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Renovictions on Council Calendar

By Mary O'KEEFE

At several Glendale City Council meetings residents who are facing eviction from their homes have pleaded with councilmembers to help them stay in their houses.

Most residents stated they have paid rent on time; some have even done repairs on the property that landlords had not taken care of and many have been at their apartments and homes for decades.

Many of these evictions are actually now known as “renovictions.” This is a phenomenon that has been happening throughout the state; some landlords find a loophole that can help them clear out long-term residents.

AB 1482 was a bill approved by the governor in October 2019 that was designed to protect tenants; however, due to a loophole, landlords can evict tenants due to “substantial renovations.” The problem is there is no clear path to verify whether the “substantial renovations” were actually done. The question of allowing tenants to return to the houses after the renovations – and at what increase in monthly rental cost – is another dilemma.

This is something that cities are trying to deal with around the state. Earlier this month Santa Barbara’s Ordinance Committee was looking at offering a right of first refusal to tenants regarding returning to their rental residences at the same rent rate after being displaced due to the owner’s renovation of the property. The final ordinance sent to its Council offered the right of first refusal to tenants to return for no more than a rent increase of 10%. This item is scheduled to be taken up by the Santa Barbara City Council in the new year.

These decisions on how to help renters who are bringing their

see GCC on page 8

GPD Delivers Holiday Joy



By Eliza PARTIKA

For over 30 years, GPD has made families' Christmas a little more merry and bright.

All was merry and bright at the Glendale Police Dept. (GPD) on Dec. 14 when officers and volunteers assembled to deliver gifts to Glendale families. For over 30 years the Glendale

Police Officers’ Association (GPOA) Cops for Kids program has served dozens of Glendale families in need. Members of the GPD and department volunteers adopt families during the holidays, delivering trees and gifts in time for Christmas.

Each year officers work with educators and school administrators to identify children in need of assistance. Officers will also add names to the gift-giving list if they have interacted with a family they believe would benefit from the program. Volunteers then make home visits to speak with families and identify

their needs. Fundraisers throughout the year, including a golf tournament, car show and poker night, help fund gifts.

Kitchen goods, bicycles, toys and clothing filled colorfully wrapped boxes overflowing on tables set up in the Glendale Police Station Community Room where volunteers and officers gathered to ready the gifts for delivery. This year, 25 families throughout Glendale, Montrose and La Crescenta received gifts.

“It’s inspiring to see how many officers want to volunteer and be part of such a great, great cause,”

Photos by Eliza PARTIKA

LEFT: Officer Jose Barajas places presents under a tree at the home of one of the families. MIDDLE: One little girl was excited to find just what she wanted: new sparkly black and pink shoes. RIGHT: When receiving a blender, one mom was excited at the prospect of making fruit smoothies.

said Detective Jamilah Jabali, who organized this year’s event.

For many of the officer volunteers and their relatives, it was their first time working with the program. One volunteer, Claudia, said she was happy to lend a helping hand at Christmas. Decked out in a glowing peppermint headband and a red

see GPD TOYS on page 23

Glendale Burglary Task Force Working Well, Says Chief

By Mary O'KEEFE

Glendale Police Department (GPD) has seen a lot of success with its recently formed burglary task force.

A few weeks ago several speakers at the Glendale City Council shared their concerns for the increased number of residential burglaries occurring throughout the city. In response, police chief Manny Cid created a task force about three weeks ago. Last Wednesday, Dec. 13, CVW sat down with Cid to talk about how the task force was working.

He noted there were some speakers who spoke at the Council meeting who referred to a residential burglary as a home invasion.

“Fortunately we haven’t had anything that could technically be described as a home invasion,” he said.

A home invasion is when a person/persons enters a home without

permission, usually with the use of force and/or weapons. Then the occupants are held as hostages as the suspects ransack the house.

A robbery is not the same as a burglary. A robbery is when someone takes property from victims through the use of force.

A burglary is when someone enters a property with the intent to commit a crime, like theft.

“What we are dealing with, quite frankly what the whole LA region is dealing with, is a significant increase in burglaries,” Cid said in the Dec. 13 interview.

These criminals usually enter a home by smashing windows or glass back doors. They can also gain entrance by finding doors unlocked. The suspect/suspects normally take high-end shoes, jewelry and cash.

Over the year, the GPD had seen a significant uptick in residential

see CID on page 8



File photo
Glendale Police Chief Manny Cid talked to CV Weekly about a task force assembled to combat home burglaries.



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



Stop – Take a Breath

This time of the year is busy – I get it. Having grown children doesn't ease the stress of the holidays either; especially when they live far away. The stress just shifts from one realm into another.

We have two boys who live out of state and two who live relatively nearby. Still lots of shopping to do and planning for the feast on the 25th.

But that's not really what the holidays are about. This should be a time when we step back and take a breath and remember the reason for the season. Yes, I'm going to get Jesus-y right now.

Though we've been sold a bill of goods that Christmastime is when we get to shower gifts on those we love, the truth is that the Christmas holiday was founded on the arrival of the savior, Jesus Christ. I remember my mother-in-law telling me when she was growing up how little they were given at Christmas. It wasn't really a gift-giving holiday, she shared. Boy, has that changed! Now we see advertisements of cars with big bows on them much less jewelry and other "must have" items.

Now I know, and I've shared with you before, that the birth of Jesus was not on Dec. 25. It was probably sometime between April and September. Some conjecture that the Dec. 25 date chosen had its roots in paganism and the winter solstice. But regardless when Jesus was born, globally Dec. 25 has been accepted as the day to celebrate his birth. I think setting aside a day to celebrate the arrival of the savior is important – whether or not it's Dec. 25. It is sad, though, that

commercialism has dug its heels into us so that Dec. 25 became entangled with gift-giving instead of just setting aside a day to celebrate such an auspicious event.

So I invite you to take a minute to take a breath and just remember the reason for the season.

I want to say how honored I was to be a chosen as part of Women in Business. State Senator Anthony Portantino chose me, and several excellent women, to be celebrated for our contributions in our fields. The women were recognized in several different categories; Judee Kendall of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce (years ago she was with the Glendale News-Press) and I were chosen in the "trailblazer" category. At first I thought, "Trailblazer? Does that mean I'm old?" But then I realized what an important recognition it was being in that category. What that meant was that Judee and I were among the select few who carved a path in our fields for women coming after us. We "blazed a trail" so it wouldn't be so difficult for them. What an honor it was being named a trailblazer.

I thank Mary O'Keefe, Rachele Miller and Mary Pinola for taking time to nominate me. Being recognized by them was as important as being recognized by Sen. Portantino.

Robin Goldworthy 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

I know I should be writing about the COP28 (United Nations Climate Change Conference). This is the conference in which countries around the world discuss how to best address climate change. The conference was this month and, in the end, there was an agreement that signals the "beginning of the end" of the fossil fuel era, according to the conference.

In one aspect, this is a monumental agreement since it appears everyone is on the same path as far as fossil fuels go – or at least in the same vicinity; however, the world's reaction to climate change seems to be teetering on semantics. Should they agree to phase "down" or phase "out." Ah, that is the question. These two phrases may seem similar but in the world of fossil fuels and a country's dedication to working on climate change, they could not be more different. However, because we are a few days from Christmas, I thought looking toward this holiday may be better than getting into the weeds with COP28, at least for now.

The winter solstice is today at 7:27 p.m. PST. During this day all locations north of the equator will see daylight shorter than 12 hours and all locations south will see daylight longer than 12 hours, according to NASA.

In ancient times, the days growing shorter were a mystery that was answered with spirituality. A Celtic myth has that on the solstices of each year the Oak King, representing light, and the Holy King, representing the dark, would fight. The Oak King emerged as the victor at the winter solstice, allowing light to return.

It is believed that the solstice was celebrated with a party – not a surprise as the Celts still love a good celebration; however, it was more than just food, drink and dance. Winters were tough for the ancient population that depended on the Sun returning to grow crops. So the solstice was a turning point, a

time when the Sun would return, a rebirth and a time of hope ... sound familiar?

I think for some, this rebirth and time of hope has been forgotten in our ever-growing Christmas lists. Over the years what was once the foundation of hope and rebirth seems to have gotten lost. I can only speak for Christmas because that is what I celebrate, but it would not surprise me that other celebrations during this time of year have also strayed from their origins.

But one of those origin stories has endured, although it has changed dramatically over the years. The story of Santa Claus, which was truly inspired by St. Nick.

Nicholas was a real person who lived in the third century. He was born in the area that is now on the southern coast of Turkey, but during his time was a part of Greece making him Greek. He was a bishop and was part of a massive transition in the Christian faith. He was known as a generous and kind man. But one story seems to be the best example of who he was and why his story has endured over centuries.

After the death of his wealthy parents, he inherited a large sum of money. Nicholas learned of a man who lived in his village who had three daughters. He did not have any money to offer as dowries to any suitor so his daughters' futures were in question. There were not many options for poor young women; they would most likely have been sold into slavery or prostitution if not for Nicholas. He took some of his gold, put it in a bag and tossed it through the window of the father's home in the middle of the night, thus allowing one daughter to marry. He did this two other times; according to some accounts on one of the times the window was locked so he threw the bag down the chimney where it just so happened to land in a stocking that was drying by the fire.

He did all this in the quiet of darkness; however, the father stayed up that last night
see WEATHER on page 22



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NEWS

Paula Devine: Getting Ready to Move Off Council

By Mary O'KEEFE

After a decade serving on the Glendale City Council, this March Paula Devine will not be running to retain her seat.

"I just feel that the political climate is not to my liking," she said.

Devine, like all of those on the Council, has faced criticism in the past for decisions or comments she made; however, she felt recently the criticism has taken more of a hateful turn and many times is filled with more personal attacks rather than factual disagreement.

Prior to being elected to Council she served for eight years on the City of Glendale – Commission on the Status of Women.

"I always felt that the role of the government is to make people's life better ... simplify, don't complicate and [always] communicate and cooperate," she said.

She added she had always lived by the philosophy of "We agree to disagree" when she had a different opinion from some of her constituents or other members of the Council.

"To me there has to be a certain synergy when you all work together and make a good decision," she said.

During her time on the Council she has seen a lot of changes, many of which she initiated.

"I think the Grayson decision was huge," she said.

The Grayson Repowering Project

includes replacing aged, unreliable, ineffective and high-maintenance equipment, according to the Glendale Water and Power website.

She also included the biogas renewable project at Scholl Canyon as one of the many important issues that had been decided on during her tenure.

"Our goal of 100% reusable [energy] by 2035 is very important," she said.

Those decisions will help the environment and help create cleaner energy, she said.

Other projects and events that Devine initiated added to the quality of life for those living in and visiting Glendale.

"I initiated the Cherry Blossom Festival," she said.

The Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Celebration) in Brand Park has become very popular with locals as well as with people from other communities.

Devine also initiated a reward program for hit-and-run victims within the City.

"That is an important [program] that came from a person I met along the way who had lost his/her son to a hit-and-run. The [family member] said maybe if we had an award we would get the information we needed," she said.

She is proud of the passing of the single-use plastics ban in Glendale and Shane's Inspiration,

the all inclusionary playground at Maple Park. Shane's Inspiration is a California-based non-profit organization that creates accessible playgrounds.

Devine said her late husband, Art, used to keep a list of all the things she had initiated. He died in 2021. He was her biggest supporter.

"I am getting older and I have [been on Council] long enough at my time of life. I need to change my life and, of course since I lost my husband, things are different," she said.

Devine has enjoyed her time on the Council and said she has really enjoyed meeting the people of Glendale at the many events she has attended.

"When you're elected to Council you make the decision of how much you want to be out in the community, and the events you want to go to," she said. "My philosophy is that is how I learn from the residents, when I am at these events. I enjoy that. That is the best part of Council, communicating with our residents and learning what their issues are."

Prior to the weekly Glendale City Council meetings, she reads and researches what is on the agenda then makes decisions on what she thinks would help the community. Devine said she has never wanted to climb the political ladder; she simply wanted to serve those in her community. For some, that is a good reason for her to stay on Council, but Devine said it



File photo Councilmember Paula Devine drops some toys off for the Cram-A-Classic Toy Drive in Montrose on Nov. 24. She announced that she will not be seeking to retain her seat on the Glendale City Council.

is time for her to move onto her next path.

When asked what advice she has for those looking to take her seat she said they should maintain their composure no matter what they face.

