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### Discussions Held by Council on Polystyrene and Second Amendment

By Mary O'KEEFE

At the Nov. 16 meeting of the Glendale City Council continuation of the public hearing was held regarding an ordinance that would amend Glendale Municipal Code 1995, effectively prohibiting the use, distribution and sale of polystyrene products on a citywide basis.

This issue has been presented to the Council several times. In the latest discussion there was an exemption presented to staff.

"This included an additional exception into the ordinance. That exception would [regard] food prepared or packaged outside the City provided such food is not altered, packaged or repackaged within City limits; [those] would be exempt from the citing. Raw produce, poultry, vegetables, fruit, fish, meat or eggs would not be exempt," said David Jones, Glendale Sustainability Officer.

There will be an appeal process set up for businesses that feel for a variety of reasons they should not have to comply with the ordinance. The request for exemption would be made to the city manager's office where it will be accepted or denied. That decision can be looked at again, and brought to the City Council for review.

In previous meetings Jones presented his investigation into the costs of using polystyrene products as opposed to more environmentally friendly products. He found there was availability of more environmentally friendly products and the cost difference between the two items was minimal.

The ordinance amendment was approved with Councilmembers Ardy Kassakhian, Paula Devine and Mayor Dan Brotman voting to approve; Councilmembers Ara Najarian and Elen Asatryan voted not to approve.

The Council then voted to approve an amendment to the City's ban on the possession of firearms and ammunition on city property.

see GCC on page 8

## Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday Kick Off Montrose Holiday Season

By Mary O'KEEFE

*On the day after Thanksgiving, Montrose will continue its holiday tree lighting tradition that starts the season along Honolulu Avenue.*

On Friday, Nov. 24, the Montrose Shopping Park Association (MSPA) will kick off its celebration "Come Home to Montrose this Christmas." The kickoff begins at 5:30 p.m. with the Hummingbird Conservatory Carolers who will be performing near the Christmas tree installed at the corner of Honolulu Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard. The Jingle Singers Strolling Christmas Carolers will also be found along other areas of

the avenue at the same time.

The traditional community sing-along will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the lighting of the town's Christmas tree by members of the Glendale City Council. And it wouldn't be a holiday event without Santa, who will be on hand for photos by the tree from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. As soon as the tree is lit, Southern California-style snow (from snow blowers) will begin falling.

"This particular [event] is now in its 11th year in the Montrose Shopping Park," said Dale Dawson, MSPA event coordinator.

In addition the Glendale Fire Dept. (GFD) will bring its vintage fire engine to the event ready for "Cram-A Classic Toy Drive." Everyone is invited to bring a new unwrapped toy to fill the fire engine in support of the GFD's efforts to make sure all children enjoy the holidays.

see PLAID FRIDAY on page 8 Santa welcomes everyone at the MSPA Plaid Friday event on Nov. 24.



## GUSD Honors Schools for AP, Behavioral Health Achievements; Celebrates Holocaust Survivor

By Eliza PARTIKA

Glendale Unified School District board of education members recognized high achieving schools for their academic and student support successes at the board meeting on Nov. 14. The board also recognized Holocaust survivor Joseph Alexander.

Alexander, a Holocaust survivor known for speaking about his experiences at local schools for Holocaust Remembrance Day, celebrated his 101st birthday on Nov. 20.

"As a survivor of the Holocaust, Mr. Alexander has shared his stories of tragedy and hope with students across the country. We thank Mr. Alexander for his dedication and commitment to the teaching of tolerance, understanding, the peaceful resolution of problems and the strength of diversity and equity in our community so that these qualities may help instill in this young generation the optimism and hope for a better world," said board president Jennifer Freemon.

Alexander accepted his recognition via Zoom. Out of Alexander's family – his parents and five siblings – he was the only survivor.

"I am happy to be here," Alexander said. "I'm looking forward

see GUSD on page 4



Photos provided by GUSD Board member Nayiri Nahabedian (at right in red) honored Clark Magnet High School, Crescenta Valley High School and Hoover High School for earning a place on the 2023 College Board AP School Honor Roll.



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



# Tis the Season We're about to get real busy.

The Christmas holiday (and Hanukkah and Kwanza and ...) brings a demanding schedule that includes shopping, short deadlines and partying. But today, Thursday, is Thanksgiving and before we get crazy with the Christmas season let's take a minute and catch our breath to reflect on the many blessings we have.

In September, CV Weekly completed 14 years being in business. 14 years! To me this is extraordinary because CV Weekly is my dream. After the newspaper I used to work for was bought by the LA Times and subsequently closed, I told my husband we needed to start a newspaper. As many of you know, he replied that we had enough money to either re-do the kitchen or start a newspaper—what was it going to be? While I still have the ugliest kitchen in the valley, I have the very best newspaper ... and for that I'm thankful.

I'm thankful for the support I've been given over the years by some talented people who work with me. These include a sales staff that realizes that their hard work is what keeps us going. Without them knocking on doors, making phone calls and sending emails there would be no CV Weekly.

I'm thankful for our writers and photographers. Though there have been too many to count over the years, Mary O'Keefe and Charly Shelton have stuck with me through thick and thin. They bring a talent and knowledge base that is enviable and makes this paper so valuable. When I stop and think back to the writers who have had their name on our masthead, I'm humbled when considering how talented they are – and how

lucky CV Weekly was and continues to be.

I'm thankful to Rachelle Miller who runs this office. It is she who gives to many the first impression of the CV Weekly. Her love of community and for this newspaper is evident.

I'm thankful for our designers Steve Hernandez and Matt Barger. Because of their creativity and design our newspaper looks great week after week.

I'm thankful to our proofreader Anne McNeill. I've learned so much from her over the years and appreciate her patience.

I'm thankful to our drivers who get up in the wee hours of the morning every week to pick up their papers to deliver to the doors of our subscribers and to our local businesses.

I'm thankful for advertisers who invest their money with CV Weekly understanding the values on which this paper stands firm.

I'm thankful for our readers who appreciate this newspaper and what it represents. Their appreciation was never more evident than during the pandemic. When most of our advertising revenue dried up (you don't advertise a closed business) many of our readers stepped up with financial support. They played a large part in keeping our doors open.

Finally, I'm thankful to have this day to step back and have these many things for which I'm grateful.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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

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» WEATHER WATCH

## Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

When I was shifting through my thoughts of what to write this week I of course went to Thanksgiving. I had started to research what the weather was like on that 1621 Thanksgiving, which more likely occurred at the end of September/first of October – not in November as that was long after the harvest. According to historians, the writings about that day didn't mention the weather so they assume it was pretty nice, maybe even sunny.

So when did Thanksgiving month change? Actually it is due to President Abraham Lincoln that we celebrate it in November.

In 1863, President Lincoln said Thanksgiving should be celebrated on the last Thursday of November, and so it was. But the date changed again due to shoppers.

Yep – although the pilgrims may not have been driven by consumerism, those who followed them certainly were, and continue to be. In 1939 there were five Thursdays in November. So the last Thursday was very late in the month, which would really cut into retail sales for the holidays. So in August 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided Thanksgiving would be moved up a week. A lot of people were not happy with this change and, because it was not a federal holiday, the timing of the celebration was left to the individual states. That first year, 23 states celebrated on the old date, 22 on the Roosevelt new date and three celebrated on both dates. The following year Roosevelt moved it to the second to the last Thursday, which again did not see a universal agreement among states. But in 1941, Congress decided to make the date official and passed a resolution that Thanksgiving would be the fourth Thursday of the month.

My plan was to continue with my research into Thanksgiving; however, have you ever seen or read something that takes hold of not only your heart but also your soul? Something that you can't research past? I read and researched a lot about climate change. To be honest, I love researching a variety of subjects, but climate change and

how it is affecting us is really an everyday go-to for me. I am usually upset, down right angry, saddened, at times hopeful, but normally left completely exhausted by the writings and the visuals. Then there are times when one thing in particular makes my breathing slow down with anger and that thing stays in my mind. In this case it was a recent Instagram post by Climate Save Movement.

A diver was filming a small fish that was struggling on the bottom of the ocean bed. At first it was not easy to tell why it was floundering; then the diver picked it up. The tiny fish had been caught in a plastic bag, a small sandwich-type bag, which had a hole in it. The diver worked until the fish was finally free and swam away.

Sea and land animals being the victims of climate change is nothing new. It's something I come across in research all the time but the sight just wouldn't leave me alone of this tiny fish stuck in that plastic bag. I started thinking about who littered that bag.

Was it someone who had a picnic at the beach and just let a piece of plastic go? Maybe they even attempted to throw it in the beach garbage can but just missed and thought, "It's okay – someone else will pick it up." Was it someone who threw it away in the city and it traveled to the ocean after a storm?

Grabbing your trash to dispose of it and letting just one piece get away is something that happens to everyone. There is no evil intent behind it but still – that small act has consequences.

I think the way climate change is dealt with now is more in big terms like floods, fires and extreme temperatures. We deal with it as a big event because for us that is what it has become; however, scientists, and those who believed for years in the science of climate change, this human-caused change is not an overnight revelation. It's like every time you watch "Indiana Jones and the Lost Ark," you know that giant stone is going to roll toward him. The first time your heart races, especially when Indy stumbles ... oh my gosh ...

see WEATHER on page 6



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## NEWS

## Golf Tournament Highlights Foundation

By Mary O'KEEFE

The Chace Taylor Malone Impact Foundation-Los Angeles (IFLA) held its annual golf tournament recently followed by the 19th Hole Banquet.

Chace Taylor Malone is best described as charismatic and caring but he struggled with anxiety and depression, which led to substance abuse, for many years. He lost his battle with abuse in 2021 at the age of 27, according to IFLA.

His mother Victoria Malone, along with his family and friends, started the IFLA to help families find the support they need.

"We strive to rid our community of the unimaginable suffering caused by opioids and other harmful substances which have taken hold in our neighborhoods.

