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Rose Court Finalists Announced

Before the final round of interviews, the 28 finalists for the 2025 Rose Court presented by Citizens Business Bank took a group photo on the front steps of Tournament House. Applicants from 49 Pasadena area schools participated in the interview process and seven of the finalists will be named to the 2025 Rose Court on Monday, Sept. 30.

The Tournament of Roses has a long-standing tradition of celebrating educational excellence and continues the legacy by providing each Rose Court member with a \$7,500 academic scholarship.

The Rose Court also engages in personal development programs aimed at improving public speaking and presentation skills, building self-confidence and refining etiquette. Members of the Rose Court are given numerous opportunities to get involved in the community, make meaningful contributions and network with local leaders. Being part of the Rose Court offers a wealth of benefits, including joining an organization committed to hands-on volunteer work, finding ways to give back to the community, honing public speaking skills and fostering personal growth and self-assurance.

Volunteer members of the Tournament of Roses' Queen & Court Committee made their selections based on a number of criteria including academic achievement community and school involvement, public speaking ability and youth leadership.

The 2025 Rose Court will ride down Colorado Boulevard in the 136th Rose Parade® presented by Honda and attend the college football playoff quarterfinal at the 111th Rose Bowl Game® presented by Prudential, both on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025.

The 28 Rose Court finalists see COURT FINALISTS on page 7

Oktoberfest 2024 Coming to Town

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

For those hankering for some bratwurst and beer and are ready to don their lederhosen, the Montrose Verdugo City Chamber is hosting this highly anticipated annual event.

The sound of a traditional German brass band, and the music of other popular bands, will be heard on Honolulu Avenue on the afternoon and evening of Oct. 5. That is when, for the 45th year, the Montrose Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce hosts all things German at the annual Oktoberfest.

The festival dates back to 1810 and, according to mybucketlistevents.com, Oktoberfest began as the marriage ceremony between Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese. All of the townspeople were invited to attend the festival, which took place in the fields outside of the city gates. Following the wedding the fields were named Theresienwiese after



File photo The German American Brass Band will lend an air of authenticity when it plays at Oktoberfest on Oct. 5.

the princess, and the party was such a hit that the townspeople asked King Ludwig to continue the celebration the following year.

Though some Oktoberfest celebrations have died out over time, one of the biggest – in Germany – hosts an estimated 7 million people over 17 or

18 days. The Montrose Oktoberfest lasts just one day – this year on Oct. 5 from noon to 10 p.m. in the 2200-2400 blocks of Honolulu Avenue – but offers plenty for attendees to enjoy.

According to the Montrose Verdugo City Chamber website, as in years past there will be plenty of food

for purchase including a full dinner consisting of Schreiner's bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad and rye bread, 1 lb. turkey leg, hot dogs, pretzels, strudel, churros and soda/juice/water.

see OKTOBERFEST on page 8

Burglary 101

By Mary O'KEEFE

At about 2 a.m. an unknown person entered the office complex in the 3800 block of La Crescenta Avenue. The only description of the suspect was that s/he was wearing a dark sweater hoodie, with the hood up, a facemask and shorts. The suspect entered the parking lot and went to several offices. Soon after entering the well-lit parking lot the lights went out. It is suspected the person found a power box to turn off the security lights.

The suspect was able to break into one downstairs office and ransacked it but nothing was reported stolen. The suspect attempted to enter another office by cutting through a shared wall with the kitchen area of the complex, but was not able to enter the office.

The suspect was able to enter an upstairs office by breaking a side window. It is thought the suspect then reached in and opened the door. Several rooms were ransacked and a number of items were reported missing.

This comes a few months after a vehicle in the parking lot of the complex had a window shattered and items stolen.

As CVW reporters we are used to reporting the news and not being part of the news; however, this time that fourth wall was broken – we are the burglary victims. One of those burgled offices was ours.

Burglaries have gone down in Glendale by 21.87% year-to-date; however, when you are a victim of burglary those numbers don't seem that important.

Interviewing those who have been a victim of burglary, the common first feeling is one of violation followed by a feeling of being unsafe – almost like waiting for the second shoe to drop.

There is a lot of information on tips how to prevent a burglary but not a lot of information on what to

Photo by Charly SHELTON The office of the CV Weekly was littered with broken glass and discarded newspapers after it was broken into early Tuesday morning.

see BURGLARY on page 7



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Reviewing the History of the CV Weekly – Part 2

If you remember, last week I shared with you the beginning of the history of the CV Weekly that I talked about in a presentation to the La Crescenta Woman's Club. I'd like to finish that up today.

I was debating about what to put on the front cover of the first issue of the Crescenta Valley Weekly ... then the Station Fire broke and I knew what would be on the front cover.

My husband Steve has been active in the CV Sheriff's Station for decades, including as a volunteer on patrol when the Station Fire took off. He took an incredible photo of the profile of a fireman holding his hat in front of a burning gazebo. That shot was what I used for the first issue of the paper. In fact, that first paper was the only time in 15 years that I had a photo-prominent front page. It was also the only time in 15 years that the paper was delivered on a Friday rather than a Thursday. Why? If you lived up here during the Station Fire, then you remember that many local streets were cordoned off; I couldn't deliver the paper on Thursday as I intended.

In 2009, I printed and had delivered 25,000 papers every week. I wanted people to wake up every Thursday to having the CV Weekly in their driveway. Over the years that number has been whittled down. Thankfully, those who had come to expect – and love – the CV Weekly paid the annual subscription price to continue to have the paper delivered. These

included my neighbors Jerry and Mary. On the very first day, Jerry came by with a check for the subscription ... and they've never waived in their support of the paper.

We still deliver the paper and I encourage you to set up a subscription so we can deliver it to your house. Call the office at (818) 248-2740 and speak to Rachele to make those arrangements.

Over the years, CV Weekly has hired people to deliver the paper rather than having a service do it. I felt it was important to hire local people, to put some money into their pockets. Right now, in fact, we have an opening for a delivery person. If you're a night owl, consider earning some money and give the office a call. Rachele can answer any questions you have regarding the delivery route.

We introduced the community to The Finest, our version of the best of. It lets readers share who and what they think are the best services in the area. We had to put The Finest on hold for five years due to COVID but this year we re-introduced The Finest, a magazine I'm proud of.

So that's a snapshot of the CV Weekly – our roots. I am grateful to the community for its ongoing support.

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

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» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

California has banned plastic grocery bags with the signing of a new law that will go into effect in January 2026. This measure bans all plastic shopping bags. I know what you're thinking; we already banned plastics bags, which is why we started paying 10 cents for each bag we needed when we were at the grocery store. So here is the explanation on why we all pay for those thick plastic bags, according to California Against Waste: "Single use plastic grocery bags were never really free. Grocers rolled the cost they paid per plastic bag into the price of groceries, meaning that even people who bring their bags to the store were supplementing the cost of other shoppers' plastic bags."

Okay – using this logic of paying 10 cents per bag the price of groceries should have gone down, right? Hmm, not that I've seen. So we are helping to supplement the cost that grocers pay for thicker plastic bags and paper bags. Aren't we wonderful?