"You have to be thoughtful in what you say and what you do because every action causes a reaction," she said. "Be sensitive to the feelings [of those who come to Council], understand why

they are reacting the way they are ... and you have to have thick skin."

She said that it is important to support fellow councilmembers.

"Just maintain your dignity," she added.

She said she has made a lot of good friends along the way.

"And I hope I have impacted [residents'] lives in a positive way," she said.

IN BRIEF

CV WEEKLY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The offices of the CV Weekly will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday, and Monday, Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday.

BLOOD DRIVE AT USC-VHH

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital on Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To make an appointment go to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: USCverdugohospital or call (818) 456-9091.

USC-VHH is located at 1812 Verdugo Blvd. in Montrose/Glendale 91208.

CVTC NEXT MEETS IN NEW YEAR

The CV Town Council will not be meeting in December. Its next meeting is in January.

MUSIC GROUPS WANTED

Performance groups are invited to apply for the Jewel City Concert Series and the Brand Summer Music Series. Music ensembles must be trios or larger to participate. Interested musicians may visit <https://www.glendaleartsandculture.org/performance-series> to apply. Applications close on Jan. 26 at 5 p.m.

The Jewel City Concert Series is an outdoor concert series taking place in the fall on the Artsakh Paseo located in Glendale's Downtown

Arts & Entertainment District. Performances are scheduled for Saturdays in October from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and must be one set, 60 minutes in duration.

Performance groups will receive a stipend of up to \$1,200 per performance.

The Brand Summer Music Series is an outdoor concert series located on the hillside area behind the Brand Library & Art Center.

Performances are scheduled for Fridays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and must be one set, 90 minutes in duration. Performance groups will receive a stipend of up to \$1,700 per performance.

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, 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

see IN BRIEF on page 8

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State Senator Anthony Portantino Honors Local Business Women



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Senator Anthony J. Portantino hosted the annual 25th State Senate District Women in Business Legislative Update & Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the Castaway in Burbank.

"It is my privilege to recognize the accomplished women of the great 25th Senate District," said Senator Portantino. "I look forward to honoring our deserving honorees for their successful service that touches all of us in such a positive way."

The event honored local women who have contributed to the economic vitality and diversity of the 25th Senate District. Women in Business also celebrated women who have contributed to the greater good of the community. According to the office of the 25th Senate District, these honorees inspire others, stimulate our workforce, and lead some of the most impressive non-profits, healthcare organizations and businesses across with 25th Senate District.

"Hopefully, it's not my last Women in Business. I've been excited by this event since I attended it as a councilmember 20 years ago, when Assemblymember Jack Scott first started to host it. It's a great way to meet, learn about and network

with successful businesswomen and non-profit leaders across the district. I think the best part of the event is watching the honorees meet and get to know each other. Bringing so many talented people together for an afternoon has a limitless quality to it."

The Senator's office received several hundred nominations from the community, making the 25th Senate District team's decision-making the most difficult yet. Every one of the laudable women nominated by their peers, co-workers, family and friends is deserving of special recognition.

Among the honorees was CV Weekly publisher Robin Goldsworthy. Goldsworthy started the CV Weekly in 2009 and since Sept. 10, 2009 has delivered the newspaper to local homes and high-pedestrian public spaces.

"I was extremely proud to have been able to honor such a talented and accomplished group of women who were nominated by their

colleagues, friends and family. Robin has been shining a light on the Crescenta Valley for so long and it was particularly important to shine a light on her. And our keynote speaker [Dr. Laurie Leshin] capped the day in a very inspirational way."

This year's honorees are: Robin Goldsworthy, Isabel Gutierrez, Janet Benjamin, Lydia Grant, Mary Cutone, Kora Guoyavatin, Yvette Vartanian Davis, Carol Flynn, Dr. Mary Frintner, Claudine Hager, Aida Dimejian, Christy Schilling, Lusine Simonyan, Jenny Choi, Patricia Blanche, Josefina B. Solomonson, Gloria Salas, Melissa Chalsma, Jennifer Audette, Elisabeth King, Leslie Ito, Melanie Buttarazi, Corky O'Rourke, Marilyn Yang, Dr. Laura Sirott, MD, Kerry Morrison, Becky Cheng, Rita Fernandez Loof, Judee Kendall, Connie Chung Joe, Candice Dickens-Russell, Anahid Oshagan, Denise Verret, Seda Khojayan, Anastasia Mann, Nadia Geller, Marvel Ford, Lilit Odabashian, Jamie Keyser, Kathleen Travers and Ellen Daigle.

Photos by Mary O'KEEFE and the Office of State Senator A. Portantino

TOP: This year's awardees of Women in Business.
ABOVE: CV Weekly publisher Robin Goldsworthy and State Senator Anthony Portantino.
BELOW: Trailblazers Judee Kendall, State Senator Anthony Portantino and CV Weekly publisher Robin Goldsworthy.





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Surrounding Areas

Honoring History at Verdugo Hills Cemetery

By Mary O'KEEFE

It all started with a fire.

Craig Durst had been the Sunland-Tujunga "town historian" for quite some time when a fire broke out at the Verdugo Hills Cemetery.

"In 2020, [apparently] some kids threw fireworks through the fence of the cemetery," Durst said as to how the fire may have started.

The fire that started was quickly contained but it had local residents worried. There had not been ongoing upkeep of the century-old cemetery and there were a lot of weeds and vegetative growth.

"I looked [at the cemetery] and we didn't have the brush clearance we needed," he said.

The Verdugo Hills Cemetery sits on top of a hill surrounded by houses. Since it was established in 1922, the cemetery has had to struggle to keep up with maintenance, abatement and sustained interest. Then Durst came along. He too was worried about fire danger and saw the vegetation overgrowth.

"I realized [in 2020] that the 100th anniversary was coming up," Durst said. He spoke to the man who was caretaker of the property at the time. The caretaker handed his job over to Durst. The former caretaker had moved to Utah and wasn't always nearby to follow up with cemetery needs so this seemed like a perfect time to breathe new life, so to speak, into the historical Sunland-Tujunga site.

Durst was not the first person who had high hopes for the refurbishing of the cemetery. Throughout the years interest had ebbed and flowed in the Verdugo Hills Cemetery but to Durst, who not only loves history but also respects it, this was a perfect project.

Since he took it over, the cemetery has become a place of honor for those who had been laid to rest there, including veterans. No one is forgotten: Durst knows the history of just

about everyone whose final resting place is Verdugo Hills Cemetery.

And this small cemetery came with a lot of historical baggage, including being a strange commune decades ago, having suffered lots of vandalism and enduring a flood that destroyed many cemetery plots. However, Durst looked beyond the headlines of history and found the smaller stories that are at the foundation of the cemetery.

Verdugo Hills Cemetery had been overseen by the Little Landers Historical Society. Durst had been a member of the society for a long time. But the property needed a lot of care, a lot of time and a whole lot of boots-on-the-ground work.

Once a month volunteers met to pull weeds, repair items and create walking paths; they continue to meet at the cemetery. The cemetery is respected and has become a destination for many people seeking a historical tour.

"We recently got our 501(c)(3)," Durst said.

The cemetery had operated under the non-profit status of the Little Landers Historical Society but due to the success of the repairs and the rebirth of the location it seemed it should be considered its own organization. It is now under the watchful eye of the Friends of Verdugo Hills Cemetery.

"My basic plan is to make [Verdugo Hills Cemetery] a new destination [interest]," he said.

Durst has received a lot of local support from individuals and businesses. He is reaching out to a company to take over regular maintenance so that volunteers can concentrate on the graves and other areas that need care.

Help has come from individuals like actor Bill Pullman and his family who have supported Durst's efforts from the beginning.

The Friends of Verdugo Hills Cemetery hosted a movie night and on Jan. 6 Durst has a "Star Stories" planned where visitors will be



File photo

A sign directs visitors to the Verdugo Hills Cemetery.

invited to look up to the night sky as he shares the "lore of the stars" of the ancient past.

He has plans to bring a concert of world music to the cemetery and, although he wants to stay away from the "spooky" aspect that is usually part of a cemetery, he is looking at bringing to the area some spiritualist-type events.

The most important thing is to always respect those who are buried at the cemetery and their families, he said.

Durst has focused a lot of efforts on honoring veterans, those who have been buried at the cemetery as well as present veterans and their families. The cemetery recently hosted a Wreaths Across America event.

That organization conducts wreath ceremonies across the U.S. to remember fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve and teach children the value of freedom, according to Wreaths Across America.

"This will happen every year. We are an official cemetery on [their list]," Durst said.

This particular event was emotional for Durst.

Verdugo Hills Cemetery has graves that are located outside the fenced area.

"I led a 7-year-old down to the [grave] of a veteran. She presented the wreath," he said. "At the gravesite, she said, 'I thank you for your service and now we will have a moment of silence.' That's what Wreaths of America is all about; teaching children about the value of freedom."

All events at the cemetery are free to attend; however, the Friends of Verdugo Hills Cemetery does accept donations to fund their work on this historical location.

For more information or to sign up for the organization's newsletter, go to <https://friendsofverdugohillscemetery.com>.

Superintendent Invites Partners to Discuss Future Goals and Programs

By Eliza PARTIKA



Photo by Eliza PARTIKA

Superintendent Dr. Darneika Watson speaks about her journey to her position and her aspirations for the next school year.

Superintendent Darneika Watson held a meet-and-greet on Tuesday for partners to get to know her and her goals in the coming year for the Glendale Unified School District (GUSD). Much of the discussion centered on wellness resources and practices for employees, students and parents, and plans for continued engagement and enrichment with GUSD families.

Representatives from UCLA Health, Glendale First Credit Union, the YMCA, Armenian Students and Black in Glendale shared their roles and resources available to staff and students.

Watson discussed her 30-year history in education from her beginnings as a bilingual English and Spanish teacher at LAUSD to her time as a principal and a human resources specialist. She noted how grateful she is to former superintendent Vivian Ekchian who took Watson under her wing. It was in her role as principal, and then operations manager, for LAUSD that Watson found her love for supporting students, parents, educators and staff to create as a team the best learning environment.

As superintendent, Watson plans to integrate her lessons in collaboration into each thing she does, whether she is at coffee days with students and parents,


attending events and touring classes, or providing spaces for educators and staff to practice self-care.

"It's my fourth year here and I'm looking forward to the work as superintendent. I'm looking so forward to the work that we're going to do as partners, the work that you

guys have already done and started ... Let's just see how to grow and support the students," she said.

Watson and the community partners in attendance emphasized the importance of culturally relevant and enriching activities for the growth of parents and students.

see MEET & GREET on page 7



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Toluca Lake and surrounding

Obituary

Kathleen Ann “Kay” Rountree



Dec. 8, 2023

Kathleen Ann “Kay” Rountree, 70, of Rancho Mirage died peacefully at home among family on Dec. 8. Together with husband John William “Bill” Rountree, Kay celebrated each day with a blended family of three sons and two daughters: Don Rountree (Jayne), Robert “Bob” Rountree (Tina), Jason Rountree, Kelly Kaufman (Stan), Kacey Rae Rountree; 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and a bevy of beloved nieces and nephews.

Following graduation from Western Illinois University and the application of her degree in the Parks and Recreation Management industry in Illinois, Kay served for 10 years as United States House of Representatives staff in Washington, D.C. She then chose to relocate and pursue her passion for golf in Southern California at Oakmont Country Club where she met Bill, who quickly became the love of her life.

For friends and family alike, to be with Kay and Bill was to be in the center of the action. Kay was an eight-time Ladies Club Champion at The Springs Country Club in Rancho Mirage. Their shared love for golf took them around the world several times. When they were at home it was all about being present for family and friends, to make them feel special at celebrations big or small. To know Kay was to feel her support and the warmth of her love.

Kay was preceded in death by her father Allan F. Landolt and mother Joan Burns Landolt. She is survived by her siblings Terry Bishirjian (Richard), Allan J. Landolt (Linda), Maura Spreen (Tim), Mark W. Landolt (Jen), Renee Huglin (Mark) and Matthew Landolt.

Condolences may be sent to Bill Rountree, 30 Cornell Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Good Shepherd Manor Foundation for Men, P.O. Box 260, Momence, IL 60954. www.goodshepherdmanor.org/foundation/

Needing to place an Obituary or Memorium for a loved one?

Please submit 350-375 word plus a photo (preferred photo size is 200 dpi, 4x6 inches) to robin@cvweekly.com

*CV Weekly Subscribers: \$50
Non Subscribers: \$100*

Burbank Appoints Schultz Mayor

On Monday, with a unanimous decision, the Burbank City Council appointed Nick Schultz to serve as the mayor of Burbank. Schultz is running to succeed Laura Friedman in the 44th District in the State Assembly.