There were an estimated 100,000-plus drug overdose deaths in the United States ending in April 2021 – an increase of 28.5% over the year prior [according to the Centers for Disease Control and reported in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration]. In California, the Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health reports a 48% increase in accidental overdoses during the first five months of the pandemic. Our community is no exception," said Malone. "The focus of the foundation is to offer individuals a comprehensive plan to effect meaningful change and save lives. This wraparound approach is vital to address the complex needs of individuals suffering from addiction, often exacerbated by mental health and social issues. Our vision is a safe and healthy community, free from the tragedy of addiction."

The golf tournament and banquet was not only a way to raise money but to also raise awareness of the outreach done by the IFLA and to touch base with supporters of this organization that was founded just a few years ago.

Tori Monteleone spoke of how she

came to IFLA soon after attending AA. For 15 years she had a substance abuse problem. She introduced herself to the audience as being born and raised in La Crescenta.

"I graduated from Crescenta Valley High in 2005, with no honors, nothing special, and only a couple of suicide attempts ... I was your average kid," she said. "I wanted to be relatable but since I felt I wasn't relatable I didn't want to be there."

After graduating from high school her life shifted as she started drinking and in 2006 started using "hard drugs."

"It was in moderation ... until it wasn't," she said.

She added she drank and used every day for the last 16 years, but was highly functional as she continued to work at various jobs and even climbed mountains; however, addiction was still a part of her life. With the help from IFLA she said she had finally found a way back from addiction and has been sober for over a year.

"Life does not get easier just because you get sober," she said. She still had the ghosts of the past that haunted her and the "world was the same" as the one she had wanted to leave when she was in high school.

"And that was the state Victoria found me in," she said. "She actually said, 'Please let me help you.'"

Monteleone was on the verge of homelessness and finally reached out to Malone who was able to get her the support she needed. The two have kept in contact.

This is the heart of what the IFLA is about. Malone has said when her son was going through his most difficult times she could not find the support needed. She and Chace's family were not the only ones who started IFLA; his friends were also involved and now serve on the board of directors. It is a family of support that continues to reach out to others. Jerry Butt III is president, Ryan Shumway is vice president and Taylor Poage is secretary and

fundraising coordinator.

The foundation has become very proactive with its outreach including with the Crescenta Valley High School's WellNEST program. It has provided speakers and has worked with teachers and students. It has a student ambassador program where students can help other students by bringing presentations to their peers.

"[IFLA] is working with local community services such as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Briggs Station. We participate in every event they invite us to share our outreach," Malone said.

The foundation has recently formed a partnership of 12 sectors of the community that is known as The Crescenta Valley Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. The Coalition recently received a large grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Collectively, our purpose and mission over the next five years is to mobilize the Crescenta Valley, Glendale and Sunland-Tujunga communities to reduce youth and adult overdose deaths from fentanyl and methamphetamine, the two biggest causes of drug overdoses in Los Angeles County. Our region is seeing the third highest increase in accidental overdoses among the seven Los Angeles service areas and needs to be alerted to the danger it is in. Our coalition focuses on building collaborations that will reduce the risks for drug abuse, namely high rates of youth depression, and a dearth of coping skills while increasing the protective factors, namely alternative activities and local sources of support and empowerment," she added.

The Coalition is overseen by IFLA. Malone encourages the public to get involved and there are a variety of ways people can help.

"The public can help by sharing information with those who need our help," she said. "We would like a diverse and broad perspective from

finances and customer relations. The board typically meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m., and board members are assigned on one to three committees that meet twice a month on average.

The board of directors seeks a board member who has the desire and ability to contribute to informed decision-making and to represent the best immediate and long-term interests of the community. The board also values diversity of opinion and experience.

The position is open to every registered voter who lives within CVWD's district boundaries and the term lasts until the next election in November 2024.

A copy of the District map is available at [www.cvwd.com/board-of-directors-recruitment](http://www.cvwd.com/board-of-directors-recruitment).

To apply, send a Statement of Interest (resume/CV optional) to [employment@cvwd.com](mailto:employment@cvwd.com) or the District's office by Friday, Dec. 1 at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the District's general manager James Lee at (818) 248-3925 or [jlee@cvwd.com](mailto:jlee@cvwd.com).

Photos by Mary O'KEEFE

ABOVE: IFLA founder Victoria Malone addressed the audience at the recent golf tournament banquet.

BELOW: Pasadena mayor and IFLA supporter Victor Gordo.



the community to help shape and execute the goals and objectives of the coalition."

At the foundation, IFLA and the newly formed coalition are working to give people the answers they need when they may be facing their darkest times. Not only for those who are facing substance abuse but

for their family and loved ones who may desperately want to help but are uncertain of how to help.

Find out more about IFLA by going to <https://theimpactfoundationla.org> or email [info@theimpactfoundationla.org](mailto:info@theimpactfoundationla.org) or call (626) 360-5118.

## IN BRIEF

## CVW OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

The offices of the Crescenta Valley Weekly will be closed today, Nov. 23, and tomorrow, Nov. 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## WARM WISHES FROM CVCA

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Crescenta Valley Community Association has moved its monthly meeting to Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the CVCA at [crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com](mailto:crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com) with questions and for Zoom meeting information.

## MONTROSE CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Montrose Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 beginning at 6:10 p.m. It begins just east of Rosemont Avenue and travels to the intersection of Montrose Avenue and Verdugo Road.

For more information, visit <https://montrosecristmasparade.com/>.

## ELECTRIC CAR GUEST DRIVE EVENT

GWP's Electric Car Guest Drive event is on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will feature a wide variety of electric cars including the Rivian R1T, Ford F-150 Lightning, Tesla Model Y, Hyundai Ioniq 5 and popular electric bikes from various manufacturers. Reserve a spot to test drive these electric cars. Educational representatives will be available to discuss methods of charging EVs at home, work and in public and provide general information about owning an EV.

The event will be held at Glendale City Hall, 613 E. Broadway in Glendale.

## CVWD LOOKING TO FILL BOARD VACANCY

Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) will have a vacancy on its board of directors beginning Jan. 1, 2024.

Board members provide general oversight, guidance and direction to District staff concerning operations,

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# CVTC Meeting Includes Holiday Tips, Discusses Building Code Issues

By Mikaela STONE

The Crescenta Valley Town Council meeting on Nov. 16 had a positive start as representatives of the county fire department reported that there had been no fires since last month's report. However, with Thanksgiving coming up they offered words of warning. The holiday is a notoriously busy day for first responders due to the number of calls received pertaining to cooking fires. The fire department reminded the community to "stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop, don't leave the house while cooking turkey ... [and] make sure the turkey is fully thawed before putting it in the deep fryer."

Deep frying should be done outside with no flammable objects, including cars, near the cooking implements.

Law enforcement also issued a general warning regarding the few home break-ins that occurred in October. Most perpetrators entered by removing the screen on an open back window; the public was urged to prevent these types of incidents by closing all windows.

The meeting also touched on building code issues. Volunteers representing the CVTC Land Use Committee continue to oppose plans that would allow the erection of an apartment building on Foothill Boulevard that breaks multiple local codes, including building height. Permits were granted in spite

of these infractions due to the landlord's intention to meet the minimum number of affordable apartments necessary to waive certain building specifications. While the shortage of affordable housing remains an issue that the Crescenta Valley Town Council has and will continue to address, dissenters feel that the affordable housing offered by this building is not worth the potential problems it will cause – namely traffic congestion and parking issues on Foothill.

The Land Use Committee is not the only entity with issues regarding the management of cars. Dissent among neighbors of the 3000 block of Frances Avenue and the U Matter Luxury Resort continues to grow. U Matter, located on the corner

of Ramsdell and Frances avenues, has hosted an event celebrating its planned opening; however, neighbors found noise levels and valet parking on Frances Avenue disruptive. Regarding businesses such as U Matter Luxury Resort and La Crescenta's layout, the Crescenta Valley Town Council encouraged citizens to attend the upcoming Land Use Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 at the La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., to voice their opinions. For those unable to attend, a survey is planned to be available on the Crescenta Valley Town Council website.

In other news, the CV Chamber celebrated its new mayor. Dwight Sityar was chosen for the position. In the past, Sityar has helped to coordinate multiple community events, such as the 9/11 motorcade.

Upcoming events in the community include the 9th Annual La Crescenta Christmas tree lighting on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at the La Crescenta Library that will kick off the holiday season. The Valley View Elementary choir and members of the VFW and American Legion will be present to spread holiday cheer. On Dec. 5 from 4-7 p.m. the Library is also having a workshop for adults and teens to make holiday gifts. The workshop will teach kirigami folding paper techniques as well as no-sew textile methods.

The next meeting of the CV Town Council is on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.



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*GUSD from Cover*

to working with you the rest of the year.”

Nov. 20 was officially declared Joseph Alexander Day by the City of Los Angeles.

The District also recognized high achieving schools for winning the 2023 California PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Award, which rewards schools effectively creating a positive and supportive learning environment.

The board recognized 13 Glendale schools that received platinum, gold and silver honors: Franklin Elementary and Hoover High School received platinum honors; Abraham Lincoln Elementary, Cerritos Elementary, Horace Mann Elementary, Mountain Avenue Elementary and Verdugo Woodlands Elementary received gold honors; and Clark Magnet High School, Crescenta Valley High School, Fremont Elementary School, Glenoaks Elementary School, Pacific Avenue Education Center and Rosemont Middle School received silver honors.

GUSD School Culture & Climate Teacher Specialist Talin Partikian shared more about the program and congratulated each school for its achievements.

Eligible schools are evaluated by a PBIS coach, state representative and school site administrator based on a tier system. A minimum score of 70% in all three tiers is required for a platinum designation. Each tier represents increasingly specialized resources for students who need behavioral support.