The new law bans all plastic bags, so not even the thick ones that cost us 10 cents will be allowed. Why is this? Well, it is our fault again. We are not recycling or reusing the plastic bags. And yes that really is on us. I cannot count the times I have walked into the grocery store and left my reusable bags in the car. Often I would just pile the groceries into the cart and bag them in my car, but there have been times when I have paid the 10 cents per bag and got the plastic bags. And lately I have been getting those thicker plastic bags because I need them to put my food waste in to place into the yard bin; I don't know what I am supposed to do with the food waste in 2026 but I guess I will worry about that next year.

According to a state study, the amount of plastic shopping bags trashed per person grew from eight pounds per year in 2004 to 11 pounds in 2021. Honestly, that waste is shameful and we do need to do something. Obviously paying

for the plastic bags is just something we all got used to but now we won't have any other choice but to use reusable bags.

When the original ban was passed in 2014, and voters approved it in 2016, it was thought we would be helping the planet by getting rid of at least some of the plastic; however, that wasn't the case. This new ban is supposed to take care of that and it is something that has worked in other states.

There are some consequences from the ban that have been reported by the National Library of Medicine/National Center for Biotechnology Information. Examples include job losses resulting from disinvestments in the plastic industry, health and hygiene problems resulting from the increased use of unwashed reusable shopping bags and the profiteering by retailers and entrepreneurs through the sale of bags with unsubstantiated environmental claims tended to also escalate with PPBs.

(PPBs stand for polybrominated biphenyls – chemicals that were added to plastics used in a variety of consumer products to make them difficult to burn.)

These consequences seem a little bit of a stretch. While yes the plastic bag manufacturers will see a drop in demand but it also allows the plastic company the opportunity to become sustainable and make reusable bags that don't hurt the climate/environment and add microplastics to our human bodies. So this law is actually giving them the opportunity to make amends to the Earth. As for the unwashed shopping bags – well I guess we can just wash them.

The real issues are what plastics do to our environment, our wildlife, sea life and our own health.

"Every year, around 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide ... So many that over one million bags are being used every minute ... Every man, woman and child on our planet uses 83 plastic bags every year. That's one bag

see WEATHER on page 7

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

CVCA MEETING TONIGHT

The Crescenta Valley Community Association will have its monthly meeting tonight, Sept. 26. This month the meeting is in person in the community room of the La Crescenta Library. Glendale Community College representatives will give a presentation at 7 p.m. on the details of ballot Measure GCC and the fall activities on campus. Also on the agenda is a presentation by representatives from Episcopal Communities Services regarding the proposed building plan for Twelve Oaks.

Also on the agenda are updates on project proposals in the valley. The library is located at 2809 Foothill Blvd. Contact the CVCA at crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com with any questions. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY INVITED TO CELEBRATE DUNSMORE ANNIVERSARY

Dunsmore Elementary School is having a carnival on Friday, Sept. 27 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the school grounds in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

The event will include carnival games, food booths and attractions for children and adults of all ages. While admission is free, tickets will be required for food and games, ensuring a fun-filled evening for the entire community.

A photo of current students and alumni takes place at 5:30 p.m. Dunsmore Elementary invites all former students and staff from different decades to celebrate generations of Dunsmore pride.

Dunsmore Spirit Gear 75th Anniversary T-shirts will be available for purchase, featuring a logo designed by one of Dunsmore's students.

Dunsmore Elementary School is located at 4717 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

THE BIRDS OF THE ROSEMONT PRESERVE

Due to the efforts of Jodhan Fine, a student collaborator via a partnership with Arroyos Foothills Conservancy and Occidental College, the field trip curriculum has been expanded to include the avifauna of the San Gabriel Foothills.

Experience this new curriculum on a tour of Rosemont Preserve with Jodhan Fine. It will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Participants will learn more about identifying birds, how they have adapted to the local climate and the intricacies of the relationships between humans and birds.

Bring binoculars and consider downloading the free Merlin bird app in advance by accessing <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/>. Be sure to download Merlin's "US: West Coast" bird information.

CVTC ACCEPTING CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS

CVTC acts as a liaison between local community and local government. CVTC communicates the direct concerns and thoughts of local residents and also relays information to the local community from local government.

The CVTC is accepting candidate applications for a seat on this important community body.

For more information and to download an application visit www.thecvcouncil.com. Deadline to submit is Oct. 8; the election is Nov. 8-9.

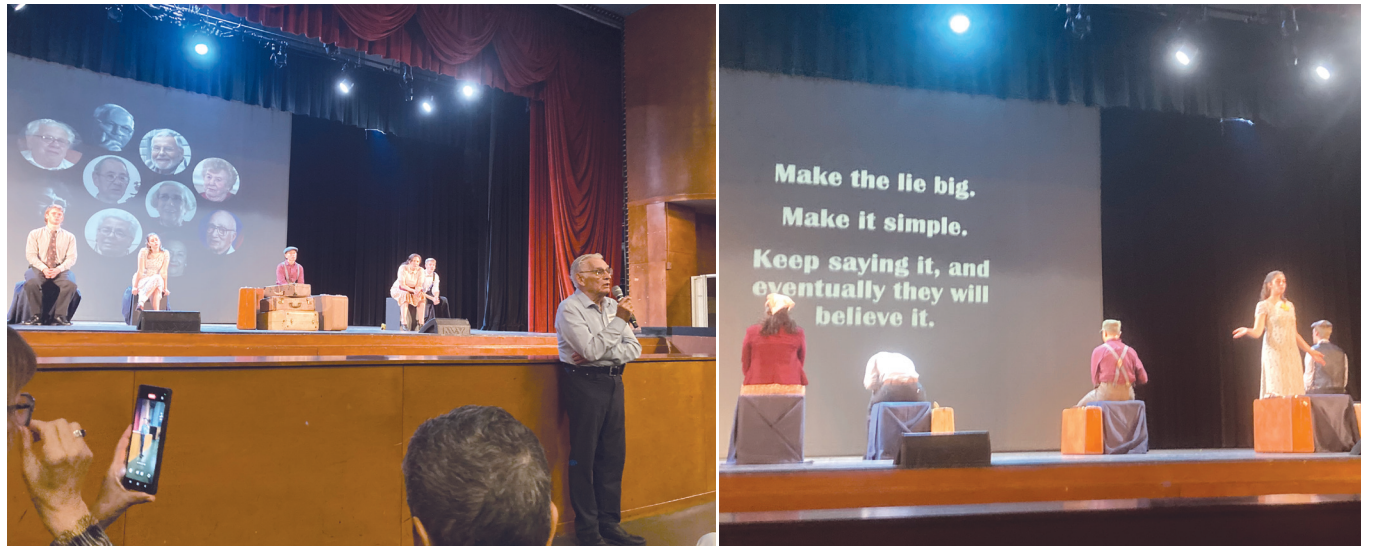
APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR BRAND ASSOCIATES 2025 DANCE SERIES

Applications are currently open for the 2025 season of the Brand Associate Dance Series. Started in the 1960s, The Brand Associates Dance Series presents top dance companies from Southern California performing site-specific work in non-traditional, outdoor performance spaces around Brand Library & Art Center. Dance companies with at least five years of experience who present an educational, site-specific, outdoor dance program appropriate for all ages are encouraged to apply.