On the appointment, Schultz expressed his gratitude for the trust placed in him by his colleagues and the community,

reiterating his commitment to leading Burbank towards a prosperous and sustainable future.

“I am deeply honored and humbled by the unanimous support from my fellow council members,” said Mayor Schultz. “This role comes with great responsibility and I pledge to serve with integrity, transparency and a

relentless focus on the needs and aspirations of all Burbank residents. Together, we will work to make our city a beacon of progress and inclusivity.”

As mayor, Nick Schultz aims to continue building on the city’s strengths while addressing the challenges ahead with innovative solutions and community engagement.

Santa Makes His Glendale Rounds



Santa stopped by the Glendale Police Dept. and climbed aboard its SWAT vehicle to visit neighborhoods throughout the area. Accompanied by motorcycles

and police vehicles with their lights and sirens on it was hard to miss him and his crew.

On Dec. 13 he could be seen on the west side of the city, on Dec. 14 he visited the east side,

on Dec. 18 he was found in the north side and he finished his route on Dec. 19 when he visited the south side of Glendale.

CRIME BLOTTER

DEC. 16

1900 block of Verdugo Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a man parked his vehicle in the parking lot and left to go to the movies. When he returned to his vehicle he discovered the inside of the vehicle had been ransacked and the lock had been damaged between 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

DEC. 15

400 Meadow Grove Street in La Cañada Flintridge, deputies responded to a call regarding a possible burglary. An investigation revealed the rear glass window leading to the house had been shattered. Many rooms had been

ransacked.

The residential burglary occurred at 6:28 p.m.

DEC. 14

5200 block of Alta Canyonada in La Cañada Flintridge, deputies responded to a burglary call. When deputies arrived they found a glass door leading to the residence had been shattered and several rooms had been ransacked. The residents were away from their home when they received a notification from their alarm application. When the resident checked her security camera she saw a shadowy figure near the bottom of her residence’s staircase. She was not able to see

clearly due to the lights being off in the residence. The residents found that several items had been stolen from their home.

The residential burglary occurred at 8:43 a.m.

DEC. 6

4500 block of Alcom Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident had parked her vehicle in the driveway of her home. When she returned she found the trunk to her vehicle was ajar and her jacket was stolen. When she reviewed the security footage she saw an individual, possibly a male adult, rummaging through her unlocked vehicle.

The theft occurred at 5:51 a.m.

Correction

In the Dec. 14 news article “Cyber Security Issue Results in GUSD Teachers Returning to the ‘90s” the name of the cybersecurity expert from Spin AI is Will Penrose.

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Obituary
Beatrice V. Berryman



Aug. 17, 1939 – Dec. 5, 2023

Beatrice V. Berryman, née Ramirez, was a lifetime resident of La Crescenta. She lived a fulfilling life that touched the hearts of those around her and is leaving a lasting impact on her family, friends and community.

Bea is survived by her husband of 52 years Bob Berryman; daughter Michele; sisters Cindy and Carolyn; and brother Rick. She was predeceased by her father Rudy, mother Carmen, sister Yolanda, brother Rudy and granddaughter Nicole.

A brief memorial service will be held on Dec. 22 at Forest Lawn Glendale at 11:30 a.m. Friends and family are invited to gather to celebrate Bea's life and share their memories.

Bea will be deeply missed but will live on in the hearts and memories of all who knew and loved her. May she rest in peace.

Needing to place an Obituary or Memorium for a loved one?

Please submit 350-375 word plus a photo (preferred photo size is 200 dpi, 4x6 inches) to robin@cvweekly.com

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City of La Cañada Flintridge's Plans for "Sister Cities Friendship Path"

The City of La Cañada Flintridge announced that construction has begun on its Sister Cities Friendship Path, funded by the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD).

For more than 25 years, the RPOSD has awarded \$1.5 billion in grants to agencies and community-based organizations for park, recreational facility, trail and open space improvement projects.

When selecting a trail to benefit from this funding, the City found that the existing Descanso Trail

entrance into Cherry Canyon was difficult for trail users to traverse due to its 15% slope and requires equestrian users to dismount and walk the trail. After analyzing the terrain, City staff identified an alternative route near the trail providing access to the canyon at a more manageable slope of approximately 8%.

This alternate route will be converted into a new, approximately 1,600-foot-long path and named Sister Cities Friendship Path in honor of the existing relationship with LCF's

sister city, Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain.

"We are grateful for this opportunity to utilize grant funds from organizations like RPOSD to fund City projects that both enrich our community and stretch our taxpayer dollars," said La Cañada Flintridge Mayor Rick Gunter. "Revamping and maintaining our treasured community open spaces is one of many ways we prioritize the quality of LCF's resources and facilities."

Construction is set to be completed in late February

2024. For more information, visit <https://cityoflcf.org/public-works/>.

The City is now in the process of recording a deed, filing the original deed to the property in the appropriate county government office and gathering bid documents for the park. Once the preliminary stages are complete, the City will solicit construction applications to begin the work for this project in Summer 2023.

For future updates and to stay up-to-date on this project, visit <https://cityoflcf.org/public-works/>.

MEET & GREET from page 5

A representative from the Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools spoke about its recent student art showcase. Watson praised students' creativity and talent.

"This is the kind of activity that brings out the best in our students," she said. "The talent makes you want to go and learn from a child, 'How did you do that? What's the medium you used?' And the kids are so excited to share about their work and their families are equally as excited to be a part and just see their own children grow," she said.

Black in Glendale founder Tanita Harris-Ligons said there is a vital need for Black students and parents to have a "safe and brave space" to explore their culture and ancestry as only 1% of the student population is Black.

"We have some mixers for the adults when there's adult time; we have family gatherings for the youth in our families. And we try to come and support our parents and our students when they have issues at the school. A lot of times they don't feel comfortable coming and saying what's happening to them," said Harris-Ligons.

To Watson, fully supporting educators means going into the classroom to see and hear students learning. Some programs she singled out for support and expansion

included early intervention programs, English Language Learners, and student voice panels. She wants to engage as much as possible with students, she said, so she can act on what they say needs changing.

"I met with two students [who] told me what kind of support they need coming from another country. It's important to ... go into the classrooms and see them in action and see what they need as well," Watson said.

She plans to continue coffee days with the superintendent, and in the coming year add even more opportunities for conversations with parents and students.

For staff, she plans to work with the YMCA to introduce free Y memberships for GUSD staff and educators, and to enhance the wellness rooms already provided to staff through a partnership with Sound Body, Sound Mind from UCLA.

Vince Iuculano, CEO of the YMCA of the Foothills, said he has been working with Watson and other GUSD staff to strengthen their services for students and for staff.

"The benefits of preventing learning loss after school, preventing learning loss during the breaks, and preventing learning loss over the summer, are really important. It's something that the

YMCA appreciates partnering with Glendale Unified. And we're so excited for Dr. Watson and her leadership and the team that she's put around her," he said.

During the pandemic, over 80 students would regularly use the YMCA to take classes. YMCA of the Foothills currently serves nine of the schools in Glendale Unified and hosts a combined 700 students in its after-school enrichment programs. With Watson's help, Iuculano plans to launch a program for free memberships and wellness plans for GUSD staff and educators after piloting a program at La Cañada Unified.

"We tried to give them a wellness plan ... to try to [give] teachers and administrative support some sort of community and support around their well being. Because of the feedback from the medical industry and teaching industries, [teachers and administrators] just didn't have [that kind of support]. It was a real issue for mental well being, social well being, physical well being. So we thought - let's try it and see if it would work. And it's been a really great program," he said of the three-year old program at La Cañada Unified.

"I'll come to you. You come to me. Let's talk about wellness. Let's talk instruction, academics, after-school intervention, growth opportunities

for parents, activities that we can share, college fairs, continued membership with the YMCA and gym memberships ... there's so much that we're going to grow into," said Watson in closing. "It's going to take some time but we know with our partnership it's going to be great."

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Artist Submission Now Open for Glendale

The Glendale Library, Arts & Culture Dept., on behalf of the City of Glendale's Arts and Culture Commission (ACC), has announced that artist submissions are now open for the Public Art Landmarks project. As part of the city's arts and culture initiatives, up to 10 long-term to permanent artwork installations will be commissioned, developed and established over the course of the next few years. The objective of the Public Art Landmarks project is to create world-class public artwork in a diverse range of mediums that are designed to engage the community, showcase the cultural diversity of the city and enhance the various civic and public spaces. The application portal is currently accepting submissions through Jan. 19 at 5 p.m. PST.

This specific Request for Qualifications encompasses three different project opportunities throughout the city, strategically placed to focus on public accessibility and interactivity, including Montrose Circular Benches, Palmer Park Basketball Mural and Patterson Avenue/134 Tunnel. Each location calls for its own unique artistic mediums utilizing highly imaginative and forward-thinking approaches. Selected artists and artist teams will be asked to demonstrate creative applications to support the building and activation of a community interconnected by its public art. Applicants are encouraged to review the opportunities and consider how their own practice relates to the conceptual and visual demands of the space as well as how their art might address the stated project goals.

Applicants may choose one or multiple public artwork opportunities for which they feel they can develop strong concepts and visions. A shortlist of artists will be selected from the first round of applicants to move on to the next stage of developing concepts to present to the Glendale Arts and Culture Commission. For more information, visit GlendaleArtsandCulture.org/PublicArtrfq. To apply, visit lebasseprojects.submittable.com/submit.

IN BRIEFS from page 3

term lasts until the next election in November 2024. A copy of the District map is available at www.cvw.com/board-of-directors-recruitment.

To apply, send a Statement of Interest (resume/CV optional) to 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.

RAIN BARREL DISTRIBUTION

CV Water District and Foothill Municipal Water District are among the hosts of a rain barrel distribution event on Sunday, Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Foothill Municipal Water District.

The cost is \$65; however, rebates are available. Check with applicable water agency for more information. Maximum quantity is two rain barrel rebates per household.

For more information, contact info@rainbarrelsintl.com or call (818) 602-6316.

Foothill Municipal Water District is located at 4536 Hampton Road in La Cañada Flintridge.

Early Rodders Deliver Toys

On Saturday morning, members of the Early Rodders filled their vehicles with toys and caravanned to Fire Station 82 in La Cañada. They donated the toys to the station, which is participating in the Los Angeles County Fire Dept. Spark of Love toy drive.

Every year, the Early Rodders have collected toys for holidays that were then donated to the toy drive ensuring that underserved children wake up with something special under the Christmas tree.

According to the LA County website, in 2023 the County of Los Angeles Fire Dept., ABC7, Toys for Tots, and Southern California firefighters celebrate the 31st year of the Spark of Love toy drive. New, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for underserved children and teens in Los Angeles,



San Bernardino, Orange, Ventura, and Riverside counties.

Over the years, the Spark of Love Toy Drive has successfully collected and distributed nearly 11 million toys.

To learn more about the Spark of Love, visit <https://fire.lacounty.gov/spark-of-love/>.

Photo courtesy of Dwight SITYAR

CID from Cover

burglaries and then, in particular a few weeks ago, GPD saw a "real surge." That was before the GPD created the residential burglary task force, which included having a lieutenant lead a coordinated effort using traffic and motorcycle police.

"We created a visible presence," Cid said.

Cid added the task force also used undercover officers, some from the Narcotics and Vice units, in plain clothes and vehicles that surveyed the area. They also used air support and K9s, in addition to regular patrol officers.

The area was saturated with law enforcement and some significant decreases in burglaries were seen.

On Dec. 13, Cid said, "In the last eight to nine days we had a total of two residential burglaries, which is significantly down; we were at a clip there for a while seeing eight to 12 a week."

But, he added, one is too many so patrolling will continue.

Information is being gathered on the suspects and hopefully there will be an arrest soon.

"What we are seeing throughout the region, and I think it is accounting for a significant portion of the residential burglaries, are South American burglary crews. They are coming up from Chile and other areas of South America with a coordinated effort to get into the country," he said.

These crews have some level of sophistication.

"These organized burglary crews go up and do a little bit of surveillance in the neighborhoods to try to get when people are around and when they are not around," he said. "We see that they are using some level of technology. They will enter the area with Wi-Fi jammers and it will disrupt [residents'] Wi-Fi."

Most home surveillance cameras are powered through the Internet, so using the jamming technology gives the crews a few minutes before any

alarms are tripped.