Board member Nayiri

Nahabedian then honored Clark Magnet High School, Crescenta Valley High School and Hoover High School for earning a place on the 2023 College Board AP School Honor Roll. The honor roll recognizes schools that have done “outstanding work” to increase access to AP classes for all students and support students on the path to college readiness.

In order to be recognized as an AP honor school, at least 40% of that year's graduating class must have taken at least one AP exam, 25% or more of the graduating cohort must score a three or higher on at least one AP exam during high school, and 2% or more of the graduating class must have taken at least five AP exams, at least one of which taken in ninth or 10th grade.

Clark Magnet High School was recognized at the platinum level, Crescenta Valley High School was recognized at the gold level, and Hoover High School was recognized at the bronze level.

“We applaud our administrators, teachers, counselors, support staff, students and families whose commitment and devotion to achieving the highest standards of teaching and learning has truly [led to] this achievement,” said Nahabedian.

In addition to these recognitions, the board discussed updates to the mental health services available for students, reviewed new policy handbooks for preschool and child development programs, and proposed curriculum for a new AP music theory class at all GUSD high schools.

# Virtual Reality May Be Introduced to College

By Michelle GANIAN

As modern approaches to schooling and education continue to evolve, immersion into the world of technology becomes more entrenched. Recently, a press conference was held at Glendale Community College discussing the introduction of VR (virtual reality) into its STEM curriculum starting with biology and later expanding into chemistry, biochemistry and astronomy.

Media executive Walter Parkes and Arizona State University-

founded Dreamscape Learn provided an innovative approach to education, a program dedicated to placing students at the center of their learning experience. The technology is designed to create emotionally engaging narratives and uses the power of story to better immerse students in their understanding of the given material. For example, intro to biology is a particularly difficult subject for students to pass. When using Dreamscape Learn, ASU showed a 3.5 grade level increase in students' academic performance.

"My background in entertainment

prepared me for my turn in education where I focused on the central theme of engagement," said Parkes, whose experience includes movie production and screenwriting. As a result, Dreamscape Learn also gives students the tools to work in media.

VR technology will also be available to businesses and community members, allowing them to engage in a high-tech environment.

With this vision in mind, \$4.5 million was invested from the State of California into Glendale Community College.

# LASD/CV Station Begins its Annual Holiday Toy and Food Drive

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station is collecting items for its annual Holiday Toy and Food Drive. Community members will be able to drop off non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys at several locations. The items will be distributed to those in need throughout the foothill community.

Donation bins will be located at:  
In La Cañada Flintridge: TJ Maxx, 663 Foothill Blvd., Starbucks at 475 Foothill Blvd., Ralphs Market at 521 Foothill Blvd., Rite Aid at 647 Foothill Blvd., Target at 965 Town Center Drive, Learning Castle and La Cañada Preparatory at 4490 Cornishon Ave. Ste 1, Hill Street Cafe at 1004 Foothill Blvd., Magpies Grill

at 1438 Foothill Blvd. and Round Table Pizza at 502 Foothill Blvd.

In La Crescenta: Ralphs Market at 2675 Foothill Blvd., Rite Aid at 2647 Foothill Blvd., Fire House youth center at 2563 Foothill Blvd. and Center for Spiritual Living, 4845 Dunsmore Ave.

The bins should be in place by the end of this week.

# 'Tis the Season for Cyber Scams

By Mary O'KEEFE

Scams happen year round and have become very sophisticated and very organized. Some scammers are able to get into and out of a person's account quickly, sometimes while on the phone with their victim; other times even the most cautious people can find they have paid for something before discovering it was all fake.

The holidays are a very busy time for those who can't wait to separate people from their money and identification.

"The two most prevalent holiday scams are non-delivery and non-payment crimes. In a non-delivery scam, a buyer pays for goods or services they find online, but those items are never received. Conversely, a non-payment scam involves goods or services being shipped but the seller is never paid," according to the FBI.

There are also gift card and charity scams.

"Victims receive a spoofed email, call or text asking them to purchase multiple gift cards for personal or business reasons," according to the FBI regarding gift cards. "[With charities] criminals set up fake charities and profit from persons who believe they are donating to a legitimate organization."

Regarding local scams, Sgt. John Gilbert, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station, said his deputies are not seeing one particular scam.

"We do get occasional scammers who state they are a member of a law enforcement organization and the victim has a warrant for their arrest. The scammer then directs the victim to wire money or get gift cards to satisfy the warrant," Gilbert said. "Another one we see on occasion is the scammer

stating he is the victim's grandson and needs money [so he can be] bailed out of jail in a foreign country. We see the first scenario more often than the second."

According to Norton (an antivirus and security software company), "The holiday season starts every year with Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday. Over the coming months, millions of people will shop online in search of the perfect gifts for their family and friends and, unfortunately, we'll also see an increase in scammers trying to trick people into giving them money and personal information."

This month Norton released its 2023 Cyber Safety Insights Report on holiday shopping. The report found that worldwide 95% of consumers are expected to shop online. In America that percentage is 97% - 45% are expected to do 50% or less of shopping online and 52% are expected to do more than half of their shopping online. Over half of those consumers in the report are concerned about security when shopping online with the biggest fear is having their personal details, like address, credit card and email information, compromised. About one in four consumers report they have been targeted by a scam when shopping online. Globally, consumers become victims to scams primarily when they are on social media or visit a third-party website.

The report found that the average loss due to scams is \$1,500 in the U.S.

"[Our warning] for the holiday season is to be vigilant about vehicle and residential burglaries. As people shop, they may have their gifts openly displayed in their cars or at their homes. We advise the public to never have valuables in plain sight. Also, as people discard the boxes of their

large ticket items, criminals may see that your home now has a brand new large TV, etc. We suggest breaking up the box and hiding the fact the home now has new expensive electronics," Gilbert said.

Norton also has suggestions for cyber safety:

1. Never buy from unrecognized retailers. Check details of unfamiliar stores, ratings and reviews of resellers and be wary when you see too many five-star reviews.
2. Check that websites start with https to help ensure they are secure. Ensure that the payment also starts with https so not just the main page is secure.
3. Avoid the allure of deals and offers that seem too good to be true, like must-have gifts at extremely low prices. Remember that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
4. Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN), such as Norton Secure VPN, to help protect your online privacy and keep personal and financial information secure when shopping or using apps on public Wi-Fi.
5. Create strong, unique passwords for shopping sites, email accounts and financial apps. Keep track of passwords by using a password manager, such as Norton Password Manager.
6. Install device protection software, such as Norton 360 Deluxe, to help protect and alert you of potential scams.

For those charity calls the FBI suggests that individuals verify the valid taxpayer identification number by calling the charity directly, not the number that the caller has provided, but find the charity's information independently and visit the website of the charity.

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# City of La Cañada Flintridge Launches Security Camera Rebate Program

The City of La Cañada Flintridge announced the commencement of a Security Camera Rebate Program. This initiative is part of the City's ongoing commitment to fostering a safe and secure environment through resident participation in local crime prevention efforts.

Spearheaded by the Public Safety Commission and funded by the LCF City Council in fiscal year 2023-24, the Security Camera Rebate Program offers rebates to residents who install a security camera on their property.

Incentivizing the installation of surveillance systems assists in creating a network of security cameras that will deter crime, assist law enforcement in investigations and ultimately make La Cañada Flintridge an even safer place to live, work and play.

On a first-come, first-served basis, residents who install a security camera – limit one per

property – and provide proof of purchase and installation can receive up to a \$100 rebate from the City. Please note that the rebate applies to the cost of the camera itself, not installation costs.

Mayor Gunter expressed enthusiasm for the program.

“We are thrilled to re-launch the Security Camera Rebate Program as it empowers our community members to play an active role in enhancing the safety of our City,” said Mayor Gunter. “By working together, we can create a stronger, more secure environment for everyone.”

To participate, residents must

meet the following guidelines:

- Be a current La Cañada Flintridge resident with proof of residency on a valid government-issued ID;
  - Provide a current utility bill that matches the name and address on the proof of residency ID;
  - Own or rent the La Cañada Flintridge property where the security camera is installed.
  - If renting, provide a signed letter from the property owner giving consent for installation.
- Eligible residents can apply to be considered for the \$100 rebate by completing the following steps:
- Submit an application on/after Monday, Nov. 13.

- Upload proof of residency on a valid government-issued ID.
- Upload a current utility bill of the residence that matches the name and address on the proof of residency ID.
- Upload proof of purchase of a camera after Monday, Nov. 13.
- Upload photo of the opened devices with the serial/model number visible.
- Upload proof of installation with a date-stamped photo showing installation took place after Monday, Nov. 13.

The City has begun accepting applications for the. For more information and to apply, visit [CityOFLCF.org/public-safety](http://CityOFLCF.org/public-safety).

## Obituary

### Andrew J. Gero

Andrew J. Gero, 94, a resident of La Crescenta, passed away from a vascular infection on Oct. 20.

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# Burglary Suspects Arrested

According to the CV Sheriff's Station, at 0358 hours, Crescenta Valley Station deputies responded to a trespassing call in the 800 block of Berkshire Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge. The owner of the property, which is under construction, had seen suspects on the property via security cameras. The suspects then cut the cameras.

Deputies arrived and conducted their investigation. During the investigation, the homeowner saw the suspects and pointed them out to CVSS personnel. The two suspects were detained without incident. The suspects had stolen an electrical power box, which was recovered. The suspects were also connected to a stolen vehicle that

was parked nearby. The suspects were arrested for burglary, driving without owner's consent and possession of burglary tools. They were booked at the Crescenta Valley station and are being held in lieu of \$50,000 bail. CVSS personnel attribute the successful arrest in part to the property owner having a quality camera system.

# Burglary at Cigar Empire

By Mary O'KEEFE

On Oct. 30 several suspects entered the Cigar Empire store in the 2400 block of Honolulu Avenue and stole numerous items.

