leon, and costume designer Abel Alvarado played a huge part in bringing this monster of a play to light. The set was part abstract and part realistic, perfectly mirroring the world of Willy Loman. Each character's costume exquisitely represented the time period. Both light and sound were used in profound ways, ultimately rounding out all of the moving parts that make for an incredible theatrical experience.

Casa 0101 as a theater company does wonderful work, keeping theater alive and making the art form accessible to its Boyle Heights community. But this production of "Death of a Salesman" does more than that. It brings the magic of the theater to Boyle Heights ... a magic that's achieved when all the different, essential parts move together, in time, with inspiration.

The show will run through July 16 with performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$25 for residents of Boyle Heights.

This show is recommended for all audiences. Advance reservations are highly recommended. For tickets, call the CASA 0101 Theater Box Office at (323) 263-7684, email tickets@casa0101.org, or buy online at www.casa0101.org.

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Wishing everyone a safe and happy 4th of July.

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GCC from cover

Residents are encouraged to submit a written testimony about their community, districting process or a specific map. To submit a suggestion email to mapglendale@glendaleca.gov or mail/drop-off in person to City Hall, 613 E. Broadway Glendale, California 91206.

The City does post meetings on the website, MapGlendale.org/Schedule; however, that means an interested person has to check the website to find it. The "community workshop" last night held at Dunsmore Park was put on the City's social media, including Instagram, on Tuesday night about 7 p.m.

Councilmembers at Tuesday's meeting suggested the staff find additional ways to reach out to the community to inform them of the meetings.

For those who are not on the City's social media, or who don't check the website on a regular basis, the next outreach meeting will be a Cruise Night Pop-Up, on Saturday, July 15 at 5:30 p.m. on Brand Blvd. followed by a community workshop on Thursday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m., at the Brand Library, 1601 W. Mountain St.

ROBIN from page 2

I cried when it was time to let him go.

About two years ago we got Olivia, a German shepherd. She was only 18 months at the time and had puppy blood in her. Like so many other dogs we had gotten over the years, her family moved from a house to an apartment and couldn't keep her. She's calmed down quite a bit from the early days, for which I'm eternally grateful.

Two weeks ago we welcomed Molly, another German shepherd, into our home. She's only 11 months old and full of puppy energy. Like most of the other dogs we've taken in over the years she's a rescue. She and Olivia make for an interesting pair while Kona pretty much stands to the side and keeps clear of their mischief.

I am not always so lucky and get caught up in their shenanigans. Sometimes I question my own sanity.

SEE YOU ON THE 4TH!

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4th of July Fireworks Celebration!

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Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Crescenta Valley High School
Gates open 4:00 p.m. - Fireworks
with music begin after 9 pm

(Entrance 4200 block of Ramsdell Avenue, La Crescenta)
Limited bleacher seating. Please bring blanket for sitting.

Family Fun!

Inflatables

Live Music!

Ice Cold Beverages

FOOD TRUCKS

PRESALE TICKETS \$9.00 - DAY OF EVENT \$10.00
ACTIVE MILITARY & CHILDREN 7 & UNDER FREE

Tickets may be purchased in advance at these locations:

- CV Chamber of Commerce, 3131 Foothill Blvd., #D.
- Bob Smith Toyota, 3333 Foothill Blvd.
- J's Maids & Maintenance 3550 Foothill Blvd.
- CV Weekly Newspaper, 3800 La Crescenta Ave. #206.
- CV Insurance, 3156 Foothill Blvd

DONATE TODAY

Crescenta Valley Fireworks Association
2629 Foothill Blvd. #179
La Crescenta, CA 91214

_____ \$25 I will not be in town but wish to help out.

_____ \$40 My family enjoys watching the fireworks from our yard.

_____ \$50 We have people over for a party and watch from our yard.

_____ Other.... I want to support my community with a contribution.

_____ \$150 Includes 4 tickets.

Name _____ email _____

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I would like to make a contribution but wish to remain anonymous

Please make checks payable to: **CV Fireworks Association**

For more information or questions, please call 275-4959 or email cvfireworks@aol.com

Thank you for your generous support! Tax ID #20-8760626

Please cut this portion out and mail in with your donation.

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