"And then they are looking for easy access," Cid added.

This includes unlocked vehicle doors where a garage door opener is easily accessible and allows access to the property. Crews also look for easy access to backyards where they can enter the house through windows.

Cid said that despite the criminals' use of Wi-Fi jamming technology, it is still good for residents to have some type of security cameras to help deter burglaries. If a burglary occurs, this technology can help officers with their investigation.

"Locking front and side doors, closing windows," he said of things people can do to deter burglaries.

Good lighting is also advised and having a dog is a "tried and true" deterrent.

"But above everything else is vigilance. Be a good neighbor," Cid said. "If you see something, say something. No call is too small."

GCC from Cover

issues to city councils is a complicated one but the financial and psychological toll these evictions

are causing is evident as speaker after speaker asks their local government for help.

The Glendale City Council is set to take up the issue in January 2024.

CV WEEKLY ON THE MOVE



Dave Griffith, the Montrose Miner and Honorary Blue Angel enjoying the last Airshow of the season in Pensacola, Florida. Took along my Weekly to enjoy.

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

Rent Relief Program for Landlords

The Los Angeles County Dept. of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) opened the application period for the Los Angeles County Rent Relief Program on Dec. 12 at 9 a.m. Interested applicants have until Friday, Jan. 12, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. to submit their applications.

Administered by The Center by Lendistry under the guidance of the LA County Board of Supervisors, the program will now distribute over \$68 million in financial support to qualified landlords adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase of \$22 million in grant funding. To

access the application and review eligibility requirements, applicants can visit the portal at lacountyrentrelief.com.

The Rent Relief Program aims to provide up to \$30,000 per rental unit to landlords for past due rent and eligible expenses incurred between April 1, 2022 and the present. Its primary goal is to mitigate tenant evictions and ensure continuous housing provision. While the program is meant for landlords, if tenants who owe back rent want to apply they can enter their landlord's information and program representatives will contact the landlord.

"This is an intentional

investment to help mom and pop landlords get some financial relief that is long overdue," stated LA Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "My heart goes out to the property owners who have been left holding the bag as the pandemic spawned tenant relief measures at their expense. I've long said we need balanced solutions, so I'm glad to see that we're ready to get these dollars out the door and into the hands as soon as possible and without further delays."

Those who have questions can contact LA County DCBA Communications at (213) 332-6497; communications@dcbalacounty.gov.

VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Montrose Promotional Piece - 1925

Montrose started out with a bang in 1914 with a big free barbecue. Lots were sold, but the sales didn't really take off. War in Europe was threatening economic stability so Montrose growth didn't really accelerate until the war ended. The early '20s brought phenomenal growth to Montrose, particularly in the 2200 block of Honolulu Avenue that constituted the business section. By 1925 retail storefronts and offices lined that one block of Honolulu. (As an aside, most of those buildings are still with us today, nearly a century old!)

In 1925 the Montrose Chamber of Commerce put out a full-page promotional piece in the Glendale newspapers featuring flowery words and ads from Montrose businesses. Here are some of the highlights:

The promotional piece opens with this long sentence: "Montrose, 'the gem of the green Verdugo Hills,' a beautiful little crescent city, nestled in the famed Verdugo hills, is built on a gentle slope high above the fog, between the Verdugo and Sierra Madre ranges, easily accessible by auto, electric car or bus from Los Angeles or Glendale, through the picturesque Verdugo Canyon."

There are several items to unpack from the above sentence. The reference to "green Verdugo hills" is taken from a popular LA Times column called "As Seen From the Green Verdugo Hills." It was written by Tujunga resident John Steven McGroarty and the column ran

for 40 years. "Little crescent city" of course refers not to the shape of Montrose but to its location in the Crescenta Valley.

"Above the fog" would have been critical to the flood of health-seekers moving to Montrose. Dry clean air was the only cure for lung ailments such as tuberculosis and asthma and many moved here just for the air.

Regarding the line about "easily accessible by auto, electric car or bus," the electric car is actually an electrified trolley - the Glendale & Montrose Railway. It ran regular streetcar service from Montrose down to Glendale and then on to the border of LA where it connected with the Red Car trolley. Very convenient.

The promotional piece then goes on to brag about the abundance of water and the land's excellent drainage. Both of these didn't stand the test of time. By 1948 the valley had run dry of local water sources and the drainage turned out to be intermittent flash flooding, punctuated by our famous 1934 New Year's flood.

Other aspects of the piece were true though: "The soil is rich decomposed granite, especially noted for its fruit growing qualities. Wide streets curving with the natural contour of the ground give Montrose the practical value of level business frontage, combined with the aesthetic value of sloping and rolling residence sites."

The promotion highlights the businesses of Montrose: "Business

houses include a bank, stores with full lines of merchandise, and a new \$50,000 theater... A hotel, restaurants, six filling stations, and Studebaker, Chevrolet and Star car agencies do a thriving business."

The piece finishes with the usual real estate hurry-up come-on: "Property values are constantly increasing and this is a fertile field for the investor. Lots that sold for \$400 two years ago are now selling for \$1500 and more."

The promotional ad wraps with a nice sum-up for Montrose: "Montrose the beautiful. Pure mountain water, above the fog, ten minutes from Glendale, forty minutes from Los Angeles."

The piece is surrounded with ads from local businesses. "Edging Electric Store - We give light on all lines with fixtures to please." "Silver's store for men - The home of real value." "Modern Barber Shop - Baths, manicuring, marcelling, best work." (Marcelling is the curling of women's bob-cut hairstyles, popular in the 1920s.) "Maxwell Service Station, Broadview and Ocean View - Free to each customer - Box of Dust-O, the cloth that cleans."

But one ad stands out as a real gem of clever advertising: "Montrose Market - Groceries, vegetables, fountain - Money is the root of all evil. Exchange it for something to eat."

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

NEWS FROM SACRAMENTO » LAURA FRIEDMAN

A Time for Reflection

Holidays come at the end of a long year. They are our collective reward for our work and everyday struggles. They're the balm on our souls after 365 days of hard-fought victories and disappointing losses. I love the holiday season. No matter what you celebrate, or even if you don't celebrate anything at all, this is a time of year when life slows down. The days are short and the nights with friends and families are beautifully long. And it's a time of reflection.

The year that was 2023 makes for a fraught time of reflection as these are difficult times. Economically, our nation is on the road to post-pandemic recovery. We've had 34 months of job growth with 14 million jobs added since the pandemic's end. The stock market is breaking records. Gas prices are coming down. The Fed finally announced

it will stop raising interest rates. And Social Security recipients are getting a much-needed cost-of-living increase. But paying for groceries, restaurant meals and many other goods is a struggle. Those of us in government know this. And believe me, there is wide consensus about the need to build up and support the middle.

Politics in this country are divisive and divided. Reflecting on not just this year but the last several years, my hope for this new year is that we can set some of that animus aside in 2024 and remember that at the end of the day we mostly want the same things: to be able to go to work, earn a fair wage, put food on our table and a roof over our heads. We want to provide for ourselves and our families and do it with dignity. We want the best for our

see FRIEDMAN on page 22

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Driving Advice Especially Pertinent During Holidays

Typically, parking lots will have posted speed limits. If you see any speed limit signs, make sure to follow them to avoid any tickets and to keep everyone safe. However, if you don't notice any posted speed limits, the National Motorists Association recommends staying

below 15 miles per hour at all times. With the possibility of pedestrians crossing your path or a car backing out in front of you, driving slowly is one of the best ways to avoid an accident in a parking lot. The slower you're driving, the quicker you can come to stop if necessary.

*Tracy Collins
La Crescenta*

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Holiday Open House at Lanterman House See Record Number of Visitors

By Ruth SOWBY

La Canada's historic Lanterman House hosted well over 200 visitors on the balmy afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 17. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., guests were treated to caroling under an artificial snowfall, a holiday boutique, gingerbread house contest, crafts and treats. The free event took place on the grounds and holiday-decorated interior of the House.

Impressive among the gingerbread houses created

by community members was a gingerbread village put together by the Verdugo Girl Scouts' Troup 7551. Holiday-themed ornaments were crafted by visitors at craft tables. La Cañada High School's Chamber singers sang carols in front of a winter backdrop as artificial snow fell. The holiday boutique featured one-of-a-kind hand-crafted art. Local artist-vendors were decked out in Santa hats and other holiday regalia. All that was missing was Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer. Free refreshments included hot cider, gingerbread and frosted cookies.

The Lanterman House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was originally owned by Dr. Roy Lanterman and his wife Emily. It is now owned by the City of La Cañada Flintridge. The home, covering about 11,500 square feet, was the first totally reinforced concrete home built west of the Mississippi. It was designed in 1915 by architect Arthur Haley.

Photo by Ruth SOWBY
La Crescenta residents Talin Thomassian and daughter Sophia Hovhannisyian make holiday ornaments at the Lanterman House's holiday open house.



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League Provides Toys for the Holidays

Ellen Farewell (above), philanthropy chair of Oakmont League of Glendale, organized a drive to collect unwrapped toys from League members and delivered them to Glendale Fire Station 26 on North Brand Boulevard in mid-December.

Receiving the donations were Firefighters Anthony Stepanov and Joshua Benedict and Engineer Jessie Castro.

2023 marks the 31st year of the Spark of Love Toy Drive. Participants include the Glendale Fire Dept. and the County of Los Angeles Fire Dept., ABC7, Toys for Tots and Southern California firefighters.

New, unwrapped toys and sports equipment will be given to underserved children and teens in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Ventura and Riverside counties during the holidays.



Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis! Possible Discrimination

Dear Phyllis,
I am the trustee of my aunt's estate. As you can appreciate, clearing out her home takes awhile. In the meantime, I have had two neighbors approach me, asking me to please hire a Realtor to find the right type of buyer for the neighborhood. They each gave me several names of Realtors they felt met that criteria. I told both neighbors I had already engaged an agent and appreciated their "concern." I live in a very diverse community and feel this borders on discrimination.

Cautious

Dear Cautious,
While it's thoughtful to consider and appreciate the input of your neighbors, it's ultimately your responsibility as the trustee of your aunt's estate to make decisions regarding the sale of the property.

You have a fiduciary duty to the estate to sell this home for the highest possible price.

I don't want to cast aspersions, but this is a fine line. The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing against persons in protected classes. Protected classes include color, ancestry, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and/or expression, primary language, immigration status, military/veteran status and age.

This is why real estate "love letters" (introduction letters to sellers from buyers) are not encouraged. Photos of families could possibly entice a seller to choose a family over a single person or childless couple. To avoid the appearance of discrimination, when using a personal letter to the seller, it should not include photos. But what about marital status,

children, no children? Who is to say that a choice was not made favoring a buyer with children over a nontraditional household?

I don't know how an agent could ensure that your aunt's home is sold to the "right type of buyer for the neighborhood" without being discriminatory. I don't believe giving the "right buyer" the opportunity to match the price of a higher buyer's offer would be appropriate solely because the listing agent did not feel the buyer was "right for the neighborhood." On the other hand, I have discussed with my seller clients allowing a stronger offer due to better terms, such as fewer contingencies and allowing the stronger buyer to match the price of a higher offer with more contingencies. But this has nothing to do with who will fit into the neighborhood, it has to do with terms.

Phyllis

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» ADRIA NAVARRO, PH.D

Resilience and Aging

As we age, humans are prone to experience a decrease in physical, cognitive and psychosocial functioning along with an increase in the incidence of chronic illness. These changes are often accompanied by loss of loved ones, increased pain, decreased self-confidence and life expectations, seclusion and changes in social roles (caregivers now becoming care-receivers). Researchers are now looking at what allows for positive response to negative events of life and resilience is an important protective factor.

Studies have shown resilience has an important role in recovery from adversity and better physical and mental health later in life and, despite the increase in health and other problems as we age, most older adults tend to adapt. In a recent qualitative study aiming to understand the nature and meaning of resilience as perceived by patients suffering from chronic disease, participants indicated resilience is the sense of being relevant, independent and meaningful and factors that promote this resilience include patience, spirituality and social support.

This study also looked at childhood experiences as predisposing factors for resilience later in life such as taking care of others when they were younger as having prepared them for hardships in life. Of course, like any trait, we all have different resilience set points but

there are ways to strengthen and grow one's resilience. The Mayo Clinic provides the following tips to improve resilience: 1. Get connected – Build positive relationships with friends and family; volunteer or join a faith-based community. 2. Make every day meaningful – Do something that gives you a sense of purpose and accomplishment each day. 3. Learn from experience – Remember how you have dealt with hardships in the past and the skills and strategies that were helpful. 4. Remain hopeful – Looking forward and not dwelling on the past can help reduce anxiety. 5. Be proactive – Don't ignore problems.