According to the owner of the store, the burglary occurred

about 4:30 a.m. The five suspects entered the store by breaking the door lock. They ran quickly through the store, throwing items on the floor and jumping over counters. “This happened about five years ago, too,” he said.

The burglary that occurred

five years ago also happened around Halloween. He wanted to let others in the neighborhood know so they can be aware. Anyone who may have information concerning the burglary is asked to call the Glendale Police Dept. (818) 548-3127.

WEATHER from page 2

but then, after possibly the hundredth time of seeing it, your heart rate stays normal. You know this big thing is coming but you also know he will get away; maybe not with the treasure but he will survive. I think for many of us who trusted the science, climate change at first was a heart-racing fear. We saw that stone coming toward us and we stumbled a lot but now as we approach the effects somehow it has become normalized. I have even heard some say, “Well it's going to happen anyway. Not our fault, other countries pollute much more than we are so let them take care of it.”

Those comments used to drive me crazy; however, lately it's been more like, “Oh well, there's nothing that will change that guy's mind so just move on.” And then this tiny fish gets stuck in a plastic bag.

What happened to this small creature is the real threat of human-caused climate change. It is the real consequences of what our actions are doing to the world's environment. The arguments

“There is nothing we can do” or “It's someone else's problem” just don't work here. One of us dropped that plastic bag that found its way to the sea; it wasn't a country or a superpower, it was a human. A human caused this piece of plastic to be in the ocean but, here's the hope, it was a human who found the trapped small fish and saved it. People can actually make a difference and it doesn't take a lot of effort. In fact, all you have to do is get that plastic before it gets into the water – like joining a beach cleanup. Beach cleanups really do make a difference. Now it is true one of the best ways to keep plastics out of the ocean is to reduce the use and manufacturing of plastics; however, that is the bigger picture. The smaller one, the sand-roots effort if you will (get it – not grass roots but ... okay) is to stop the plastic on the beach from entering the ocean and the way to do that is to pick it up. There are many beach clean ups throughout the year or you can just go to a beach with some trash grabbers and do it yourself. And you don't have to go to the

beach – take a trash grabber and bag with you when you're hiking our mountain trails and pick up the litter. It may be small acts but aren't we supposed to be the stewards of the Earth? Bringing it back to Thanksgiving, shouldn't we be thankful that there are ways we can help our planet? I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and take time over the holiday to walk through nature or just look at the sky and trees and be thankful for the natural life around you. According to David Sweets, meteorologist at NOAA, Thanksgiving Day will have highs in the 70s with no winds or rain in the forecast as of Monday. The winds we have been experiencing have been out of the northwest but now shifted to the northeast, which doesn't affect our area as much. Thursday and Friday looks to be partly cloudy in the mornings leading to sunny afternoons. You can find beach cleanups by searching non-profit environmental organizations like [healthbay.org](http://healthbay.org), [surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org) and [bleuworld.org](http://bleuworld.org).

ANSWERS for page 18

P	A	D	S	O	A			Y	E	M	E	S	S	E
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PLAID FRIDAY from Cover

The traditional event has become a family favorite not only because it is the start of the Montrose holiday season, which includes Plaid Friday, but it is also followed by Small Business Saturday.

Plaid Friday is a new twist on Black Friday, which is noted by many as being the biggest shopping day of the year, which can trace its history back over 100 years.

According to reports, the term “Black Friday” actually started as a reference to the stock market crash in September 1869 when the price of gold plummeted. It was then re-appropriated for the day after Thanksgiving when Philadelphia newspapers described the rush of crowds at stores. It was later described as the day retailers go into the black,

or show a profit for the year.

Whatever the term’s history the day has become a highly anticipated shopping extravaganza. People line up for hours well before stores open to get those “special deals.” There have been reports in the past of fights breaking out among shoppers. That hectic, sometimes crazy, behavior is why Plaid Friday was created.

“Plaid is symbolic of the diversity and ingenuity of the independent retailers,” explained Dawson.

Plaid Friday originated in Oakland, California by Kerri Johnson as a way to bring back a time when shopping for friends and family was fun – and leisurely. It is part of the Shop Indie Program.

“At the time Plaid Friday was

conceived, there was a growing movement to boycott all shopping on Black Friday. I, as well as many of the people I knew, avoided the craziness of that day. Most small businesses didn’t even open. At the time, I had a small artist-run gallery that I ran with my husband Jason, and we would turn the gallery into a pop-up shop featuring local artisans for the holidays. I thought why not turn this crazy day into something relaxing and enjoyable, giving people an alternative to shopping at the malls at 3 am. The idea was to get up late, grab a coffee, and explore the neighborhood, discovering small businesses and shopping local. A win-win for everyone,” stated Johnson, as reported in the American Independent Business Alliance.

Montrose stores will be participating Plaid Friday followed by Small Business Saturday.

On Saturday, Nov. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Montrose Shopping Park shoppers can spin a wheel for prizes. Those who have a Nov. 25 receipt for at least \$50 from a shopping park merchant will get one spin; a \$100 receipt allows two spins.

Small Business Saturday is also part of the events to kick off the holiday celebration in Montrose.

“[There will be] horse-drawn trolley rides, music in every block [along Honolulu Avenue],” Dawson said. “Santa will be there every Saturday from Nov. 25 to Dec 23.”

The Heavenly Hand-Led pony rides on Saturdays are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All these holiday activities are free, Dawson added.

GCC from Cover

In 2013 the City Council banned both the possession and sale of guns on City owned property; however, in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v Bruen, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in a 6-3 ruling to strike down New York’s public carry licensing law and created a new rubric for evaluating Second Amendment challenges. Since then cities around the nation faced legal battles as their gun laws were challenged.

“The City was sued challenging this [ordinance],” said Mike Garcia, Glendale city attorney.

The amendment approved on Nov. 16 proposes compromising with those who brought the lawsuit against the City.

“The amendment would permit concealed carry weapons permit holders to an exception to carry on certain City-owned properties, which would include City-owned open spaces, parks, the Glendale Civic Auditorium, parking lots and playgrounds; but as it pertains to playgrounds only when the concealed carry weapons permit holder is in the company of their minor children or other children they are there to care for or supervise at the playground,” said Ed Kang, principal assistant city attorney.

All members of the Council voted to accept this amendment, although Kassakhian, Devine and Brotman made it known they were reluctantly voting to approve.

Councilmembers also voted unanimously for a Glendale Police Dept. (GPD) referral incentive program. Chief Manual Cid told the Council that his department, like many others across the nation, is facing challenges in recruiting and hiring for sworn and civilian positions.

“We are competing with other agencies who are hiring hundreds of police and [staff],” he said.

The proposal that was approved included a referral bonus for current GPD employees who recruit and refer any individual to a full time police department. Those who referred would receive \$2,500 when the new hire begins and another \$2,500 at the completion of the new hire’s probation period.

Cid also proposed a signing bonus of \$20,000 for lateral hires of police officers and dispatchers. Lateral hiring is the process of hiring a candidate with experience working in a role similar to what is being offered.

He added that these types of bonus programs are now commonplace and that some agencies are offering up to \$70,000 as a signing bonus, so competition has increased.

Then the Glendale Water and Power took center stage and reported on its proposed rate increase. Before its presentation, however, City Manager Roubik Golanian said that periodical rate hikes are common.

“No city manager wants to bring an adjustment of this magnitude,” he said. But he added the City has reached a point where there are no options left but to raise rates.

“[This is] absolutely critical to keep Glendale Water and Power solvent and to keep the lights on in the community,” he said.

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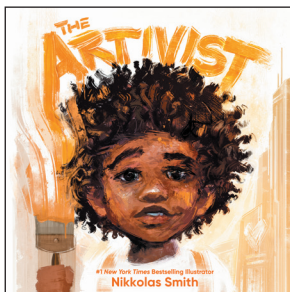
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## Small Business Saturday

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Local authors appearing with their books

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Julie Abe @ noon



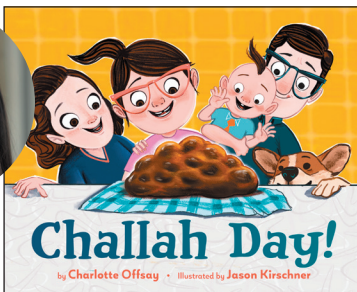
Chelsea Ichaso @ noon



Janie Emaus @ 1 pm



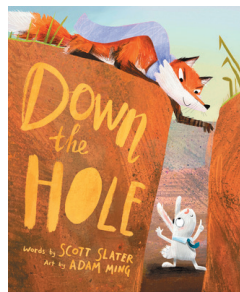
Charlotte Offsay @ 1 pm



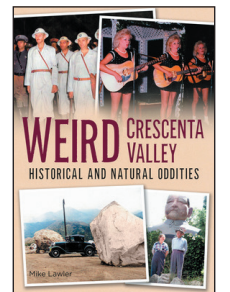
Tom Phillips @ 2 pm



Scott Slater @ 3 pm



Mike Lawler @ 3 pm



### Plaid Friday Sale

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## Giving Tuesday

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# VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

## Memories of Jack Laughrey

The Laughrey family were early residents of the valley, opening a hardware store on La Crescenta Avenue in the 1920s. They moved the store to Foothill Boulevard and lived beneath the store. Later they were early residents of Mountain Oaks. A news article was written about Jack Laughrey back in 1979 and it provides some gems about life

in old La Crescenta.

Jack had a variety of interesting jobs over the years, starting with a lemonade stand on La Crescenta Avenue. He was a soda jerk in the Montrose Pharmacy (that's the building that today houses Gus and Andy's Restaurant). He was a wildlands firefighter with the county forestry department. He was

a caddy at the Oakmont Country Club and dug ditches for one of the many water companies that supplied water to the valley. He laid pipelines for the gas company, worked for the telephone company and, during retirement, worked at Rogers Pharmacy. Needless to say Jack liked to keep busy.