Applications are open through Sept. 30. Groups with diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information and to apply, visit: BrandLibrary.org/Dance-Series-Application.

Play Teaches Stories of Holocaust Survivors



Photos by Mikaela STONE

LEFT: After the play, Holocaust survivor Henry Slucki told students at John Burroughs High School that their ability to stand up to hate went a long way. RIGHT: Actors in the play "Survivors" stand in front of a screen that projects advice on how to make a lie seem true.

By Mikaela STONE

"Never forget. Never again. Never is now!" is the rallying cry of the play "Survivors," which adapts 10 Holocaust survivors' stories to teach students history and empathy.

As the end of 2024 draws near, the world copes with the knowledge that almost 80 years have passed since the end of World War II and the Holocaust. The Internationally Founded Claims Conference, which fights for Holocaust survivors' rights, estimates about 245,000 survivors are currently alive globally, averaging 86 years of age. Arts for Change uses the play to tackle a difficult question: How will the world share survivors' testimonies when firsthand accounts are no longer possible?

On Sept. 13, John Burroughs High School opened its doors to the play "Survivors," sharing the story of 10 Jewish men and women who were just students when the Nazis began their rise to power. As politicians, teachers and the survivors' peers began to embrace the lie that Roma, Sinti, disabled people and especially Jews were inferior to the White Aryan race. This rise in hatred would eventually lead to the death of 6,000,000 Jewish people, 2,000,000 Polish people, roughly 500,000 Roma and Sinti people, 250,000 disabled people and about 10,000 gay men. People of these demographics and other minorities were sterilized, deported and segregated in pursuit of racial purity.

In 2017, the CenterStage Theatre in Rochester, New York commissioned playwright Wendy Kout to create a teaching play to educate students on the Holocaust. Later that year, when Kout watched tiki torch-wielding marchers parade through Charlottesville chanting "The Jews will not replace us," a slogan found in Nazi propaganda, she knew,

"I wasn't just writing a history play. I was writing a warning play." Kout gathered the testimonies of 10 survivors – the number of Jewish adults necessary for a minyan, a group large enough for a full prayer service. While acknowledging that every survivor deserves to have his/her story told, Kout selected from an array of varying experiences to try to capture the vast scope of millions of lives represented by just a few people. She considers the 10 she chose to be her co-writers as she imparts their wisdom.

Kurt Weinbach learned three pieces of advice to navigate chaotic times during his long trek to escape Austria. Of the 32 countries that announced opposition for Nazi Germany, none wanted to accept fleeing Jews. It was only due to one of his father's friends landing a position as the Nazi military commander of Vienna that the Weinbach family survived at all, leading to Kurt Weinbach's first piece of advice: "Have friends you can trust." As antisemitic laws stacked up, Nazis forbade Jews from owning radios or cameras and attending school. Weinbach advises one to "stay aware and informed" to combat controlled information. Thanks to their family friend providing exit visas, the Weinbachs were able to flee to China, only to be stopped by Nazi aligned Japanese occupiers. Gambling that the Japanese guards could not read German, Weinbach's mother claimed that their invitations to a Jewish social club in Tientsin, China were actually entry visas. The guards believed her. This led to Weinbach's final piece of advice: "If all

else fails, fake it!"

This advice held true for Rosemarie Marienthal, who risked everything to be reunited with her family. Reentering Germany as a Jew would result in immediate deportation to a concentration camp, so to return home to her parents she pretended to be a nun from the Swiss convent school she attended. Upon discovery, she padded her resume and acquired a work visa to London as a housekeeper and nanny. All the while she corresponded with a doctor in the Congo who offered her work with his practice to escape the London Blitz. Upon arrival, harsh immigration laws forced the young girl to either marry her penpal or be returned to Germany. Of Marienthal, now Molser, Kout wrote "children had to grow up fast."

"Survivors" showed how children and teenagers pushed back against injustice by taking good care of their friends, provided food for their families, and dissented with actions as simple as sticking

their tongues out at Nazi soldiers behind their backs. Rogue photographers with illegal cameras recorded this small act of defiance in many ghettos.

Both the play "Survivors" and Holocaust survivor Henry Slucki tried to express to the students at John Burroughs High School that their ability to stand up to hate went a long way, no matter how small an act. After the play Slucki shared his story, describing how he had escaped France to first go to Spain then finally the United States through an Eleanor Roosevelt backed aid program. He had been only 6 years old when the Nazis had invaded France. He encourages young people to "resist and respond, but before you do that, educate yourself." Slucki points out that many current world leaders are echoing Nazi words, trying to stir up hate and fear of vulnerable people – both Jewish and otherwise. At 90 years old, Slucki represents the statement, "Never again, to anyone, anywhere."

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Park Survey – Let Your Voice be Heard

By Mary O'KEEFE

Representatives from the County of Los Angeles Dept. of Parks and Recreation recently held their annual park and community meeting at Crescenta Valley Park. The purpose of the meeting was to hear opinions from those who use the park about what they would like to see at their park. The audience discussed programs that worked and those that didn't work.

There were several seniors at the meeting who liked the programs the park offered; however, they were concerned about the new programs for younger children that would be added. Their concerns focused on the space allocated in the

community room for so many diverse programs.

Park representatives told the audience they agreed with many of the comments but urged them to share their concerns on the annual survey, which is the best way to expand existing programs and create new programs.

The park has numerous programs including: 2024-2025 Everybody Plays, a drop-in recreation program that continues now through May 23, 2025 and takes place Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for ages 7 to 17. Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon [excluding holidays] an arts & crafts program and senior yoga are offered. In addition, special events are offered, like Trick or

Treat Village on Oct. 25 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

These programs are free to the public.

CV Park is located at 3901 Dunsmore Ave; anyone with questions can call (818) 249-5940.

The park managers emphasized the importance of completing the annual survey. This will be the best way to let the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors and the County of Los Angeles Dept. of Parks and Recreation know what the community wants offered at their parks.

Click on the QR code on the flyer or go to www.cvweekly.com to find the survey. For any questions on how to get to the survey contact the park at (818) 249-5940 or CVW at (818) 248-2740.



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La Cañada Flintridge and CV Station Launch E-Bike Safety Campaign

By Mary O'KEEFE

"In collaboration with the Crescenta Valley Station [CV-LASD], the City of La Cañada Flintridge will begin increased education outreach and enforcement efforts aimed at enhancing e-bike safety and compliance with local laws," stated the City of La Cañada Flintridge.

The issue of e-bikes and e-motorcycles has been something city officials and law enforcement have been dealing with – not only in La Cañada Flintridge but also in other areas of the Crescenta Valley. In a recent meeting among Sunland-Tujunga residents and Los Angeles police, residents expressed concerns about those riding these vehicles at high rates

of speed or ignoring traffic issues.

La Cañada Flintridge has seen an increase in youth riding e-motorcycles on streets and sidewalks in the City.

"The e-motorcycles are not street legal vehicles," said Sgt. John Gilbert, CV-LASD. He added the issue of teenagers driving a powerful vehicle and "popping wheelies" and other unsafe actions are cause for concern. CVW was contacted by readers who witnessed e-motorcycles and e-bikes driven erratically.