The USC-VHH Community



Resource Center for Aging can help identify resources and make suggestions to help individuals strengthen their resilience "muscles" to better cope with the myriad of challenges that accompany aging. Email the resource specialists at Aging-Resources@med.usc.edu or call (818) 949-4033.

**Looking to the Future
While Savoring the Past**

The La Cañada Flintridge Orthopaedic Guild (LCFOG) had much to celebrate recently and they did so at the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club where members gathered for their December meeting. Many were carrying large bags full of toys to be donated to the children at the clinic in Calexico. Mary Beth Perrine, vice president, Development and Outreach, Martha Ramirez, International Children's Program coordinator, and Lina Velvarde, Luskin OIC director of Operations and Stewardship, were delighted that so many gifts were available to give to the children in Calexico.

DeeDee Nuanes, newly elected LCFOG president, thanked everyone for their tenacity during the past year and reminded everyone that they are now "on board" for another book and author event. Details to be decided upon in the new year.

There are still toys to be distributed and that means more volunteers are needed. The CHP were on hand on Dec. 14 to meet and greet and distribute toys. Possibly Santa will also be on hand but he may need some helpers. Thankfully, Caryl Pettit, Ginney Pruitt, Arlene Massimino and Jeanne Long will fill in and give away more toys.

After their luncheon, Mary Beth Perrine, with her usual sense of humor, conducted the installation of officers for 2024, incorporating a tea party theme. Her parting words to the group were, "You never know how strong a woman is until you put her in hot water." Sage advice for all.

Newly installed were DeeDee Nuanes as president; Caryl Pettit, vice president and Luskin



Photo courtesy of Arlene MASSIMINO
Seated in front row, from left, are DeeDee Nuanes and Caryl Pettit. Standing behind are Jeanne Long, Joan Cleven, Joanne Ploszaj and Wendy Nicoll. Ladies are holding toys that will be distributed to at Calexico Clinic.

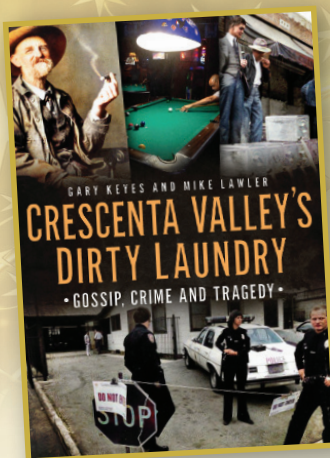
OIC liaison; Joanne Ploszaj, treasurer; Chris Wright Roper, recording secretary and Handbook chair; Wendy Nicoll, corresponding secretary; and Joan Cleven, Ways and Means. Appointed positions went to Jeanne Long, Membership; Arlene Massimino, Publicity; Marie Baker, Patrons; and Marianne Jennings, Sustainer Correspondence.

LCFOG is always ready to welcome new members. Come and be a guest at our next meeting and leave as a member. It's that easy! LCFOG welcomes Johnnette Martindale as the newest member. Anyone interested in making a difference in a child's life should contact Jeanne Long at (818) 640-9106.

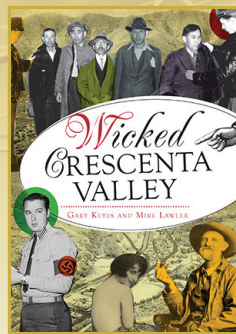
Written and submitted by Arlene MASSIMINO

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE CRESCENTA VALLEY

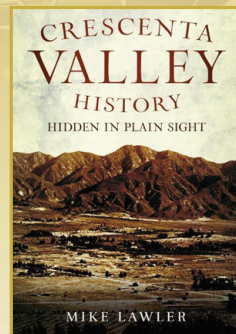
Holiday Book Sale



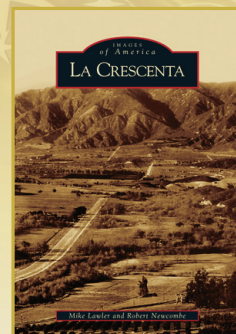
Crescenta Valley's Dirty Laundry
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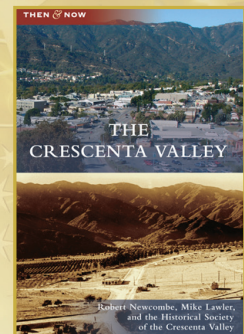
Wicked Crescenta Valley
\$19.99



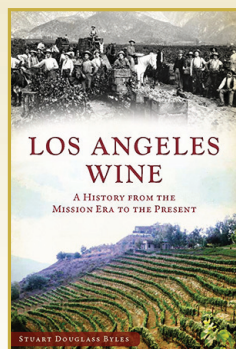
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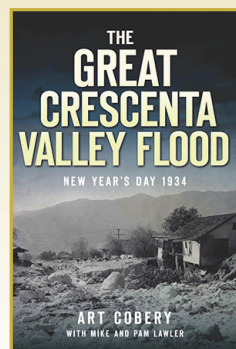
La Crescenta
\$21.99



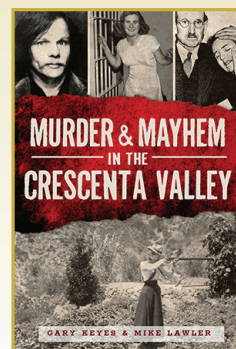
The Crescenta Valley: Then & Now
\$21.99



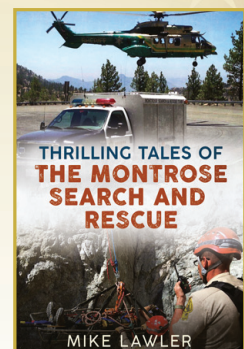
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Thrilling Tales of the Montrose Search and Rescue
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The OLL Pasture Gives Toys to Those in Need

Our Lady of Lourdes food pantry has been serving the community for 12 years handing out two-three days of food to anyone who comes by. They are open every first and third Saturday of each month from 9-11 a.m. But on the exciting third weekend in December it was its annual toy giveaway. Kids were able to walk away with a gift or two, thanks to this dedicated group of volunteers. While volunteers come and go, it is all run by a small, committed group of OLL parishioners who organize and hand

out food year after year. Long time organizer Gena Beierschmitt said it's so rewarding to give. The Pasture is a great cause and there are many people in need. It's just a bit of "taking care of God's children."
OLL Parishioner Giovanna Dotorre responded to a notice she saw in the church bulletin some years back asking for toys and has been donating toys ever since. She started participating further by handing out the toys with her parents Diane and John Dotorre. She said she's

passionate that kids should get to have toys especially at Christmastime.
"It's definitely fun when you get to see the kids' faces when they pick a toy," she said.
Food donations are always welcome. The Pasture also takes monetary donations to purchase the precise foods their clientele needs. Our Lady of Lourdes Church is in Tujunga. Please call the OLL office for more information about The Pasture: (818) 352-3218.

Contributed by Sonya MARQUEZ



Lutheran Church in the Foothills - Pastor Rick Hall
1700 Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge



4th Sunday of Advent Service
Sunday, Dec. 24th at 10:00am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Sunday, Dec. 24th at 7:00pm

Christmas Worship with Carols
Sunday, Dec. 31st at 10:00am

All are welcome to join us for Christmas!
Visit www.lcifoothills.org or call 818.790.1951 for details

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Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 5:30 P.M.
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Wishing Everyone A Happy Holiday

You are invited
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The Birth of Jesus Christ
Through music and the spoken word.

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023
10:00 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
4550 Raymond Avenue, La Crescenta



Join us... Christmas Eve Services, December 24

<p>10:00 am Lessons & Carols Chancel Choir</p> <p>7:30 pm Contemporary Worship Candle Lighting & Praise Band</p>	<p>4:00 pm Child-Friendly Worship with Children's Choir</p> <p>9:30 pm Pre-Worship Concert 10:00 pm Traditional Worship Candle Lighting & Chancel Choir</p>
--	--

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Join us to celebrate Christmas

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Fourth Sunday of Advent Service

DEC 24, 7:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

DEC 25, 10:30am
Christmas Day Service

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 CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

DECEMBER 24
 10:00AM - 11:00AM
 1830 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
 LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

COMMUNITY SERVICE - ALL WELCOME

JOY TO THE WORLD
 O COME, O COME EMMANUEL
 THE FIRST NOEL
 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
 CHRISTMAS CONCERTO (CORELLI)
 JESU BAMBINO
 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL
 SILENT NIGHT



SPECIAL THANKS TO STACY AND MICK WETZEL, COLEEN AND JIM THATCHER,
 & MEMBERS OF THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC,
 FOR VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO HELP US
 CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS THROUGH MUSIC.



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THE FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

10531	Mather St.	Sunland	91040
6817	Day St.	Tujunga	91042
6803	Valmont St.	Tujunga	91042
9916	Provo Ave.	Tujunga	91042
9730	Creemore Dr.	Tujunga	91042
4021	Willalee Ave.	La Crescenta	91214
4007	Willalee Ave.	La Crescenta	91214
3552	Prospect Ave.	La Crescenta	91214
3420	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3421	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3425	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3432	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3433	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3436	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3437	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3440	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3444	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3448	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
3452	Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214
4012	New York Ave.	La Crescenta	91214
NEW 2649	Sycamore Ave.	Montrose	91020
1410	Oak Circle Dr.	Sparr Heights	91208
1200-1400	Oak Circle Dr.	Sparr Heights	91208
2200-2400	Honolulu Ave.	Montrose	91020
		<i>Montrose Shopping Park</i>	
1968	Waltonia Drive	Montrose	91020
2229	Crescent Ave.	Montrose	91020
2809	Foothill Blvd.	La Crescenta	91214
		<i>La Crescenta Library</i>	
2812	Alabama St.	La Crescenta	91214
		<i>Light Show Nightly 5pm-11pm</i>	
3126	Orange Ave.	La Crescenta	91214
3113	Pontiac St.	La Crescenta	91214
2408	Los Amigos St.	La Crescenta	91214
2653	Orange Ave.	La Crescenta	91214
2644	Ridgepine Dr.	La Crescenta	91214
711	Foothill Blvd.	La Canada	91011
		<i>Kobeissi Properties</i>	
3036	Menlo Dr.	Glendale	91208



The Oak Circle Wishing Tunnel

A 25-year tradition at 1410 Oak Circle welcomes all to stop on by nightly to walk through and make a wish!

JUDGING CATEGORIES

1. Christmas Story Award

(traditional or nostalgic use of lights and decorations - Leg Lamp use gets extra points)

2. Clark Griswold Award

(excessive use of lights and decoration - more is ALWAYS better, can we see it from space?)

3. Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree Award

(best use of music and technology)

4. Santa's Coming to Town Award

(best use of Santa or Santa's in decor)

5. Most Original Award

(not your usual everyday holiday decor)

6. Best In Show Award

(ya blew the judges minds)

JUDGING TAKES PLACE DECEMBER 21ST - 24TH

— WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE DECEMBER 28TH ISSUE —

Happy Holidays to you and your families from The CV Weekly and all our Merry & Bright Sponsors!



GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION
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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Caroling in the Park

Photo by Scarlett SALTZMAN
Members of the community gathered to hear Caroling in the Park on Dec. 16 hosted by the Adams Hill Neighborhood Association.



By Scarlett SALTZMAN, intern

The Adams Hill Neighborhood Association held its annual Caroling in the Park performance on Saturday, Dec. 16. The event took place from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Glendale's Adams Square Mini-Park. The show saw an increase in popularity this year with several hundred people attending to hear the carolers sing.

"We've hosted this event for a total of nine years along with the holiday display," said Adams Hill Neighborhood Association President Stephen Meek. Along with the caroling presentation, The Association runs a Community Art in the Park display the week before Thanksgiving. Artists from around the world are invited to participate and make artwork for this exhibition. The installation offers visitors of the caroling event a unique exhibit to explore while listening to festive music. The installation remains open to the public until Jan. 12.

The exhibit, though, was not the only feature of the caroling show. Guests at the performance were also served free hot chocolate and a

variety of desserts. Arranged on a table with poinsettias, fairy lights and candles, The Association was provided a magical experience. Programs were also provided so guests could join in and sing along with the performers. The Caroling program's "Visit with Santa" was by far the most popular attraction offered. Children and adults alike gathered around Santa, asking for gifts and taking photos on his lap.