When Jack was a soda jerk at the Montrose Pharmacy part of his duties included emptying the slot machines there. Yes, it's true – the Montrose Pharmacy had slot machines!

Jack laughed, "Now it can be told. They were crooked! There was no way to get the three little bells to pay off. There was a stopper inside."

In fact, there were several slot machines in various businesses around Montrose and Jack made an extra few cents a week servicing them – and probably all were rigged.

"If some old timers are still around, this is going to make them mad," Jack observed.

Jack remembered the time a young teenager raced his own Motel T against the owner of the local Ford dealer and won. He remembered the many families that made basement wine during Prohibition.

"I knew all the Italian families up here – the Zittos, Famularos and the Begues. They had the best wine cellars," Jack winked. "Great people. That's what made the town nice and friendly." In fact, Jack also had a job delivering locally bootleg liquor-booze made in the back room of a

local business.

Jack enjoyed dancing in the '20s. "But I wasn't good ... at least not at the Charleston. But I could waltz."

He vividly remembered the great New Year's Flood that struck the valley at midnight in 1934.

"Me and Archie Potter were walking along a street when we heard the sound of falling rocks. We had just enough time to scramble up an oak tree. Those people who drowned; their bodies were just washed away. I think they all died. The place was destroyed."

Jack remembered an undeveloped Montrose.

"There was nothing but sagebrush from the corner of what's now La Crescenta Avenue over to Ocean View. If you drove along Honolulu Avenue, a narrow one-lane road then, there was brush all the way to Tujunga."

One of Jack's vivid memories is the story of the "Rattlesnake Murder" in 1935.

"Some guy put his wife's foot in a box of rattlesnakes and when he thought the snakes had not been effective, he tossed her into the pool where she drowned."

Wild memories from Jack Laughrey!

While we're on the subject of wild stories, let's remember the 100th anniversary of a disastrous train wreck on the Glendale & Montrose Railway line. It was a beautiful morning on Nov. 30, 1923 when a freight car sitting on tracks at

Verdugo Park accidentally lost its brakes and began quickly rolling down Canada Boulevard toward downtown Glendale. Workers jumped into a freight engine parked nearby and "Mac" Bainbridge positioned himself on the front of the engine, intending to jump onto the loose freight car and apply the brakes. They chased the loose car down Glendale Avenue at high speed. At Glendale and Lexington, they met a northbound steam engine head-on. The loose car was sandwiched and destroyed between the two engines and Bainbridge was hurled into the wreckage. He died later that day. It was a heroic act that ended in disaster.

BTW – That Glendale & Montrose engine Bainbridge rode the front of still operates at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California.



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

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# YOUTH

## Bringing Smiles Through Dental Health at Cerritos Elementary

By Mary O'KEEFE

The smiles of students at Cerritos Elementary School are a little brighter after a visit from a mobile dental unit.

This was the first time a Glendale Unified School District School (GUSD) school hosted the free on-site mobile dental care program. The event was hosted by Glendale Unified Community Schools Initiative, and dental specialists were from Kids Community Dental.

The mobile program brought together the dentist and dental hygiene to the students.

"We offered screening and fluoride [treatment]," said Rose d'Amato, coordinator, community schools.

Parents were asked to give consent to procedures like the fluoride treatment.

Regardless, the screening of students took place even if parents opted out of the fluoride treatment.

The program set up units that taught specific types of dental hygiene from what foods are good for dental health to teaching how to floss. But the support did not end when the mobile unit left.

"[Kids Community Dental] gave us a report that summarized the entire [student body that participated]," d'Amato said.

They found that about 20 cases were serious enough to suggest a more detailed dental follow-up. Letters were sent home with every student including those where a follow-up was suggested.

D'Amato added for those parents who do not have dental insurance



Photos by Mary O'KEEFE



or are struggling, Kids Community Dental offers low cost (\$40) exams.

This was the first mobile outreach and is part of a program that is sponsored by a \$7.1 million grant received as part of the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) Implementation Grant to fund community outreach and support at Cerritos, Columbus, Jefferson, Mann and Marshall elementary schools.

The strategy of community schools is to transform a school into a place where educators, local community members, families and students work together to

strengthen conditions for student learning and healthy development. As partners, they organize in- and out-of-school resources, supports and opportunities to meet the unique needs of each community so that young people thrive, according to GUSD.

The district staff is looking forward in the near future to bringing the mobile units to more schools.

For those students and parents that may have missed the Cerritos Elementary program, or have questions, contact d'Amato at rdamoto@gusd.net.

## Musical Mornings at Lincoln Elementary

Lincoln Elementary School is privileged to have professional musicians Traci Green and Alan Bernhoft as musical educators who introduce music from all over the world to TK-third graders at Lincoln Elementary School.

The pair has been taking Lincoln students on a melodic journey for the past three years. Through a variety of innovative approaches, they seamlessly infuse the students with a musical curriculum that helps children have a lifelong space in their hearts for music. Their classroom becomes a lively stage for multilingual renditions of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" where English, Armenian, Korean, Swahili and a variety of other languages harmonize in a celebration of cultural diversity.

Besides singing the students learn about The Beatles and basic rhythms, percussion and drums and basic music theory. Green and Bernhoft use a variety of percussion instruments in their classroom. Lincoln students eagerly select drums, tambourines



Photos provided by Nicolas JAMES Traci Green and Alan Bernhoft.

or maracas to create a symphony under the guidance of their teachers. The students follow their teachers' skillful drumming by mimicking their beats.

The energy in the room during these sessions reflects the students' genuine enthusiasm and connection with this art form. One of the most enchanting aspects of this curriculum are the sound bath meditations when Green and Bernhoft seamlessly blend music and meditation. Calming

sound waves envelope the auditorium as students, lying on yoga mats, take an imaginative journey that fosters a deep connection between music and mindfulness.

The unwavering passion for music education by Green and Bernhoft leaves an indelible mark on the young minds they nurture, creating a harmonious and enriching learning experience at Lincoln Elementary School.

Submitted by Nicholas JAMES

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# TRAVEL & LEISURE

## Knott's Merry Farm Rings in the Season with Flair – and Flavor



Photos by Charly SHELTON

By Charly SHELTON

The fog has dispersed. The screams have all stopped. The blood has all dried. Knott's Scary Farm has only been back in its grave for two weeks and it's already time to celebrate the holiday season.

And what a transformation it is – to see the holly jolly warmth of the season so quickly replace the darkness of the haunt season. Knott's Berry Farm has again transformed into Knott's Merry Farm, a winter wonderland that encapsulates the joy and spirit of the holiday season. The annual celebration, which commenced this past Friday, is set to run through Jan. 7, 2024, inviting guests to immerse themselves in a world of holiday cheer.

As always with Knott's, the theme park founded on food, the highlight of the Merry Farm experience is dining. In addition to the already top-notch selection of food and drink offerings that the park has in place on its standing menu, the seasonal offerings are always a draw. Now, to

be honest, I was a little disappointed in the Knott's Scary Farm foods. Out of the many that I tried, one really blew me away and the rest ranged from fine to unpleasant – a rare miss for the park. But it is making up for it with Merry Farm offerings because everything I tried knocked it out of the park. The hands-down winner of the day was the one I expected to like the least – a turkey dinner on top of a pile of macaroni and cheese served in a bread bowl. This was something I ordered just because I thought it couldn't possibly be good and yet I was proven wrong. The mac was some of the best I've ever had and the turkey, stuffing, gravy, and dried cranberries melded together into the cheesiness to create something that I'm not proud to tell my doctor that I ate – but boy was it enjoyable.

Honorable mention goes to the garlic truffle mayo and mushroom burger. With that list of ingredients, you know it's going to be good.

The live entertainment is also a huge aspect of this event. There are so many shows and experiences it's hard to mention them all in the confines of this humble article, but there is one that was a clear favorite – the Snow and Glow show, a dazzling display that combined lights, music and the magic of falling snow in the relative warmth of an LA evening. This show is always a favorite, watching the buildings of Ghost Town jump to life and dance with lights in time to the music as snow gently falls. And the new interactive bubble wand, which I played with all day at various locations around the park setting off bubble machines, will also interact with the Snow and Glow show, dancing along in time with the other lights of the town. This show brings that classic feeling of a theme park at the holidays and is the most special, to me, out of any of the entertainment offerings.

Although it's not cold enough for real snow, it is getting colder and surprisingly the Knott's Merry Mug became a cherished companion for the event. This refillable mug offers unlimited fills of coffee and hot cocoa on the day of purchase, which really takes the edge off the cold night and makes it feel that much more like a classic Christmas. I came to see it not just as a mug but as a vessel of warmth and comfort holding in my hands the coziness of the season.

Knott's Merry Farm is a celebration of all that is merry and bright with its delightful mix of festive shows, delicious food and heartwarming experiences. It's an LA classic that feels as much a part of the holiday season as hot cocoa and fake snow.

For more information and tickets, visit [Knotts.com](http://Knotts.com).

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# LA Zoo Lights Animals Aglow: A Dazzling Nighttime Adventure

By Charly SHELTON

As night falls over the Los Angeles Zoo, a different kind of magic comes alive with the event LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow. Although the zoo's diurnal animals are asleep while the event is going on, the darkened paths are illuminated by an array of spectacular light sculptures bringing a nocturnal wonderland to life.

The absence of live animals might be felt by some; however, the event offers a unique experience that compensates with its own charm. The giant light sculptures that represent the animals offer a whimsical alternative, bringing different biomes to life in new and unique ways. These radiant figures stand as glowing sentinels in the night, a testament to the zoo's dedication to both wildlife and artistry.

Though the real animals may be nestled in their habitats snoring away, the event is a reminder of the zoo's commitment to conservation and education. Each glowing sculpture not only delights but also educates, shedding light on the importance of these creatures and their roles in our world.