There is a difference between e-bikes and e-motorcycles. E-bikes, or electric bikes, are designed to look like a traditional bicycle with pedals and handlebars. E-bike speeds can reach up to 30 miles per hour and are designed to

assist riders while they pedal. E-bikes must follow laws that are similar to standard bicycles though e-bikes are exempt from some California laws including requiring an operator's license and having state or local registration, motor vehicle insurance or license plates.

The California vehicle code defines e-bikes as: "[A] bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts." It further breaks e-bikes into three categories, following a classification system created by PeopleForBikes that has been adopted in 40 states: Class 1: Provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 mph. Class 2: Operates via pedal-assist or throttle and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 mph. Class 3: Provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 mph, according to calbike.org.

The main issue with e-motorcycles that have been seen on the streets in the area is that they are not legal street vehicles. They are more like a type of mini bike or dirt bike, although they are electric powered.

"They do not have VIN [vehicle information numbers], correct lighting or reflectors," Gilbert said.

These e-motorcycles can reach speeds up to 70 mph, and may require an M1 driver's license.

There are penalties for riding these e-motorcycles, including having the vehicle confiscated by law enforcement.

Gilbert added the focus of the e-bike safety campaign is to educate residents about the laws and the difference between e-bikes and e-motorcycles.

According to the statement: Over the next few weeks, the City will roll out an informative social media campaign designed to educate the community about the various classes of e-bikes, scooters and e-motorcycles. These posts will clarify the distinctions between different types of electric vehicles and outline the specific regulations that apply to each category. Additionally, the campaign will emphasize crucial

rules of the road and provide practical safety tips for riders.

The initiative will also address the legal and financial consequences of violating e-bike regulations. By highlighting these potential repercussions, the City and the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station aim to deter non-compliance and promote responsible use of electric mobility devices.

As part of this effort, Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station deputies will increase enforcement of e-bike-related laws. Deputies will be on the lookout for illegal use of e-bikes and e-motorcycles, particularly among students commuting to and from school. In collaboration with local school districts, the station will work to ensure that students adhere to legal requirements and maintain safety standards.



Photo by Mary O'KEEFE
E-bikes, like the one pictured, have been an issue in Crescenta Valley cities including La Cañada Flintridge and Sunland-Tujunga.

Budgetary Concerns Frustrate All GUSD Stakeholders

By Mikaela STONE

This week's Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) meeting, held on Tuesday night, highlighted budgetary concerns that left all parties frustrated.

Parents, students and teachers showed up at the meeting in Glendale to express support of the current seven period system at GUSD middle and high schools. While no official decisions were made, the discussion showed how concerned for the future are all stakeholders in the district.

The GUSD used emergency COVID funds to establish a seventh period for three years to help students reintegrate to life after quarantine. The new system saw a boost to student mental health, creative expression and the ability to tackle electives as well as time

consuming commitments such as the dual language immersion program. The highest rated high school in GUSD, Clark Magnet, already had a seven period block schedule.

The board extended the seventh period system a fourth year but, with financial issues plaguing the district, it was time to review this decision. A seventh period costs \$5.3 million each year. With expenses rising on all fronts, the school district believes changes have to be made.

Regardless whether schools return to six period days, the board still plans to turn to layoffs to additionally cut costs. This comes just one week after the Glendale Teachers Association (GTA) rallied for wages that keep up with the cost of living. The GTA labor report recognized the board members have inherited


a difficult situation that is not their fault, but reiterated that teachers expect better from GUSD.

For their part, students consider a seventh period to be a way to help them "find themselves." One student noted, "It will be hard to choose between my passion, which is dance, and my culture, which is Spanish."

A mother pointed out that her son, bullied for being gay, only felt comfortable in his theater elective.

Allen Freemon, a Crescenta Valley High School teacher, admitted that while he had previously opposed the seventh period, he saw how it benefited his students –especially vulnerable students with IEPs and other specialized learning plans who deserve to have their needs met while also being able

see GUSD on page 6



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GUSD from page 5

to enjoy an elective. The parents who spoke during public comment agreed that seventh period needed to stay but that money should not come from teachers' salaries.

Parent Bess demanded that the board "make cuts as far from classrooms as possible."

Two parents suggested creating a budget committee that allowed all stakeholders to have input on how the school district can save money.

GUSD board president Shant Sahakian agreed with the budget committee suggestion. Other board members hoped to include community members and labor partners in future discussions.

"I don't think anyone on this dais thinks it's great to cut opportunities for students," board member Ingrid Gunnell said though she believes keeping

the seventh period may prove difficult "unless we find a lot of money in this district or one of us wins the \$5 million lottery."

She fears that if the GUSD cannot stabilize its finances it may follow in the footsteps of districts such as the San Francisco Unified School District, which required mayoral intervention following budget failure resulting in teacher vacancies and school closures.

However, even amid tensions, the board welcomed student board member Lily Tanossian, Clark Magnet senior and ASB president, while her family cheered her on. She and her peers are brainstorming themes and questions for the upcoming student voice panel.

Further voices will soon be sought as the school board considers adding parent

opinions to curriculum discussions by either including them on textbook committees or creating a specified committee for parent voices on learning material.

In other news, the volunteer-run Adelante Latinos council celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month working to uplift Latino students with this year's theme "shaping the future together." Members want Latino students to know anything is possible. A celebration of the month takes place at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27 at Crescenta Valley Park, 3901 Dunsmore Ave.

In support of GUSD alumni entering the workforce and academia, Shant Kevorkian welcomed the community to the first meeting of the GUSD alumni association, taking place Oct. 9 at Hoover High, 651 Glenwood Road in Glendale.

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PET OF THE WEEK



Rose and Kit Kat enjoy the sunny weather and watching birds and lizards together. CV Weekly loves to hear about your pets! Send a pic and small caption to steve@cvweekly.com to share your lovable pets with the community!

CRIME BLOTTER

SEPT. 22

4700 block of Alminar Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident parked her vehicle on the street in front of her home and when she came out hours later found the catalytic converter had been stolen from her vehicle.

The theft occurred between 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

SEPT. 21

500 block of Knight Way in La Cañada Flintridge, a glass bedroom window was shattered, rooms were ransacked and items were stolen from a home overnight.

SEPT. 20

2400 block of Altura Avenue in Montrose, a resident returned home and went to her backyard to water her plants. When she looked at the front door she realized the glass door of her back house was shattered and left opened. She entered the house and saw items had been stolen. She had spent the night at a family member's home. The back house was being remodeled.

The theft occurred overnight.

SEPT. 18

1000 Green Lane in La Cañada Flintridge, a neighbor of a residence called the CV Sheriff's Station and

reported hearing glass shattering followed by an alarm being activated. Deputies responded and discovered a window broken of a home next to the neighbor who called in the report. The screen from the window had been removed.

Deputies discovered the alarm panel had been taken off the wall and broken into pieces. Some cabinet doors in the house were open; however, deputies did not find rooms ransacked.

The incident was called in at 8:37 p.m.