The show welcomed children and dogs, too. The park offers plenty of grass for dogs to run around on and a playground for children to play on while adults enjoyed the caroling. Between Santa, cookies and games of tag, the event was a child's fantasy.

The caroling performance was complimentary and open to all individuals and families who wanted to get into the holiday spirit.

The evening concluded with a rendition of "O Holy Night." With that, Santa bid his farewells and returned to the North Pole to prepare for Christmas Eve. The Association's festivities do not stop here; it plans to host another Community Art in the Park event in the following weeks.

Living It Up at The Leta Hotel in Goleta

By Greg ARAGON

For those who love the beaches and beauty of Santa Barbara but want a slower paced, less touristy atmosphere, the small town of Goleta is only a couple of miles up Highway 1 on the same stretch of coast known as the American Riviera.

The family and I recently snuck away to Goleta and discovered a charming, boutique hotel and a compact and walkable beach community with everything we needed for a three-day, two-night stay.

Our getaway began at The Leta Hotel (www.theleta.com) where I enjoyed a free local beer upon check-in and then stepped into room 154, a light and airy California beach-inspired unit. Covered in earthy, eccentric textures and fabrics that give a nod to surf culture nostalgia, the room was welcoming and efficient. It came with a comfy king bed, mini-fridge, large TV, table and chairs, and huge windows overlooking the property's pool and winding paths lined with tall palm trees and rich vegetation.

After unpacking, we hit the pool area where we swam and lounged against a beautiful

Photos by Greg ARAGON
ABOVE: The Leta Hotel is a beach-inspired hideaway in Goleta.
BELOW: The Leta offers laid back comfort with a pool, great views and a sea breeze.



backdrop of swaying palms and the majestic Santa Ynez Mountains. It was a gorgeous Goleta day and we could feel the cool sea breeze coming from the ocean about a mile away as the crow flies.

From the pool we explored the hotel. Formerly known as the Kimpton Goodland, The Leta is

see GOLETA on page 17

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5 YEARS
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Caring for the Community

Brand Library & Art Center Presents “If Memory Serves: Photography, Recollections and Vision”

Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale Library, Arts & Culture and the Los Angeles Center of Photography (LACP) present “If Memory Serves: Photography, Recollections and Vision.” Curated by LACP Executive Director Rotem Rozental, Ph.D, “If Memory Serves” features artworks by Aurora Wilder Collective (Jennifer Pritchard in collaboration with Patrick Corrigan and DALL-E), Elizabeth Bailey, Annette LeMay Burke, Dena Elisabeth Eber, Sarah

Hadley, Diane Hemingway, Rohina Hoffman, Susan Lapides, Annie Omens, Lori Ordoover, Rosalie Rosenthal, Safi Alia Shabaik and Aline Smithson.

Our hard drives may fail. Our phones might break. We may forget an image that was once cemented in our minds. Our relationships with the images and devices that hold our memories define how we understand our position in the world. “If Memory Serves” emerges from the moments those devices fail us,

our recollections betray us, and our pictures refuse to bring back the people they once captured. This exhibition emerges from the intersection of our haunting pasts, possible futures and our connections to photographic images, technologies and the systems that ask to speak for our photographs.

These projects are defined by the viewpoint and lived experiences of their creators: female-identified, immigrants, descendants of inherited

traumas, caregivers, providers. Photography is key to efforts to claim visibility, capture narratives and elicit conversations about the lives of vulnerable bodies and communities. The exhibition begins with and honors Aline Smithson, a mentor, photographer and educator, whose work with artists is redefining photographic practice. This exhibition celebrates her immense contribution to photography and further comments upon the reach of her stewardship and pedagogy.

The participating artists have all been studying with and from her. Seen together, their works offer profound insight into our co-existence with photography, suggesting meeting points between personal experiences and broader societal issues and conflicts – from privacy to grief, from representation to immigration.

“If Memory Serves” will be on view through Feb. 24 at the Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 W. Mountain St. in Glendale.

GOLETA from page 16

an easygoing, California-cool hideaway tucked between the Pacific Ocean and rolling mountains.

“If your idea of the ultimate Southern California retreat are long boards, poolside cocktails and coastal cuisine, you’ve found your place in the sun at one of the best Santa Barbara hotels around,” reads the hotel website. “Here at The Leta, we have a Golden State of Mind attitude, surf-inspired décor and eclectic accommodations, plus a passion for music shared through our vinyl record shop and live music scene. All of our eccentric, laid back touches will no doubt have you enjoying the good life, one day at a time.”

Besides the pool, the 158-room hotel features a small fitness center, a restaurant/bar, 6,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, free beer at check-in and free record players for guests to use. There is a social hour each evening with

complimentary wine.

In front of the lobby there is a classic old Woody station wagon and an iconic, silver Airstream trailer. One of the property’s best selling points is its fantastic location, within walking distance to great food and a couple of miles drive to the ocean, Santa Barbara Airport and hidden gems such as Lake Los Carneros.

We heard about Lake Los Carneros from Barry Dorsey, general manager of The Leta. He said if we were looking for a nature walk with beautiful scenery and animals, and lots of history, then the lake was a must-see.

Located two miles from the hotel, the 136-acre Lake Los Carneros recreation area boasts numerous trails, small forests and a bridge to explore. Los Carneros Park Trail is a one-mile moderately trafficked loop trail that is good for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips and birding

and is accessible year-round. Dogs are also able to use this trail but must be kept on leash.

Lake Los Carneros (<https://www.santabarbara.com/activities/parks/lake-los-carneros/>) is also great for bird watching. There are migrant Rufous and Allen’s hummingbirds, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks that are attracted to the fruits of the shrubs planted along the pathways and around the lake. The lake itself is frequented by Soras, Great Blue Herons, Virginia Rails and more. Any time of year you will find raptors hunting for prey. This is a great place to watch the many varieties of ducks that migrate here in the winter.

If this isn’t enough, the lake also boasts an 1873 Victorian home named Stow House, an old Southern Pacific boxcar, and train rides for small kids at the nearby Goleta Depot.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/LEISURE.

THEN & NOW

Montrose
Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



THEN: This was a busy Montrose in 1925. The view is looking west on Honolulu Avenue from its intersection with Verdugo. The street is wide and bare, its main feature being the telephone poles. Most of the buildings shown here are still standing.



NOW: What a difference a century can make! Honolulu today winds through a park-like setting with mature trees shading shoppers who stroll past a charming mix of restaurants and mom-and-pop businesses. We’re lucky to have such a beautiful shopping center.

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RELIGION

Q I had surgery several months ago and I have been recovering ever since – and not very well. My healing is taking much longer than my doctors and I anticipated. I am doing everything I can to get back into the swing of things because I have a very full life, but I find that I am too exhausted to follow through. Because of the months my recovery is taking, I have lost confidence in my ability to heal. As a result, I feel very depressed and I don't know what to do. Nothing seems to motivate me. I'm trying to figure out if I should focus on staying alive or on making my transition. Looking for some insight and guidance!

– Helpless

Dear Helpless,

I am sorry that your recovery is not going as speedily as you had hoped. But here is some of what I would do.

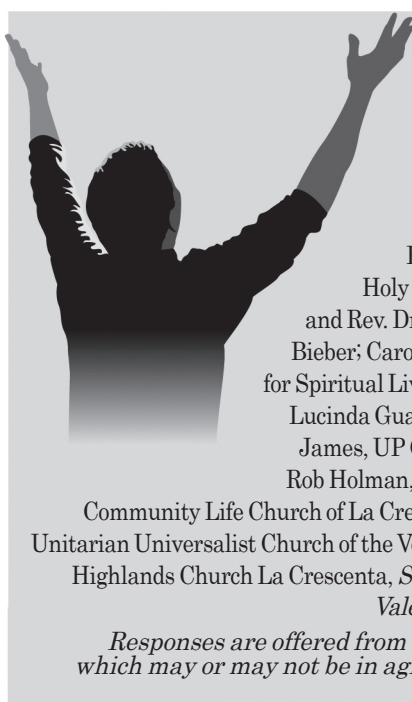
First, I would be sure that I was getting enough sleep. (I have heard it said, "Sleep, like virtue, is its own reward." So be sure you're

getting enough rest. And don't eschew an afternoon – or morning! – nap.)

Next, I don't know if you are "religious" (whatever that means), so don't be offended by what I'm about to say – but say a few prayers – perhaps something like this: "God, or Master of the Universe, I don't even know if you are there. But if you are, please help me recover from my current ailment. You know that I was expecting it to be easier, so please help me deal with the possible fact that I may not totally recover. I do so want to recover, and I thank you for giving me a body that really tries to heal itself. So please, Lord or El Señor, bring me back to full health. (And now the hard part.) But if in your Divine Plan you have decided that I am not going to heal, please give me strength for whatever the next step is. And thank you for this great life that you have given me. I would like a little bit more of it (wouldn't we all!), but I thank you for what you have given me. Although it has been shorter than I had hoped, I thank you. It has

been a great ride!"

Try that and see if it helps. We all have to bid farewell to this mortal coil and most of us would prefer that it would be later rather than sooner. But the main point is, it seems to me, to be grateful for whatever time with which we are blessed. And – in my humble



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.

LCPC Parent Ed Enjoys Holiday Party, Plans for the Year Ahead



La Cañada Presbyterian Church's Parent Education Program (LCPC Parent Ed) board, ministry support team and staff recently met at the La Cañada Flintridge home of Brad and Ashley Barrett for a year-end Christmas party and board meeting. The evening was filled with good food, fellowship, reflection, planning and prayer in anticipation of the year ahead.

In attendance were staff members Anne Bierling (director), Amanda Baughman, Teresa Chiu, Paula Giboney, Jennifer Gordon, Heather Ehrhardt, Cathy Lukesh, Ellen Mackle, Sarah Montes, Vicki Rekedal, Katy Riddell, Jan Roberts, Sandy Lee Schaupp, Tracy Tobias, Jana Van Dyck, and Sloan Walsh, as well as Board volunteers and MST Members, Ashley Barrett, Debbie Barsom, Elizabeth Angiuli,

Amanda Baughman, Stephanie Ferguson, Melanie Frey, Lauren Gallidoro, Lynne Graves, Katrina Harbers, Kelsey Hendrix, Annie Hewett, Natalie Hubbard, Carrie Kingston, Kathy Kovalcik, Julie Milbrodt, Charlotte Miller, Sarah New, Jenny Ryan, Amber Gerhardt-Serrano, Natasha Wood and associate pastor for LCPC, Chuck Osburn.

Looking ahead, from Jan. 22–26 is the second semester open house when all parents and grandparents of newborn children through college students are invited to experience a free trial class (reservation available online). In addition to the 16 daytime classes, additional Parent Express classes will be offered including Parents of Tweens, The Art of Fatherhood and a marriage class for couples, The Art of Marriage. Check the

website for more information on all of these popular classes.

LCPC Parent Ed also announced the 2024 Annual Gala "One for the Record!" on Saturday, March 2. Save the date for a fun-filled night of fabulous food and live entertainment when LCPC Parent Ed will celebrate its 45th anniversary as well as raise money for ongoing programming. Additionally, 10% of all net proceeds will go to Oasis of Hollywood, a multi-faceted, faith-based ministry located in the heart of Hollywood serving the next generation and their families. Those interested in underwriting opportunities or would like to donate an item or service to the online auction, which will preview Feb. 14 and run from Feb. 26 to March 4, can do so at <https://bit.ly/parentedgala24>.

By Kelsey HENDRIX

opinion – we aren't simply given time: we are truly blessed with it.



The Rev. C. L. "Skip" Lindeman, Minister Upland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Helpless,

I'm sorry your healing is taking longer than you anticipated. Sometimes the message of any setback is to release the need to control things and to allow divine right action to take place. Sometimes the two – our way and God's way – don't always meet at first. This slow recovery may be just what you need to get in touch with that inner presence that is within you. This might be the perfect time to ask, "What is the gift this experience has to offer?" If you can look at it from that perspective, you might gain some insight into what your next step is as you question whether you should focus on staying or leaving this plane of existence.

Our bodies are a mirror of what is going on in our consciousness. Fearful and confused thinking can serve as a wake-up call to get in tune with the cause of our feelings. It has been said that people lose their way when they lose their "why." Give yourself time to explore what your "why" is. Doing so will get you in alignment with the truth of who you really are and it's so much more than all you've done or plan to do in the world. When we "Let go and let God" it leads us toward a deeper understanding of our purpose and the direction our life. There is guidance available when we make ourselves available to that inner voice and it will lead you to your next best step.