This event is particularly enchanting for children. Watching young ones, like my 3-year-old son,



Photos by Charly SHELTON

marvel at the light displays and learn the names of each animal as they move along is a heartwarming sight. Granted, once the kids found the light panel play area near the back of the desert trail they swarmed it like the buzzards they just learned about and it became a free-for-all of screaming and running. But for a few brief shining moments, it was pure magic.

The highlight of the event, besides the light panels, was the Winter Wildlands. This section of the walk was different from the rest of the event in that it wasn't trying to showcase animals in the way they really look, but more of an artistic take on the theme.

Each animal, plant, snowman and Christmas tree was iridescent and constantly shifting its glow pattern. This short segment of the walk was by far the most beautiful and unique, and the place that begged the most pictures being taken.

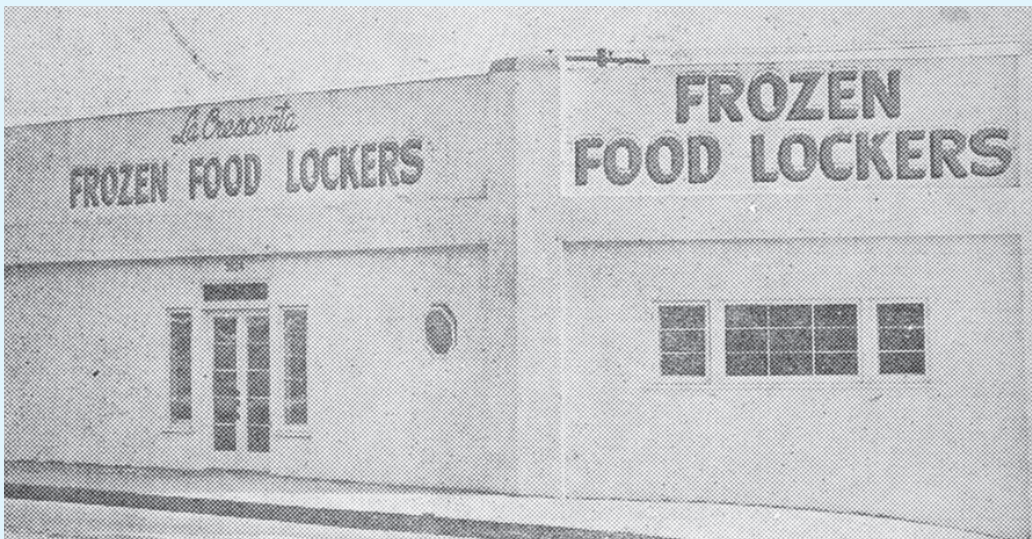
LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow is a unique celebration of wildlife, creativity and family fun. It's an opportunity to see the zoo in a new light, literally and figuratively, and to appreciate the beauty of nature in all its forms, whether awake or asleep. And also, light panels.

LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow runs select nights now through Jan. 7, 2024. For more information and for tickets, visit LAzoo.org.

*What's Cooking*  
 Your Local guide to good food!  
 November 23<sup>RD</sup> Specials!

## THEN & NOW

*Harmony Farms*  
 Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



**THEN:** In 1948, La Crescenta Frozen Food Lockers was located at 2824 Foothill Blvd. Patrons could employ the services of butchers and store their large quantities of meat there if they didn't have a big freezer at home. This business served a more rural community where it was not unusual for a hunter to bag a deer locally for fresh venison or for residents of the valley to raise some livestock for the table.



**NOW:** Speaking to the increasingly urban nature of La Crescenta, Harmony Farms now does a good business in naturally grown beef and poultry and exotic and game meats such as ostrich and elk, mostly retail, plus some wholesale to health food stores and restaurants. Harmony Farms was started here in 1971 by Bruce Oxford. They do still have the frozen food lockers for rent in the back but it's getting rare for hunters to use their services anymore.

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# BETWEEN FRIENDS

## VHWC Presents Winter Concert

With a song in their hearts, the Verdugo Hills Women's Chorus (VHWC), under the direction of collaborative pianist Ki Park, will present a winter concert on Sunday, Dec. 3 at St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church, 2563 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta. The chorus comprises fun, energetic, dedicated women of varied ages and backgrounds who like to sing and enjoy the camaraderie of other women singers. They have practiced and perfected their concert music and are ready to sing for the public.

With that in mind, VHWC hopes to fill the church and even the patio with song on Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. Reservations and tickets are not required. A "free will offering" of donations are requested that will support both St. Luke's and the Verdugo Hills

Women's Chorus.

Refreshments will be provided in Sadler Hall (across from the church) after the concert. Director Park guides singers through a vigorous warm up session prior to studying new music or performing.

All VHWC singers are members of the state organization California Womens Chorus, Inc., which began in the 1950s as part of the Mother Singers. Founder Betty McGaughey served as the group's director until her retirement in 1999. That's when Sharon Schlarb took over the baton and conducted the singers until she retired from that position in August 2018. Ki Park came along and she has been wielding the baton for the Verdugo Hills Women's Chorus ever since.

Submitted by Arlene MASSIMINO



Photo compliments of VHWC



## Smiling Faces from La Crescenta Woman's Club Greet Ticketholders

The La Crescenta Woman's Club helped check in ticketholders of the Montrose Shopping Park's fall Wine Walk. Over 500 happy adults passed through the line to have fun "trick or treating" adult style with the merchants on Honolulu Avenue in Montrose. The Woman's Club is grateful for the 15% it receives from the evening for its many philanthropies. An estimated \$8,000 in scholarships will be

distributed by the Woman's Club to area high school seniors. To learn more, visit <https://lacrescentawomansclub.org/> for more information or call (818) 957-9806.

The Woman's Club invites all to hear and sing along with the Crescenta Valley High School Charismatics at the Club's Dec. 13 luncheon at 4004 La Crescenta Ave. Call Betsy Mortimer for reservations at (818) 249-9403.




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# The YMCA of the Foothills Honors Beloved Volunteer and Friend Pat Aho



Photo courtesy of the YMCA

From left are Vince and Kelly Iuculano, Ben Logan, Laura Olhasso, Heather Haaga, Paul Haaga (behind Heather), Lucia Logan, Barbara Kovach and Bill Olhasso.

Honored members of the Y community gathered for a private dedication to the memorable and beloved Patricia “Pat” Breech Aho on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA.

The YMCA of the Foothills planted a vibrant lemon tree within the Haaga Garden of the branch where members can visit the memorial daily. Aho was a valued executive assistant to former Y’s CEO Dennis Croxin. Once retired she became a dedicated annual support campaigner for the YMCA of the Foothills. With both her strong connections to the area and the numerous fostered relationships Aho cultivated throughout her years at the Y, she soon became

a prolific fundraiser. Her selfless commitment to the Y’s mission with the community as her focus is one of the reasons the organization named its annual volunteer award after Aho, known as the Pat Aho Volunteer of the Year Award.

“Pat Aho was a beacon of light and grace,” said friend and Y board member Laura Olhasso. “From her valuable work on behalf of the YMCA, to her lovely voice in her church choir, to the lives she impacted across generations, she left her mark on our community. We were lucky to know her.”

It is fitting that Aho’s dedicated tree sits within the Haaga Garden as she held close friendships with their family

and many other treasured La Cañada community members. Both Paul and Heather Haaga were present and shared a few stories with the group about how their friendship started with Aho. The plaque by the tree reads:

“Planted with love in memory of Pat Aho. A wonderful person, volunteer, and friend – your wisdom and inspiration will continue to grow here.”

The community is invited to visit the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA to visit the Haaga Garden, gaze upon this stunning memorial and reminisce about a dear past friend whose memory will prosper and continue to inspire many generations to come.

# People Making News

Aleen Babikian of Glendale, who attended College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Arts, Economics A was among a total of 8,625 students who received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

There were two ceremonies, one for undergraduates at Camp Randall and one for all graduate degree candidates at the Kohl Center. Graduating were 6,225 undergraduate students, 1,487 master’s degree students and 913 doctoral candidates.

Damian Casillas of Sunland received an associate of applied science degree in fire science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Class of 2023 presented degrees during its 101st commencement ceremony.

This year, UAF conferred approximately 1,029 degrees on 956 students. Some students received more than one degree. The ceremony included graduates from summer and fall 2022 and spring 2023.

The following students have been named to the dean’s list for the spring 2023 semester at Washington University in St. Louis.

From La Cañada Flintridge, Xiaoyun Gong, Aditya Sehgal Aidan Ip are enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the dean’s list in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units; Grace Li is enrolled in the Olin Business School. To qualify for the dean’s list in the Olin Business School, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units; Carsten Petersen and Paul Kang are enrolled in the McKelvey School of Engineering. To qualify for the dean’s list in the McKelvey School of Engineering, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 12 graded units.

Tyler Carlson of La Crescenta is enrolled in the McKelvey School of Engineering. To qualify for the dean’s list in the McKelvey School of Engineering, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 12 graded units.

Haley Pak of Tujunga graduated in May from the university’s College of Arts & Sciences.

Washington University in St. Louis draws students to St. Louis from more than 100 countries and all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands. The total student body is more than 15,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

The university offers more than 90 programs and almost 1,500 courses leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in a broad spectrum of traditional and interdisciplinary fields, with additional opportunities for minor concentrations and individualized

programs.

Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa congratulated graduate Troy Leef from La Crescenta who earned a Bachelor of Arts, business administration and sport management.

Founded in 1843 by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Clarke University is located near the Mississippi River in Dubuque, Iowa. Academic offerings include over 50 undergraduate majors and minors, 10 pre-professional programs, six graduate degree programs, and the CareerPLUS professional development micro course program.

Alexandra Apy of La Crescenta is among 80,000-plus members of the Lehigh family. Members of the incoming undergraduate class at Lehigh University represent 49 U.S. states and territories, including Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, and 52 countries. This is the largest and among the most diverse classes ever admitted to Lehigh.