2600 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Crescenta, a man reported withdrawing funds from his bank account. He then drove to another location to obtain a cashier's check and placed the cash he had just received in the visor of his car. When he returned he noticed the visor of his vehicle was down, the cash missing along with other items in his car and the passenger side window had been shattered.

The incident occurred at 3:30 p.m.

SEPT. 17

1300 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, the wall of a restroom at the location was vandalized with graffiti overnight.

ANSWERS for page 17

1	A	2	L	3	E	4	R	5	T	6	P	7	L	8	A	9	T	10	B	11	O	12	P	13	S
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BURGLARY from Cover

do after you are burglarized. Here is the little bit of what we have discovered:

Call law enforcement. Do this first even though you may be certain the suspect/suspects are no longer on the property. Let the officers walk through the property first. This is done for several reasons including making certain the location is safe and the suspect is gone. And officers/deputies can go through the location making sure none of the evidence is disturbed. Then law enforcement will more than likely get the Forensics Unit out to take fingerprints or find other evidence.

Once law enforcement clears the location for victim/victims to enter, take photos. This will be valuable for an insurance report. See what is missing; remember, this is an ongoing process as people discover missing items over the next several months.

If you have any banking or credit card information missing or if it looked like someone has gone through past bills that have personal information on them make sure to contact your bank and credit card companies. Either close the accounts or put them on pause as you search to find what is actually missing.

For those who itemize everything in their office/home prior to being burglarized that is great; however, for those who haven't try to make a list as near to the value and replacement value of any stolen items. You will want to gather as much documentation you can of the stolen items.

Most insurance companies and banking institutions will require a police report, so make sure you have copies on hand.

Deciding if you want to report this to your insurance carrier is a personal decision. If the loss is not as much as your deductible, then that is an easy decision – take the loss; however, if your loss is greater talk to your agent about what will happen if you file a report. There are several stories of people losing their insurance after filing a claim, even if it is their first claim.

According to ABC7 in a 2021 report, a woman had been the victim of a vehicle burglary. After talking to her insurance agent about her fear of her policy being canceled, and being reportedly told it was very rare for an insurance company to cancel, about a month after she reported the theft her policy was canceled.

So it is important to have an honest talk with you insurance agent to see if your insurance policy costs will increase if you file a claim. If you find you have issues with your insurance the consumer advocacy group United Policy Holders is a good place to find information.

But being a victim of burglary goes beyond the items lost; it is an emotional event. Even those who look at it as “Well, it could have been worse” or “Thank goodness they didn't take more” feel violated.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Justice, the British Journal of Criminology report published in 1980 found that 25% (40% of all victims are female) of burglary were seriously shocked or distressed at having their location burglarized. And more than a month after the incident only one-third of the victims said they had fully recovered from the experience.

“The overall impression was of people struggling to regain a lost sense of security,” the findings showed. “A more general problem is the sense of insecurity caused by the knowledge that threatening strangers have entered one's [property] – a place considered to be one's private territory under personal control.”

It is important to acknowledge your feelings, including fear, anger or loss. Understand that all of these feelings and concerns are valid.

COURT FINALISTS from Cover



are: Isabella Villavicencio, Mayfield Senior School; Ashlyn Pimental, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy; Giavanna Folda, San Marino High School; Briar Bryant, Flintridge Preparatory School; Isabella Jackson, Alhambra High School; Simone Ball, Arcadia High School; Faith Perez, Pasadena City College; Anna Shore, Pasadena City College; Katherine Kammass, South Pasadena High School; Gabriela Sanchez, Gabrielino High School; Saniyah Brunston, John Muir High School; India Garcia-Robb, South Pasadena High School; Lara Georgian, Mayfield Senior School; Gabriella Gamboa, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy; Parisa Bryant, Maranatha High School; Lindsay Charles, Westridge School; Amishi Mahadev, South Pasadena High School; Ariel Thio, Temple City High School; Olivia Lopez, Pasadena High School; Kate Kelly, La Cañada High School; Piper Scherbert, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy; Sophia Page, Mayfield Senior School; Lisette Parker, Maranatha High School; Ella Bradley, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts; Malini Pradhan, Flintridge Preparatory School; Margaret Dillard, La Cañada High School; Mona Dillard, La Cañada High School and Violet Marino, Marshall Fundamental Secondary School.

WEATHER from page 2

per person every four and a half days. Of those 500 billion bags, 100 billion are consumed in the United States alone,” according to the Dept. of Public Works LA County.

“Plastic waste kills up to a million seabirds a year. As with sea turtles, when seabirds ingest plastic it takes up room in their stomachs, sometimes causing starvation. Many seabirds are found dead with their stomach full of this waste,” according to The Pew Charitable Trusts.

On any trip to the beach you can find plastic bags on the sand. Look into the ocean and you will more than likely see plastic bags in the water; however, plastic bags also affect land animals. The stomachs of land animal have also been found full of plastic bags just like sea life.

And remember: plastics, including plastic bags, break down to microplastics, which are small plastic pieces less than five millimeters long.

As the World Health Organization underscored in a 2022 report, current technologies don't yet enable researchers to quantify population-level microplastics exposures or gauge what proportion of those particles stay in our bodies. However, microplastics' ubiquity in the environment, combined with preliminary findings from human cell and animal studies over the past decade, have led to urgent calls for more research and regulation.

“There are so many unknowns,” said Bernardo Lemos, an adjunct professor of environmental epigenetics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, “but we are seeing more data that suggest microplastics affect human biology. Understanding what these particles might do to our genes, cells and organs is of increasing importance as changing weather patterns sweep microplastics into more of Earth's lands, waters and air,” according to Harvard Medicine, “Microplastics Everywhere,” spring 2023.

Even though this law to ban plastic bags does not take affect until 2026, we should all start keeping out sustainably produced reusable bags in our cars, and actually use them when we go grocery shopping ... or doing any shopping. If we start trying to remember to keep them with us, it will be second nature by the time we have to use them.

We should be seeing temperatures in the mid-to-low 80s through the weekend and then some warm-ups in the 90s for Monday through Wednesday.

The June Gloom is continuing in September across Southern California as a trough (an elongated area of relatively low pressure extending from the center of a region of low pressure) remains along the West Coast and the onshore flow increases, according to NOAA.

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OKTOBERFEST from Cover

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Also available for ticket holders are plenty of games and rides, free events like the popular contests including the Mr./Ms. Oktoberfest contest, Lil' Mister & Lil' Miss Oktoberfest contest and the stein holding contest.

Regular attendees to the annual event will see some changes to the Montrose Oktoberfest. According to Mavil Aghadjanian, executive director of the Montrose Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce, one exciting change is where the rides and games will be found.

"This year, we are spreading out the rides and games even more so across all three blocks of Honolulu Avenue," said Aghadjanian. "The Ferris wheel will once again be on Honolulu and Verdugo Road. For the second year in a row tickets can be purchased beforehand." She added that the family-friendly attractions, like the rides, games and entertainment, are the most popular events at Oktoberfest.

As an added bonus, when a package of 100 games and rides tickets is purchased before the event, the Chamber will provide the ticket buyer with a free drink at Oktoberfest.