Listen to your heart. There you will find the peace of mind that you are seeking and the answers to what's next will become clear.

In Light,



Rev. Mary Morgan Redondo Beach CSL

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Dignitaries Attend Adams Hill Hanukkah Celebration

By Eliza PARTIKA

Around 200 people attended a Hanukkah celebration in Adams Hill on Dec. 10, including Glendale City Council members Ardy Kassakhian, ElenAsatryan, Paula Devine and Mayor Dan Brotman.

The event featured speakers telling the story of Hanukkah, singing traditional songs, serving traditional sweets like challah bread, jelly donuts and gelt, and the lighting of the menorah.

"Hanukkah holds great importance for me as it symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and the resilience of the Jewish people. The festival commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days. In a broader sense, Hanukkah serves as a reminder of the enduring spirit of religious freedom and the power of hope in the face of adversity," said Jeremy Aluma of the Adams Hill Neighborhood Association.

Attendees shared their family Hanukkah traditions including multiple renditions of the dreidel song: "Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of wood, I know it's not original, but hey it spins so good! Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of mud, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, it surely is a dud."

see HANUKKAH on page 23



Photos by Eliza PARTIKA

ABOVE: Council members Paula Devine, Ardy Kassakhian and Mayor Dan Brotman help a child light the menorah at Adams Square Mini Park. BELOW: Jeremy Aluma, member of Adams Hill Neighborhood Association, shares the story of Hanukkah.



NOTES & NODS

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE FOOTHILLS

A deadline approaches for a colorful holiday tradition at Lutheran Church in the Foothills. Each year, the church offers a grand poinsettia display on the altar and a way to honor or remember a loved one. LCIF asks that anyone wishing to drop off a plant for the display to do so by this Friday, Dec. 22. Forms are available to indicate whether to dedicate the plant in honor or memory of a loved one. Plants can be picked up after Christmas for anyone who would like to bring their plant home. The poinsettia display complements this year's eight-foot tall Noble fir tree, which has been progressively decorated each Sunday during this season of Advent.

In this season of giving, LCIF reminds the community of its ongoing food drive to help feed the hungry. Canned goods can be dropped off during Sunday worship or anytime at the church's office. They will be distributed to the food pantry at Heart of the Canyon Church in Tujunga.

Visit lcfoothills.org for event details, including small group gatherings and opportunities to serve. For more information or to request/offer help, email office@lcfoothills.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.

MT. OLIVE OFFERS COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church reminds the public that it hosts a 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. Mt. Olive is located at 3561 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. Bethel Church celebrates the birth of Christ. There will be Christmas carols, a Biblical message, special music, candle lighting and refreshments. All are welcome!

Bethel Church, 10725 Penrose St., is in Sun Valley; (818) 767-4488; bethelsunvalley.com

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; church narthex. 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.

WALK AND WORD

In December, 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 Dec. 24 & 31. 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.

JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. The Club will be dark on Dec. 22 and Dec. 29 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

The YMCA Christmas Tree Lot is open Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday-Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The lot is located at the Crescenta-Cañada Y at 1930 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge.

Proceeds benefit the Y's numerous youth-focused programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CURRENT PROGRAMMING AT CV PARK

Ongoing programs at CV 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.

CV Park is located at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

FREE ART SHOW AT PASEO PASADENA

There is a free art show in Pasadena at The Paseo on Dec. 22, 23 and 24. Nimrod Johnson is the featured artist (<https://njartnbooks.com>). The location is formerly Jade's Fashion, 300 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 131, located at the west end of The Paseo. Hours are Friday, Dec. 22 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 23 & 24, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

COME LEARN MODERN SQUARE DANCING

A new 13-week beginner's class on modern square dancing is starting on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 7:45 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church, 808 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada. The first two classes are free. Meet new people while getting exercise for both your body and mind. Learn the Steps to Fun!

For more info email illi313@yahoo.com or visit www.setsinstep.org.

see CALENDAR THIS on page 21

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



FreeDailyCrosswords.com

12.21.23

ACROSS

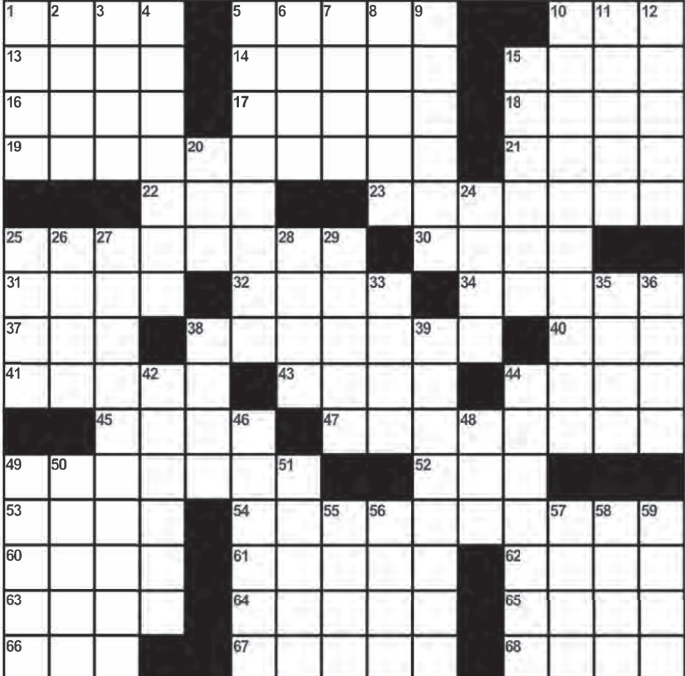
- 1) "Who ___ is coming?"
- 5) What enemies might call each other
- 10) Apprehend
- 13) Certain bread serving
- 14) Sealskin wearer, sometimes
- 15) Gilpin of "Frasier"
- 16) A thinker may think of one
- 17) Eucalyptus diner
- 18) Clive of films
- 19) Certain periodical
- 21) Prefix with "physical"
- 22) Turner of media fame
- 23) Make like new
- 25) Aliases, e.g.
- 30) Indian aristocrat
- 31) Oil-selling cartel (Abbr.)
- 32) Arizona city
- 34) Hors d'oeuvre spreads
- 37) Not yet refined
- 38) Extends shoe life, in a way
- 40) Tax-sheltered investment
- 41) Become two on the run
- 43) Weight allowance
- 44) Without much meat
- 45) Fishing line holder
- 47) Gives a checkup
- 49) Structure near a flour factory
- 52) Cumberland, for one
- 53) Toward open waters
- 54) Country known for sheep
- 60) Ore-refining residue
- 61) Less humid
- 62) America's Cup heading
- 63) Entirely sensible
- 64) Neighbors of radii
- 65) Drug officer, for short
- 66) Accident scene initials
- 67) Pares, as fruit
- 68) "Return of the Jedi" critter

DOWN

- 1) "___ go brag"
- 2) Rich supply
- 3) Destroyed, as a dragon
- 4) Like a rubber band
- 5) Unassisted viewer
- 6) Much
- 7) Head cheese, e.g.
- 8) Noted Swiss mathematician Leonhard
- 9) Rude onlooker
- 10) Re-publication
- 11) Sharp mountain ridge
- 12) Twofold
- 15) California city
- 20) Albanian currency unit
- 24) War room fixtures
- 25) "But wait, there's ___!"
- 26) Moonstone
- 27) City of Saints
- 28) Metal coat
- 29) Chocolate and marshmallow snack
- 33) Trebek on TV
- 35) It soars over shores
- 36) Speaks out
- 38) Exemplar of thinness
- 39) Places for knickknacks
- 42) Hairy covering
- 44) Sopwith Camel, e.g.
- 46) Block with earth
- 48) Goat's plaint
- 49) En ___ (as a big group)
- 50) Caliph's faith
- 51) Musician Haggard
- 55) Chablis, for one
- 56) Brio
- 57) "There ought to be ___!"
- 58) Rex Stout detective Wolfe
- 59) All 52 cards

SUPER FRESH

By Jill Pepper



WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com

December 18, 2023 - Decembner 24, 2023

♈ ARIES March 21 - April 19

You may experience one or two health glitches due to impatience. If you're recovering from injury or illness, don't rush or start doing too much too soon. The cosmos is making you more restless than usual. It won't help if your mind races ahead of your body. Only do what you're capable of and not what you think you can do. Spiritual healing may help support any current treatment.

♉ TAURUS April 20 - May 20

You're usually outgoing, but you may have been focusing inside lately. While it's important to stay in great shape, it won't be good for you to notice every little symptom until you imagine yourself sick. Get into the fresh air and try a workout or two. Forget about yourself for a while and you'll feel better than ever. Your dreams may have some useful information regarding your health. Write them down.

♊ GEMINI May 21 - June 20

The cosmos gives you an energy boost that will be reflected in all areas of your life. It will help you take responsibility for your well-being now. You have a chance to think about your health goals and draw up an action plan. Create vivid pictures of how you want to feel and look, and practice visualizing yourself in your new body. It will work!

♋ CANCER June 21 - July 22

Even though you can be superficial sometimes, you're intense about your health. This is one area where you can either rise to the challenge or stubbornly refuse to play. Self-sabotage is the one thing that can prevent you from reaching your peak - the feeling that you don't deserve to be truly well. If you're guilty of this, it has to stop.

♌ LEO July 23 - August 22

Health issues are no longer a major priority. All the hard work you've done to improve your health should now pay off. To encourage you to feel even better, get involved in positive, harmonious relationships that inspire and support you. Cultivating such friendships will help you thrive. Joining a fitness group will keep you enthusiastic and empowered while giving you support to stay on track.

♍ VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

You know deep inside that this is a good time to commit to your well-being. If you have ongoing health challenges, you could turn into a detective as you get to the source of the trouble. Be thorough without getting obsessed about it. Allow life and the cosmos to bring the right treatments your way. You don't have to do it all by yourself. Luckily, this time is excellent for getting in touch with a consultant or health expert.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Don't take any chances. Take a good multivitamin to boost your immune system. You might be in a situation in which you feel vulnerable, and this can affect your overall well-being. Anything you can do to increase your vitality will give you greater confidence. Give yourself a chance to wind down at the end of the day. This will help keep you strong.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It seems to be all or nothing where your health is concerned. Give yourself a chance to make the necessary changes to foster good health. Get motivated by the examples set by others. Don't let your fondest fitness dreams slip away and be forgotten. If you have health challenges, this is a great time to sort them out and begin the process of changing your worst habits to better ones.

♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

What's the hurry to look good? It seems like only a short while ago you'd all but forgotten your quest to achieve that dream body. Now it's back with a vengeance. It's better to take your time and work on it slowly. Super health and great good looks can't be developed in a day. It takes dedication. Be less obsessive about it. If you enjoy the process of feeling great, you'll stick with it.

♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Finding the right balance is important when it comes to health. Sometimes you forget about your body in your enthusiasm to experiment with new ideas and methods. Check with your physical self to notice how it feels at various times. There's a level of exercise that may not make you Olympic-quality fit but will keep you in great shape. If you can find that, you'll do well and it will be easier to stay the course.

♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Too much partying may have tired you out. There are influences making your mind and imagination work overtime. You'll feel better if you look after yourself, sleep well, and stay relaxed. Working out gently and regularly will help you stay fit and get rid of any tension. You'll feel much more refreshed if you exercise. Yoga or tai chi may help if you can find a good teacher.

♓ PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

Tension can be the catalyst for sore, stiff muscles. Be especially careful if you're working out - take it slowly. Warm up first so you don't make any muscle pain worse. There's also the possibility of setbacks if you try to go more quickly than you're ready to go. Listen to your body and work with it, not against it. The more you cooperate with it, the better you'll understand your needs..

ANSWERS for last week's issue.



see ANSWERS in next week's issue.

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

How long should I wait for my air conditioner to get repaired?

Jeffrey Schiff's Carrier air conditioner stops working during a heat wave. The manufacturer tells him to wait for the parts. But how long is too long?

Q: I'm writing to you because I've been unable to resolve a problem through normal customer service channels. My problem is with Carrier, the air conditioning manufacturer. My air conditioner has been down for more than three weeks because of a leaking coil. It is still under warranty.

The information I've received from Carrier indicates the coil may not be available for approximately four more weeks from its plant in Mexico. My wife and I are in our 80s, and we live in South Florida. Seven weeks without air conditioning is unbearable.