For more than 150 years, Lehigh University (lehigh.edu) has combined academic and learning opportunities with leadership in fostering innovative research. The institution is among the nation’s most selective, highly-ranked private research universities. Lehigh’s five colleges – College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, College of Health, and the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science – provide opportunities to 7,000-plus students to discover and grow in an academically rigorous environment along with a supportive, engaged campus community.

Andre Dilanchiyan of Tujunga has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s summer 2023 dean’s list. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the dean’s list.

Aaron Markabail and Peter Osipof, both of Sunland, earned placement on the president’s list. Full-time undergraduate students who earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the president’s list.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. Southern New Hampshire University is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

## Questions About Today’s Real Estate?

### Ask Phyllis!

#### Was There Really Another Offer?

Dear Phyllis,

My mother reads your real estate question and answers and told me to get your opinion. My fiancé and I made an offer on a La Crescenta home that had been on the market for nearly three weeks. Our agent confirmed with the seller’s Realtor that there were no offers. When we sent our offer in, the agent said she was expecting another offer and that we should quickly offer the full price to secure the home. We increased our offer, and the seller accepted. We are happy in our new home, but feel like we were played. Do you think there really was another offer?

Kristen

Dear Kristen,

Congratulations on your successful purchase. One thing to consider is if the listing agent represented her client properly. The presence of another offer could have led to the home selling over the asking price.

It’s understandable to feel skeptical when you’re told there’s another offer coming in on a home you want to buy, especially when the home has been on the market for a while. However, there are several reasons why it

may not be a bluff.

- Agents risk their license: Real estate agents are bound by codes of ethics and regulations that prohibit us from lying about the existence of other offers.
- Reputation matters: Agents value our reputation in the industry.
- It could backfire: If an agent bluffs about another offer and a buyer decides not to make an offer or engage in a bidding war, it could lead to the loss of a real buyer.
- In your case, although there was not yet another written offer, the listing agent said she knew of another buyer’s interest. In such cases, the agent may inform other interested parties to ensure everyone has a fair chance to submit an offer before deciding.

Ultimately, with your agent’s guidance and the information you were given, you needed to decide. While it’s challenging to obtain concrete proof of another offer, considering the potential risks for agents and sellers, it’s likely that the information provided about another offer coming was genuine.

Phyllis



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# RELIGION

Reprinted from April 16, 2013

*Question: I'm the stepdad of a 7-year-old boy with learning disabilities. I'm having quite a time being patient with the little guy even though I dated his mother for three years before we married. My stepson didn't seem to be as much of a problem during those years as he is now. I know how important self-esteem is because my own father berated me constantly, and it took some doing and a lot of therapy to become the person I am today. I want to be a good dad to him because he doesn't know his own dad.*

*Is there a spiritual way to deal with this problem?*

~ Troubled Stepdad

Dear Troubled Stepdad,

This is a difficult letter but the way you ended says so much about your heart in this situation. First, you say you want to be a good stepdad to this special boy. Second, you are searching for a spiritual way to deal with this problem. I can't help but think you're on the right track already.

You went into this marriage with your eyes open, didn't you? You had an idea of what to expect. Perhaps God was preparing you for fatherhood for three years while you dated the boy's mother. Let me be as practical as I can be. Here are seven suggestions that, to me, seem like Godly responses to this difficult situation: 1) Consider this boy not as your stepson but as your biological son. He needs a dad. That's you. He's not your wife's son. He's your son. Now you have an opportunity to be what your dad wasn't. 2) Learn more about what this little guy faces developmentally. Can you learn more about his disability?

You are blessed by God to have the clear-headed intellect you do. But what if you didn't? Would your life be like his? God put an angel of mercy in this boy's path – you. 3) Have his doctor describe what life is like through your son's eyes. You may have a good idea of this already, but hearing it from his doctor is really something. 4) Find a support group for parents who deal with the same issue. You are not alone. This would be helpful for mom, too. 5) Find an activity to do together that is fun for you both. Do it often. Then watch for God's hand at work. 6) Look for ways to ease your wife's burden. She needs you, too. Fortunately, you have broad shoulders. 7) Perhaps I should have listed this last one first. Pray. Pray for grace. Pray for strength. Pray alone. And consider praying with your wife. This is a hard thing you are doing! Ask God to keep you strong wherever and whenever you feel weak.

Perhaps God has designed this situation to be too hard to do by yourself. Maybe He is waiting to hear from you about this a little more than He does.

In the meantime, I'll send up a prayer too.



Rev. Jon Karn  
Light on the Corner Church – Montrose  
pastorjon@lightonthecorner.org

Dear Stepdad:

The first question you asked is, "Is there a spiritual way to deal with this problem?" Well, being spiritual will help but it will not solve the situation on its own. Much as a broken leg needs a doctor, issues of learning disabilities and the dynamics it causes in the home, need professional help as well.

So prayer is important – it sounds like you know the comfort that can be gained from prayer and having others pray for you. But I believe your best bet is to get into some short term therapy with someone who deals with special needs children to gain the support and learn the tools you need for you, your wife and the child to flourish.

Raising someone with special needs can be hard on not only the child but the entire family. You probably were not exposed to the ins and outs of what mom did every day. But being what it is, and the fact that you care

see RELIGION on next page

## NOTES & NODS

### LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE FOOTHILLS

Lutheran Church in the Foothills is responding to the urgent need for blood donations. LCIF will hold a blood drive in its Fellowship Hall on Thursday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. According to the American Red Cross, every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and/or platelets. Supply can't always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Each new donor helps the Red Cross meet patient needs. Those who would like to donate at the blood drive can make an appointment at redcrossblood.org.

Additionally, Lutheran Church in the Foothills reminds the community of its ongoing food drive to help feed the hungry. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off during Sunday worship at 10 a.m. at the church or anytime during the week at the church's office.

Visit lcifoothills.org for details. For more information or to request/offer help, email office@lcifoothills.org or call (818) 790-1951. The church is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge.

Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### ALL INVITED TO SUPPORT GROUP

Around the Rainbow, a support group for families of LGBTQIA individuals, meets monthly on the first and third Tuesday nights (note the new days) at Crescenta Valley United Methodist Church, 2700 Montrose Ave. in Montrose in room 24. Gathering is at 6:30 p.m. and meeting is from 7-8 p.m.

For more information, contact Jo Ann Stupakis at jostupakis@yahoo.com.

### MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church invites the public to its community luncheon on the second Wednesday of each month through May. There is "wonderful food and amazing entertainment." Cost is just \$5. All are invited.

Also, Operation Christmas Child is coming. This year Mt. Olive is going to make this a fellowship event! Participants will meet at the church on Saturday, Nov. 25 at 9:30 a.m. and together fill the boxes

with goodies. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be provided.

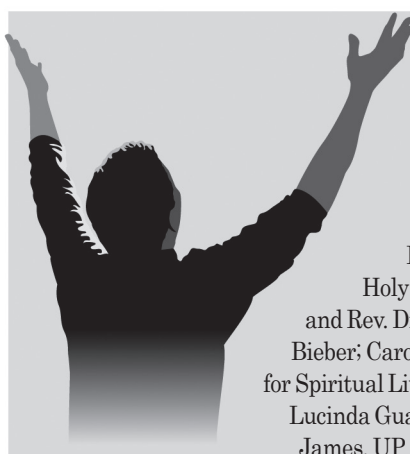
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church is located at 3561 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta.

### WALK AND WORD

In November, 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 Nov. 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.

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

### 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 La Crescenta Center for Spiritual Living; Rabbi Janet Bieber; Carolyn Young; Sharon Weisman; Rev. Mary Morgan, Redondo Beach Center for Spiritual Living; Rev. Dabney Beck, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Lucinda Guarino; Rev. Karin Ellis, La Canada United Methodist Church; Rev. Sherri James, UP Church; The Rev. C. L. "Skip" Lindeman, Upland Christian Church, Rev. Rob Holman, St. Luke's Anglican Church; Rev. Jeff Blanton and Rev. Emanuel David, Community Life Church of La Crescenta; Rev. Sharri Johnson, One Heart Retreat Center, Martin Barrett, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills, Andy Gero, VFW Chaplain, Paster Bill Flanders Emeritus, Highlands Church La Crescenta, Steve Johnson, Pastor Emeritus, Highlands Church La Crescenta, Rev. Valerie Reeves, Staff Minister, Redondo Beach Center for Spiritual Living

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.

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Wednesday Night Service 7:00 p.m.

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Pastor Jon Karn  
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SUNDAY SERVICES 10:45 a.m.  
www.lightonthecorner.org

### Lutheran Church in the Foothills 1700 Foothill Blvd. La Cañada Flintridge

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### Mt. Olive Lutheran Church 3561 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta office@molc.org • (818) 248-4253

Sunday Worship Service (with Sunday School for kids) 9:30 AM  
Thursday Bible Study 6:45 PM  
Check out our Website! www.molc.org See us on Facebook!

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Sundays  
Gathering 9:30AM  
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### Join us for Sunday Services at 11:30 am

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in the Sanctuary of Center for Spiritual Living  
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unity (818) 249-4396  
Church of the Valley A positive path for spiritual living



SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from previous page

about this child and have already taken his self esteem into consideration, I recommend giving therapy and perhaps some special needs parenting classes a try. You can certainly choose a therapist who brings spirituality into it. I hope this helps.

You are a good stepdad to reach out for help to assist not only this child but yourself.

Rev. Kimberlie Zakarian  
kimberlie.zakarian@gmail.com



# LCPC Parent Ed Team Launches Annual Toy Drive for FosterAll

La Cañada Presbyterian Church's Parent Education Program (LCPC Parent Ed) will host a toy drive supporting its charity partner FosterAll. From Nov. 13-29, LCPC Parent Ed will be collecting new unwrapped gifts in the donation bin located in MacCormick Ministry Hub (by the circular drive of La Cañada Presbyterian Church). The goal is to collect 100 toys for boys and girls aged 5-10 years. Additional collection bins will be available outside of classrooms for those on campus for class. Monetary donations will be accepted online <https://www.lacanadapc.org/give/ways-to-give/>.