"Online tickets can still be purchased on the day of the event through the website montrosechamber.org/montroseoktoberfest or via the QR codes posted across the event," she said adding this process will save time in long ticket queue lines. "Online tickets can be picked up at the

two redemption booths (one in front of Coffee Bean and the other in front of Tutti Frutti)."

For folks who want the fun to last of Oktoberfest, the Chamber is selling collectible merchandise.

"We have a 2024 Oktoberfest bucket hat for \$10 or four tickets and a 2024 Oktoberfest T-shirt for \$25 or 10 tickets," Aghadjanian said. "Both can be purchased online through the ticket presale page on the Chamber's website or at the event at the MVCC info booth across the Tarlani building [at 2437 Honolulu]."

The lingering effects of COVID-19 haven't dampened the enthusiasm that greets Oktoberfest every year.

"Luckily we did not have to implement any COVID-related changes since we resumed the event after all the COVID mandates were no longer in effect," said Aghadjanian adding that post COVID crowds are as plentiful as before the pandemic.

"I believe people were eager to get out and enjoy this beloved community event once again," she said. "We weren't sure how people would feel after having to stay six feet away from [each other] throughout the pandemic; but it just goes to show how much in-person events are still appreciated and how the community missed participating in this family-friendly event."

Admission to Oktoberfest is free.

To learn more, visit <https://www.montrosechamber.org>.

St Luke's of the Mountains Holds Gala – 100 Years in the Making

By Mary O'KEEFE

On Saturday, Sept. 21, St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church celebrated its 100th anniversary with a gala in its courtyard.

During the evening The Reverend Boone Sadler was posthumously honored. Reverend Sadler was the church's fifth priest since its 1924 founding. He served at the church from 1953 to 1983, and is the parish hall's namesake.

"When the United States was at last beginning to under its long reckoning [in the 1950s] with centuries of racism and the legacy of Jim Crow, Boone Sadler became a member of the NAACP," said the Right Rev. John H. Taylor.

The 100 years of church history was shared at the gala including its time of "standing apart from the Episcopal Church." This occurred in 2006 when, after a vote by the parishioners present at the time, the church moved from being an Episcopal house of worship to align itself with the Anglican Province of Uganda. The move was due to "theological differences." After a three-year legal battle St. Luke's of the Mountains returned to being an Episcopal church.

"Many of us remember that St. Luke's had an episode of standing apart from

the Episcopal Church on other vital civil rights issues. By the end of the last century, it was becoming clear that our church was staking its future on Christ's impartiality and radical inclusiveness when it came not just to race and nation but orientation and identification. Those were hard, hard years for St. Luke's. For my predecessor and friend John Bruno, among your honorees tonight especially, John set the plum line for justice and inclusion and kept his eye firmly fixed on it. He had to battle in court," Taylor said.

The present vicar of St. Luke's, Rev. Guy Leemhuis, spoke of the church's mission including its dedication to the community by offering a meeting place for many organizations. He also spoke

of the church's longtime commitment to the youth of the community.

"Reverend Sadler created a backpacking program. A lot of people don't know we have a camp called Camp Stevens in Julian, California in San Diego County," he said. "Boone Sadler is one of the reasons we have a Camp Stevens as he served on one of the original committees on what became the camp ... It's incredible for someone to have that kind of footprint."

Leemhuis thanked those in the congregation who helped with the historical gala.

It's incredible for someone to have that kind of footprint.

You can read more, and see more photos, online at www.cvweekly.com/



Photos by Charly SHELTON.

St. Luke's of the Mountains held a celebration and fundraiser marking its 100th anniversary.

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VIEWPOINTS

» MYSTERIES OF MONTROSE

How Did Montrose Get Its Name? – Part 2

In my last guest column, I explained how I had unanswered questions about the naming of Montrose. I wrote about the contest that the developers held to name their new community. Thousands of suggestions were submitted and nine people submitted the name Montrose, which the five judges selected as the “winning name,” but the ad placed in the newspaper did not explain why the name was chosen.

Nevertheless, in 1938 local historian Grace J. Oberbeck wrote in her book “History of La Crescenta-La Cañada Valleys” that the name Montrose was selected by the “subdividers” as “the most appropriate.”

She did not explain why Montrose was most appropriate, nor did the ad announcing the name say it was “most appropriate,” but Ms. Oberbeck did present three theories that she had heard from locals as to why the name Montrose was submitted and why it was chosen by the judges. She was clear in her writing that these were theories and not actual history, but that has not prevented other local historians (including me) from quoting these

as the reasons for Montrose getting its name.

Her three theories are: (1) it's named after Montrose, Pennsylvania; (2) People here love roses; (3) People loved a then 90-year-old book “The Legend of Montrose” by Sir Walter Scott. In going through these, I knew these were very unlikely sources for the name and I had to send my Montrose book to the publishers without an answer, which has bothered me for years.

Recently I read “Thunderstruck” by Erik Larson, which tells the true story of Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen who was accused of the gruesome murder of his wife. He managed to escape from England on a ship named the S.S. Montrose. Scotland Yard used Marconi's new invention of wireless telegraphy to find out if Crippen was on a ship. The detective then chased after the S.S. Montrose across the Atlantic with newspapers around the world covering this incredible pursuit. This happened in 1910, less than two years before our contest, and the story was front page news in all of the LA papers. I wondered if this had anything to

do with the name Montrose being submitted?

I had used Google 12 years ago as part of my research but this year Microsoft added CoPilot to Edge. I sent this seven-word prompt to Copilot: “What was the S.S. Montrose named for?” The answer amazed me, mainly because it immediately zeroed in on the correct ship (it mentioned how it was part of the Crippen chase) and it responded, “While the origin of the ship's name isn't explicitly documented, it is likely that the ship was named after the town of Montrose in Scotland.”

Twelve years ago, I was aware of the possible Montrose, Scotland connection, but I had no evidence to connect the dots. Encouraged by this, I asked CoPilot how Montrose, California got its name. Grace Oberbeck's three theories (with me as a source!) are in the response – but at least they were presented as possibilities, not a definitive answer. So I asked CoPilot, “What are towns named Montrose named after?” and CoPilot responded that most are named after Montrose, Scotland. I felt no closer than I was when I submitted the book.

But then I looked at the ad announcing the contest results. The names of the submitters and the judges were all there. So I used CoPilot to find the heritage of these last names. I was astounded to find that of the nine submitters, seven were of Scottish or British heritage. And of the five judges, all five were of Scottish or British heritage!

So the answer to this mystery was clear. The naming contest was rigged! Well, not exactly – but obviously our Montrose was named after Montrose, Scotland. I don't know this with 100% certainty since Walton didn't put it in writing but this is as close as we're going to come to a definitive conclusion.

The irony of this is that when people search for this information in the future this column will come up as the answer, finally replacing

Grace Oberbeck's theories.

Let's all celebrate with some haggis!

Robert Newcombe is the author of “Montrose” in the Images of America series of Arcadia books as well as is the co-author (with Mike Lawler) of “La Crescenta” and “La Crescenta: Then and Now.” You can reach him at r_newcombe@yahoo.com or stop him early in the morning on his daily walk through Montrose.