I'm a retired senior production operations manager for an aerospace

company. Service parts were as critical as "new build" in my operation. I could never ground an aircraft for this long. Products with a 10-year warranty should have parts to support them.

Can you help me get my air conditioner fixed? – Jeffrey Schiff, Port St. Lucie, Florida

A: You should not have to wait seven weeks to get your air conditioner repaired under your warranty. Carrier should have made whatever arrangements were necessary to expedite your repair. (Your case crossed my desk during the late summer, when temperatures routinely exceeded 100 degrees.)

As a former resident of Port St.

Lucie, I know how hot it can get and how unbearable it feels when you don't have air conditioning in Florida. I loved living in Port St. Lucie, by the way, and still miss it. And I completely agree with you that if a manufacturer offers a warranty, it should have the parts to support it.

I reviewed the paper trail of correspondence between you and Carrier. It looks as if the company was really trying to get you the part in a timely manner. But it didn't have the right part for your unit and needed to get it manufactured at its plant in Mexico, according to the correspondence you provided.

You could have forwarded your

complaint to someone higher up the chain at Carrier. The company lists the names of its executives on its website. I also have a guide on how to find a phone number and email address of the CEO on my consumer advocacy site. I think a brief polite email might have expedited your repair.

Then again, maybe not. I reached out to Carrier on your behalf. An executive office consumer liaison manager responded to you quickly and said that, as a "one-time goodwill concession," Carrier would offer a fan coil unit replacement. But the fan coil wasn't compatible with your unit. You let Carrier know of your disappointment

in writing (which is great because this creates a paper trail). Finally, I received a note from you.

"We received a coil today from who knows where, but it's in and cooling," you said. "Thank you so much for helping us. I'm certain you got the dead ball moving. Forever grateful."

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (https://elliottadvocacy.org), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/. © 2023 Christopher Elliott

CALENDAR THIS from previous page

NEWCOMBE FILM PRESENTED

Shadow Hills resident Carl Howell served as a naval aide to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon and later as a Secret Service agent assigned to President Nixon's retirement. In his film "Carl Howell – Witnessing History," John Newcombe talks to Howell as he recounts some of his experiences of the 1960s and '70s during key times in America's history.

Local filmmaker Newcombe has presented several very interesting films at Bolton Hall Museum in recent years. On Jan. 13 he will also share his experience interviewing Carl Howell for this film.

This event is free and open to the

public and everyone is welcome.

It takes place on Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. at Bolton Hall Museum, home of Little Landers Historical Society, 10110 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga.

Additional information is available from Little Landers Historical Society by calling (818) 352-3420 or visiting BoltonHall.org or emailing llhs@boltonhall.org.

PSHA IS LOOKING FOR TALENTED, LOCAL, YOUNG MUSICIANS

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts is looking for talented musicians who play a brass, woodwind or string instrument to have an opportunity

to exhibit their talents at the 37th Annual Instrumental Competition. Applications are now being accepted for full-time students ages 14-19 years of age who currently reside and attend high school in Los Angeles County.

The competition is on Sunday, March 3 when finalists compete in front of a panel of esteemed judges. Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts will award individual prizes that range from \$500 to \$4,000 to help further the education of the young musicians.

Applications will be accepted until 8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024. A résumé, proof of age and a performance video can be submitted online through

GetAcceptd. The application portal can be found at <https://app.getacceptd.com/pasadenashowcase>.

For complete information, visit the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts' website. For questions, please contact competition@pasadenashowcase.org.

VHHS PLANS REUNION

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

Currently Team 74 is in the planning phase of collecting names and numbers of classmates and

putting together a database; emails from classmates can be received at clsof74reunion@yahoo.com.

Information should include a mailing address, cell number and graduate's name at graduation (if different than now).

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

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

GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION & CV WEEKLY PRESENT

The 2023 Merry & Bright Holiday Light and Display Tour!

THERE IS STILL TIME TO ADD YOUR ADDRESS TO OUR MERRY LIST!

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 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

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

LEGALS

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME: ADRIANA INES MADDONNI CAPANO. Case number 23GD00224. Superior Court of California, Glendale Superior Court, North Central District, 600 East Broadway, Glendale, CA 91206. To all interested persons: 1. Petitioner ADRIANA INES MADDONNI CAPANO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. Present Name: ADRIANA INES MADDONNI CAPANO to Proposed Name: ADRIANA INES MADDONNI. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: JANUARY 31, 2024 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: D Room: N/A b. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Published Crescenta Valley Weekly December 14, 21, 28, 2023 January 4, 2023

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WANTED

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WANTED/NEEDED

WANTED

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FRIEDMAN from page 9
nation, and for our goals of democracy and freedom to be strengthened. But if we want things to be better, we're going to have visualize and work toward the change we want to see. And that is what I urge you to reflect

on: What change do you want to see in your community and how can your elected leaders help us to live better lives?

Reflect on what needs to happen in 2024 and channel it into energy. Get involved in a

campaign. Write letters to your legislators. Be part of the change you seek. There are so many issues, large and small, that we need to tackle in this country. And we can. But we need to work together, collectively, to

do it. To succeed, I believe that we, as a community, need to be collaborative, positive and listen and act with empathy.

As you reflect on this year and make your New Year's resolutions, I hope one of them

is to get involved because politics doesn't have to be ugly or frustrating. If we all turn out and take part, the sky's the limit for what we can achieve.

Have a happy holiday season and a happy New Year!

WEATHER from page 2

and saw Nicholas. The word began to spread and others, including nuns from a local church, began to make small presents for children, leaving them at their home at night. Others would then take up the practice, but this didn't happen on Dec. 24-25. It was on Dec. 6, the day of Nicholas' death in the year 350 AD. That is known as St. Nicholas Day or Feast of St. Nicholas.

Our American Santa Claus came much later – in the 19th Century. It was brought to America in part because Europeans were homesick and wanted a tradition

to bring to their new country.

Over the years, the Santa image has gone through several transitions. In some descriptions he is a tall, thin man with a green coat; in others he is more of an elf-like creature. Some say the image we now know as Santa was credited to a 1931 Coca Cola advertisement that featured the jolly old man with the red coat and the full white beard ... of course, he was enjoying a bottle of Coke ... but I think the image that stayed with us is from 1823. That is when "The Night Before Christmas" was released.

Now, as is found in most things, there is controversy over who actually wrote this story, but I lean more toward Clement Clark Moore. It was actually a poem titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas" that Moore had written for his children. A friend sent it to a newspaper editor who published it without the author's permission. Moore didn't publicly claim authorship until 1844. It was included in a poetry book he had authored.

This is the image I see in my head when I think of St. Nick – with the "beard of his chin was as

white as the snow."

I think, now more than ever, we need to remember why we celebrate Christmas, the winter solstice, St. Nicholas and all that goes with this season. As we go through this darkest day of the year, it is important to believe, as our ancestors did before us, there will be light and hope for the future.

We have seen rain all week, sometimes only a drizzle, but that was supposed to change last night into today so our winter solstice will be a wet one.

"We are expecting hard rain

later Wednesday night into Thursday morning, continuing into Friday and then tapering off," said Mike Wofford, meteorologist with NOAA Oxnard.

Wofford said there doesn't look to be significant winds; however, today may see some thunderstorms that could cause winds with gusts as high as 25 mph.

He added it is not unusual to see rain during this time of year but the amount of rain, possibly over two inches in the area, is a little unusual.

GPD TOYS from COVER

and green Grinch sweater, she gathered handfuls of gift bags to stack on tables.

“Christmas runs in my family. I always prefer to give than to receive gifts. I’m curious to see the process and excited to give to families in need,” she said.

Officer Jose Barajas, who helped Detective Jabali spearhead this year’s event, said he continued to volunteer, even after three years, because he sees how families truly appreciate and need the help offered through this program.

“When I grew up, we didn’t have a lot of money, so to be able to give back and know this is a way we can really connect with the community – that’s how I’m really able to make a difference to the younger generation,” he said.

Jean Kirigan, a volunteer for the Cops for Kids program since 2014, said her most memorable moment was a family that was so excited at the sight of the officers bringing gifts.

“The apartment was tiny and they had a scruffy Christmas tree, but it was their attempt to decorate for Christmas. There was nothing really there. And bless her heart, the lady of the house had made us cookies. When the officers started to carry in everything, the room started to shrink because there were so many packages. I remember that, and the look on the kids’ faces. Bigger and bigger their eyes got.”

Each year, Kirigan looks forward to the impact the gesture has on families.

“Some of these families wouldn’t have Christmas if it weren’t for the generosity of the officers and the people who donate,” she said.

Weeks before the gifts are delivered, volunteers take donated money and wish lists from families to purchase gifts from local stores. One volunteer said she used her own money and coupons to add extra gifts for one of the families on her list. It’s not uncommon for officers and volunteers to contribute their own money to make Christmas extra special for the families on their list. Several vans are needed to deliver gifts to each house – packages overflow from boxes that touch the ceiling, filling the back seats and trunks.

A few days before gifts are delivered, families receive trees to decorate. One family requested and received two trees – one white and pink for their daughter, the other green and red, the son’s favorite colors. The boy’s eyes sparkled as he held up a newly unwrapped basketball for his father to see before bouncing it all over the living room. His sister beamed at the sight of new sparkly black and pink shoes emerging from the Christmas wrapping.

“This is the first time they are helping with this, and my kids are really very happy,” said the father of two. “My daughter and wife really like the white and pink, and my son likes the green. The officers came with the colors that my family likes, and I appreciate that.”

A little boy peeked out from behind an apartment door as officers and volunteers arrived at his home with a new bicycle and wrapped gifts. He told officers he was so surprised and shocked at

the bicycle that he didn’t know what to say. His mother laughed and beamed with a bright smile as she unwrapped a blender under the tree.

“I love fruit and I always eat it,” she said. “I’m excited to make smoothies.”

“I’m very amazed at what’s happening here,” she told the Crescenta Valley Weekly when asked about her thoughts on the program. “I was surprised. I never thought that something like this could happen. I never thought that police officers could come and bring gifts. It was unbelievable ... until I saw that they came and it’s all true. I can’t find the words to express how I feel.”

GPD continues to accept applications for gifts until Christmas as well as donations for other projects. Email jbarajas@glendaleca.gov for more information on how to apply.

To donate, visit <https://glendalepoa.com/>.

HANUKKAH from page 19

“Dreidel dreidel dreidel, I made it out of bread and when it was all ready I ate it up instead” improvised one attendee decked in a Hanukkah sweater with glowing menorah lights.

“I was delighted that a very diverse group turned out in Adams Hill this year. I have always enjoyed celebrating Hanukkah because it is a commemoration of historical events celebrated symbolically with the lighting of candles – a true Festival of Lights,” said Arlene Vidor, a member of the Adams Hill Neighborhood Association who attends and helps organize the yearly celebration. “And it involves plenty of fun: games, dancing, singing, telling of the Hanukkah story and plenty of eating yummy traditional holiday treats. Thanks to the contributions from many of our residents, we had a bounty of those.”

Sophia Varona, who works as a registration and outreach manager at Bob Waldorf Summer Camp, entered non-profit work

for the Jewish-based organization and found a community she said is unlike any others. She celebrated Hanukkah as a way to bring friends of all faiths together.

“I feel like often you don’t know your neighbors, but then to particularly know that you have neighbors [who] are Jewish – I think it’s just important. I think community is so important nowadays, to know the people around you and just get to know folks that you might not always go up to every day and say hello,” said Varona.

Jewish organizations Nefesh, Bob Waldorf Summer Camps and Temple Sinai of Glendale set up tables at the event. Temple Sinai, and the Jewish community around it, has been in Glendale for 96 years.

“Having a menorah as a symbol of light is something that is good for everybody ... especially now with so much anti-Semitism going on, to know that people can come together,” said a representative of

Temple Sinai.


Aluma said recent rises in anti-Semitism have made celebrations of community, family history and religion even more important.

“Celebrating Hanukkah is a way for me to honor and preserve my cultural and religious heritage. It’s a time to reflect on the historical events that shaped the festival and to appreciate the values of perseverance and faith. Additionally, in today’s context, with the rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewishness, celebrating Hanukkah becomes even more significant. Public acts during the festival can help combat anti-Semitism by fostering understanding, tolerance and solidarity within the community and beyond. By coming together in large numbers, including local politicians, we can raise awareness about the importance of religious freedom and stand united against discrimination and prejudice,” he said.

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