To celebrate the holiday together and show appreciation to foster families who have opened up their hearts and homes to children in need, on Dec. 2, LCPC will open its campus to foster families for a fun-filled day that includes games, crafts, music and entertainment plus a delicious meal and Santa's Toy Shop! LCPC Parent Ed board members will be in attendance to help with meals, crafts and gifts.



Soup, Soap, and Salvation!



## Salvation Army Mobile Shower Program

The Salvation Army Glendale Corps Community Center is launching their Mobile Shower Program for unsheltered individuals in need. Stop by for a shower and a meal.

**Mondays & Fridays (excluding Holidays)**  
8:00AM - 11:00AM

801 South Central Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91204  
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(818) 246-5586



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E-mail [info@cvweekly.com](mailto:info@cvweekly.com) to receive an e-mail with the latest community news.

GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION & CV WEEKLY PRESENT

# The 2023 Merry & Bright Holiday Light and Display Tour!

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

To have your address included in the Merry & Bright Tour, and be entered into our contest, send your address to [HollyWeen@cvweekly.com](mailto:HollyWeen@cvweekly.com) by 5PM, December 12th to be included in all 3 issues listing the addresses. Any addresses received after the 12th will be entered into the next possible issue. Your home's location will be in the CV Weekly December issues so families can create their own drive-by route.

**Judging will be done between December 21st - 24th.**  
Winners announced in the December 28th issue.

**JUDGING CATEGORIES**

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

## CALENDAR this

### GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon; however the Club will be dark on Nov. 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

The cost to attend Friday meetings, which includes lunch and program, is \$20. All are welcome.

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

### BOWLING TOURNAMENT IN STUDIO CITY IS A CANCER FUNDRAISER

The Ronnie James Dio Stand Up and Shout Cancer Fund's annual

"Bowl For Ronnie Celebrity Charity Bowling Tournament" is tonight, Thursday, Nov. 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. (VIP pre-party is from 6:30-8:30 p.m.) at Pinz Bowling Center, 12655 Ventura Blvd. in Studio City.

More info at <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/ca-los-angeles/ronnie-dio/>.

### BINGO BENEFITS KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of the Verdugo is having a bingo on Friday, Nov. 17. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.; first game at 6 p.m. Admission is \$25, which includes 10 games.

Bingo will be held at the

Verdugo Hills Memorial Hall, 4011 La Crescenta Ave., La Crescenta. Advanced ticket sale is required as bingo is limited to 150 players. For tickets and questions, call (213) 984-4611.

Food and beverages available for purchase. Sponsorship opportunities available!

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND CURRENT PROGRAMMING AT CV PARK

On Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. CV Park is hosting Breakfast with Santa. No registration is required to this free

event that is appropriate for all ages.

Ongoing programs at the Park include: Everybody Plays, an afterschool program for ages 7-17 featuring homework help, gardening, indoor games, free play, sports, nature walks and more! (No registration required, completely free); Senior Club – with the help of the department of Mental Health and Public Health, the Park is hosting mental health workshops and group sessions, as well as painting days targeted to seniors, and exercise classes. No registration required and these are free; Tiny Tots – an afternoon program for

kids from ages 3 to 5 (who are fully potty trained) is an interactive program with three-four week sessions (\$45/week) where parents are encouraged to stay while their children interact with others and practice fundamentals.

### PSHA NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2023/24 GIFTS & GRANTS

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts has announced the launch of its 2023/24 Gifts & Grants program. Each year Gifts & Grants distributes hundreds of thousands

see CALENDAR THIS on page 19

### » ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



### ACROSS

- 1) One of the common people
- 5) Horse habitat
- 10) Goalie's wear
- 14) Freight car hopper of old
- 15) "Sesame Street" resident
- 16) Cain's victim
- 17) Clickable item
- 18) Church tenet
- 19) Emulate a drunkard
- 20) Times 3?
- 23) Short choral composition
- 24) The nine of some batteries
- 25) Back out on a promise
- 28) King of the jungle
- 30) Brilliant thought
- 31) Emotionless, as a stare
- 33) Mr. Potato Head part
- 36) Times 3?
- 40) Ambulance letters
- 41) Tadpoles, in time
- 42) Lofgren who rocks with Springsteen
- 43) Friendly ground-up bait?
- 44) Shape learned in preschool
- 46) Video game giant, once
- 49) Where babies grow
- 51) Times 3?
- 57) Remove, as a knot
- 58) Rugged box
- 59) One named in a will
- 60) Angler's equipment
- 61) Extreme hardship
- 62) Cogito-sum link
- 63) "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina motto)
- 64) Board for a manicurist
- 65) "General Hospital" e.g.

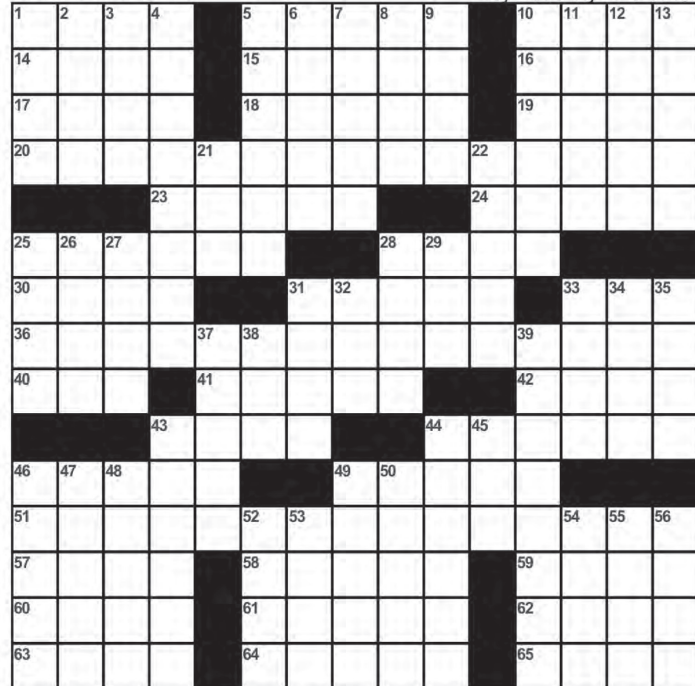
### DOWN

- 1) Punxsutawney \_\_\_
- 2) Mathematical sets of points
- 3) Black, in poesy
- 4) Source of some fertilizer
- 5) Put under
- 6) Figurative expression
- 7) Gut-wrenching feeling
- 8) Certain citrus fruit
- 9) "Able to \_\_\_ tall buildings ..."
- 10) Paying customer
- 11) Bubbling on the stove
- 12) Bus station
- 13) Cold-weather coasters
- 21) "Put another \_\_\_ on the fire"
- 22) Conjure up, as a memory
- 25) Customary observance or practice
- 26) Dutch cheese
- 27) Beaks
- 28) Scottish miss
- 29) Pen filler
- 31) "\_\_\_ me up, Scotty"
- 32) "Acid" used in some trips
- 33) Film with many extras
- 34) What cheerleaders do
- 35) Emerald Isle language
- 37) Body of values
- 38) Costello of old comedy
- 39) Betters or improves
- 43) Louisiana cuisine
- 44) Crunchy vegetable
- 45) Anger
- 46) Cloudless sky color
- 47) Firms up, as muscles
- 48) Chilean range
- 49) Electric bill listing
- 50) One-on-one teacher
- 52) 4,840 square yards
- 53) Straitlaced
- 54) "Bics" or "dynamics" prefix
- 55) Baltic port
- 56) Let slip from one's hands

11.23.23

### ALL TIME BEST

By Timothy E. Parker



see ANSWERS on page 6

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### WANTED/NEEDED

#### WANTED

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CALENDAR THIS from page 18

of dollars to local nonprofit organizations to support music and arts programs including underwriting community performances, academy and conservatory scholarships, music therapy and music education.

The application period will close on Nov. 30; awardees will be advised in April 2024. Applications are encouraged from qualifying nonprofit organizations and local schools whose programs are administered and conducted in Los Angeles County, with special consideration given to the greater Pasadena area. For more information and application guidelines, visit [pasadenashowcase.org/gifts](http://pasadenashowcase.org/gifts).

Funds for the Gifts & Grants program are derived from the

organization's annual Benefit, the Pasadena Showcase House of Design. The 2023 Showcase House was held in Pasadena this past spring with nearly 25,000 attendees. Planning is underway for the 2024 Pasadena Showcase House of Design with details coming later this fall.

**OPEN HOUSE AT IMMACULATE HEART**

Immaculate Heart High School's open house for prospective students and their families is on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. No registration required. Meet IHHS faculty and staff and learn about their academic, extracurricular and athletic programs.

Immaculate Heart High School, 5515 Franklin Ave. in Los Angeles;

(323) 461-3651; <https://www.immaculateheart.org/>

**VHWC PRESENTS WINTER CONCERT**

Verdugo Hills Women's Chorus (VHWC), under the direction of Ki Park, will present a winter concert on Dec. 3 at St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church. The concert is at 4 p.m. Reservations and tickets are not required. A "free will offering" will be held and will support both St. Luke's and the Verdugo Hills Women's Chorus.

St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church, 2563 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta

**'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' AT**

**HIGHLANDS CHURCH**

The past, present and future can be seen this holiday season when Carter Thomas presents "A Christmas Carol" at Highlands Church. The production is from Dec. 8 through Dec. 17.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.simplivetix.com/e/a-christmas-carol-tickets-144985>.

Highlands Church is located at 4441 La Crescenta Ave.

**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](mailto: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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