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON » REP. JUDY CHU

Veterans Have Done So Much For Our Country, They Deserve Congressional Support

Up until the very last day of my late father's life, one of the things he was the proudest of was his service to his country. The son of a Chinese immigrant to California, he served in the Army during World War II as a radio communications sergeant in Okinawa. When he passed, we fulfilled his wishes to be buried in a military cemetery.

One of my of my highest priorities as a member of Congress is ensuring the veterans in my district and across the country have easy access to the highest quality healthcare, job training and other services. We can live freely and peacefully in this country because of their service and I believe it is my responsibility to ensure they receive the support and

resources they earned.

But our work is never complete. While overseas for 13 months in Iraq, servicemembers like Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson were exposed to toxic smoke from burn pits, which were used by the military to dispose of waste – such as chemical weapons, asbestos and fuels. He then returned home to his wife and daughter; however, a decade later his health began to decline.

Because the military long denied any connection between burn pits and chronic illnesses, such as cancer and respiratory diseases, Sgt. Robinson's wife Danielle had no support to help her husband fight lung cancer. Eventually, his health

declined so much that he passed away at the age of just 39. But before he died, he bravely testified in front of the U.S. Senate, begging lawmakers to formally recognize the link between burn pits and its devastating health consequences, and to help the 3.5 million veterans who may have had this toxic exposure.

It's because of heroes like Sgt. Robinson that during last Congress we took a major step forward in addressing the issue of toxic burn pits that impacted so many servicemembers who were unable to obtain the healthcare they so desperately needed. We passed the Honoring our PACT Act of

see JUDY CHU on page 19

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prop 13 Assaulted Again?

Termed-out Senator Anthony Portantino recently received a farewell gift when the California School Employees Association (CSEA) bestowed their annual Senator of the Year award (“Senator Portantino Honored,” Aug. 29, 2024).

“I have always been proud to support our public education system,” he said. “I am humbled to have received this amazing recognition.”

A puffy press release, complete with a glorious Technicolor shot of the senator, arms raised in gratitude and love for the public-employee union whose members kick back a portion of their dues for “political purposes” (read:

campaign contributions).

Unfortunately, his professed sincerity for public education belies his profound contempt for citizens and legal residents.

Contempt? In 2010, then-Assemblyman Anthony Portantino voted for a bill to give subsidized tuition to illegal aliens at a time when 140,000 students did not enroll in community colleges because they could not get into classes (Los Angeles Times; Oct. 4, 2010).

Fast forward to 2024 when Senator Portantino voted for a measure to give \$3.4 billion in health care to illegal immigrants. Budget deficit of \$46 billion (or is that \$73 billion?) be damned.

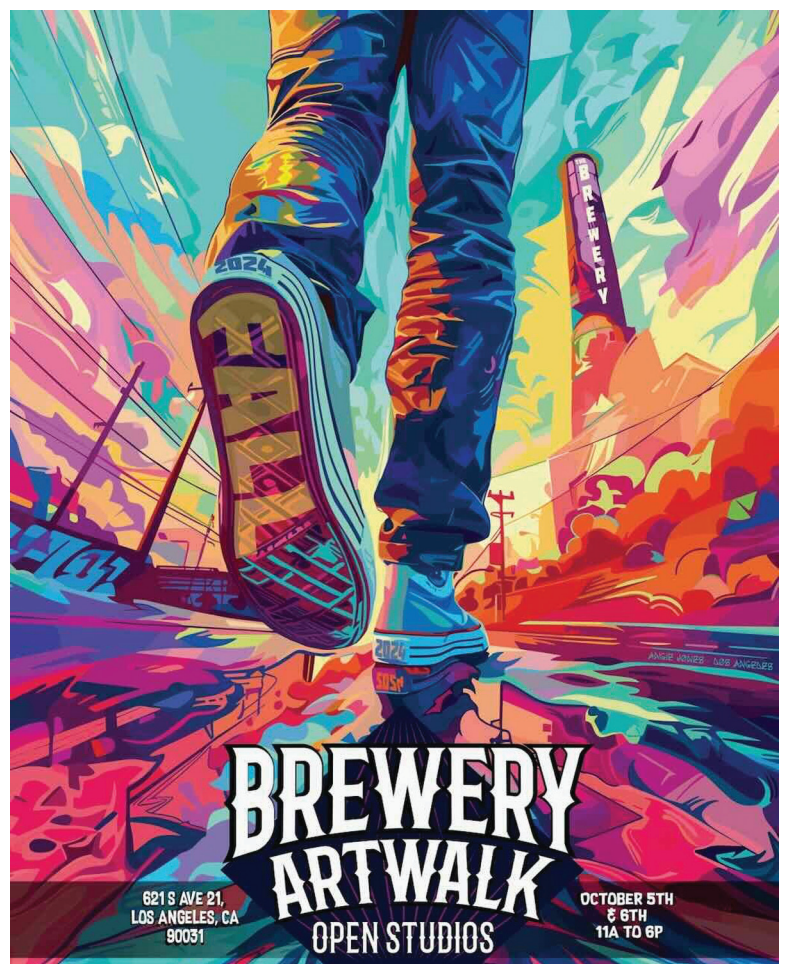
Predictably, Portantino

recently voted for Assembly Bill 1840 that would have provided \$150,000 in financial assistance to undocumented immigrants in the market for a home. Fortunately, Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed the measure, citing the deficit.

Ironically, the senator wants the undocumented class of immigrants to join the unprotected class of homeowners, all targets for Proposition 5, the ballot measure that would reduce the threshold for parcel taxes from a two-thirds majority to a simple majority.

Another assault on Proposition 13.

Les Hammer
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2024

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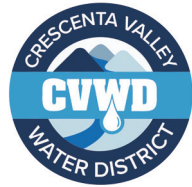
Spooky Season is coming up fast. Are you decorating the outside of your house or business?

Send us your address to be included in the CV Weekly self-guided tour! From October 31st – November 3rd, families will be driving past identified houses that have been decorated for Halloween. **Email HollyWeen@cvweekly.com** to be part of this frighteningly fun annual event. Prizes awarded in a variety of categories; prizes donated by the Arcave Room, Divina Cucina and more to be announced.

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YOUTH

CVWD Announces Winner in Essay Contest

Recently, the Crescenta Valley Water District held a science fiction writing contest for middle and high school students that focused on life without water. Below is the winning submittal by Nicolas Dermardirosian.

CVWD is also hosting Imagine A Day Without Water on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Judy Tejada Reservoir, located in the 4700 block of Rosemont Avenue.

The Last Orange Tree

By Nicolas DERMARDIROSIAN

River picked off the leaves with black spots. He hoped that meant it wouldn't be able to spread. The small tree sat in a pot outside of the grocery store that River had been living in for a few months. It sat next to one of the last solar panels in the valley.

The sun was harsh on human skin, but was an important source of energy for the young orange tree and the panel.

While most valuables and products were stripped at the beginning of the water crisis, some usable canned food remained. Most ran to the coast in hopes of distilling salt water. They failed to consider that distilling is expensive and inefficient, especially at large scales. The mass exodus of people to beach towns only led to the Santa Monica Distilling crisis. River didn't know though. He still had an old radio, but the music never stopped for news. River was sure that he was the last person left in La Crescenta. [He] had not seen anyone else in months.

River was able to continue on by using a makeshift atmospheric water generator that he made in college before the crisis. While it supported River and his tree, [atmospheric water generators] were unable to be mass-produced at the scale needed to stop the water crisis. Still, each year more moisture left the atmosphere and eventually the yields would not sustain them.

Even without that, the solar panel powering it would need maintenance that River was unable to provide. That was a problem for later.

Despite most human-operated radio stations going down, automatic stations continued on – endless playlists of song after song. Even though hundreds of different songs played each day, when River went over to turn it on, he recognized the song. It was called "Rivers in the Desert," though he never knew the name of it. He just thought it sounded nice.

There wasn't much for him to do alone there, but he wanted to do at least something productive. River decided to try to find some old textbooks in the high school, hoping that he could learn something useful. While all of the electronics were long gone, some of the old physical textbooks were probably still in storage in case of a power outage. Those happened a lot leading up to the crisis.

The sun beat down upon him but he tried to stay in the shade. It was his old high school so he knew the area, but it still took a few hours. Most of the greenery was dead but a few bushes and trees remained using what little ground water they had. Although the building was in some level of disrepair, it was the same high school that he remembered. A mural of a blue falcon remained intact as it was out of the sun. It was a peregrine falcon, a species lucky enough to be able to survive in both warm and cold climates. Most of them migrated to the arctic as water began to dry up, using the ice as a source of freshwater.

Ironically, the once desolate continent of Antarctica was now the most prosperous area of life on the planet. Scientists refused to allow governments to melt and steal frozen freshwater due to the adverse effect on the climate. As a result of that decision, countless lives were lost – in the short-term at least.

River used a small flashlight he had bought at a hardware store a few years earlier. He still knew his way around the hallways and started looking through classrooms to see if he could find anything. As he entered one classroom and shut the door behind him, he heard what sounded like footsteps in the hallway. Finding nothing inside, he cautiously reopened the door and looked around, but nothing was there.

River continued on in the hallway, checking each classroom for textbooks or anything else he could use, but they were mostly empty. When he reached the end of the hallway, he found a door ajar. It had steps leading down into what looked like a basement. River walked down as quietly as he could, worried that there could be someone there.

The basement was cool and there were shelves full of all sorts of antique objects: personal computers, laptops and textbooks. River grabbed a few that looked interesting and began to leave. As he walked back up the stairs he saw something scurry beneath him, and [he] jumped in shock. He fell on his back and pointed his flashlight to see that it was just a ground squirrel. Like the remaining flora, the ground squirrels survived off the small amounts of underground moisture. This one must have

Registration Open for LACoFD and Women's Fire League Girls' Fire Camp

The County of Los Angeles Fire Dept. (LACoFD), in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Women's Fire League (WFL), will host the 10th Girls' Fire Camp on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the LACoFD Cecil R. Gehr Memorial Combat Training Center, 1320 N. Eastern Ave., Los Angeles.

The Girls' Fire Camp offers all youth, 9 to 17 years of age, an opportunity to participate in a full day of engaging activities with firefighters, lifeguards, dispatchers and professional staff. This day-long camp is designed to empower and inspire youth to learn firefighting skills and techniques, gain familiarity and experience with essential equipment and tools, and introduce them to a wide-range of career pathways and community engagement programs.

Participants will enjoy a full day of activities,

including:

- A light exercise and workout activity
- Equipment demonstrations
- Information and access to open career opportunities and youth programs
- Discussion groups with various public safety professionals

Beyond skill-building exercises, this camp fosters leadership, teamwork and perseverance while providing youth participants a firsthand look into the vital role that LACoFD first responders play in serving the community.

Spots are limited. For more information and to register for the 10th Girls' Fire Camp, please contact the LACoFD Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Recruitment Unit at (310) 419-2115 or email fire-recruitment@fire.lacounty.gov.

Semifinalists Announced in the 2025 National Merit[®] Scholarship Program

Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC[®]) announced the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit

Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship[®] award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

About 95% of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar[®] title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 280 business organizations, higher education institutions and individual donors that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Among those selected are from Flintridge Preparatory School: Bassuk, Clara; Belzer, Kai; Fong, Elise; Geller, Michelle; Liorsdottir, Steinunn; Sue, Gregory; Waldheim, Chase; Zhong, Sophia. From La Cañada High School: Hwang, Colin; Kim, Eliya; Kronson, Gabriel; Petropoulos, Zoe; Street, Samuel; Thornburgh, Kaylee; Wei, Aidan. From St. Francis High School: Stephens, Christopher J. From Clark Magnet High School: Zufelt, Xander. From Crescenta Valley High School: Hamkins, Easan; Kim, Aiden; Ma, Garrison

MacMillan, Alex; Mansukhani, Jamie; Zou, Lily. From Village Christian High School: Kim, Cecillia. From Verdugo Hills High School: Avanesian, Airin.

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Community Center Celebrates 75 Years



By Ruth SOWBY

The joint was jumpin' at the 75th birthday of the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge on Saturday, Sept. 21. The nonprofit organization was established in 1948. Its building was built by volunteers between 1949 and 1951.

The evening, held in the Center's auditorium, was "a tribute to staff, instructors, board members and volunteers," said Center Executive Director Betsy Ferguson. Some 200 guests, decked out in semi-formal wear, enjoyed music from the Laurel Canyon

Band, a throwback to the 70s band 3 Dog Night.

Dinner was casual – a sort of giant charcuterie board of cheeses, nuts, olives, meats, vegetables and fruit. Hors d'oeuvres were passed by caterers. Libations from an open bar with signature cocktails added to the festivities.

The party included a slideshow of highlights from the Center's last eight decades. There was also an auction of original artwork by former La Cañada Flintridge resident Kay Snodgrass.

The Center provides programs and services for all ages in the Crescent-Cañada Foothills area.

Photos by Ruth SOWBY

TOP LEFT: The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge held its 75th anniversary on the night of Saturday, Sept. 21. Enjoying the lively evening are (from left) board president Georgina Fernandez, executive director Betsy Ferguson and board past president Michael Leininger.

MIDDLE: La Cañada resident and Kiwanis member Insook Park helps herself to the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge buffet at the 75th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Sept. 21.

TOP RIGHT: The Laurel Canyon Band entertained guests at the 75th anniversary of the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge.

RIGHT: Glendale residents Deb Jordan, left, and Nance Ozzimo are all smiles at the Community Center's 75th anniversary party in La Cañada Flintridge.



Fall Brewery Artwalk – Oct. 5 - 6

For those looking for something fun and different to do, the Brewery Artwalk is holding its fall Artwalk on Oct. 5 and Oct. 6 with two days of open studios on Main Street in Lincoln Heights, just east of the LA River. This free event is for everyone, from families to first time buyers, collectors to curators, experienced art denizens to young kids experiencing the art world for the first time.

A venerable institution, the Brewery Artwalk is in its 41st year of welcoming the public to

this twice-yearly event. It is a unique opportunity to explore the campus – a fascinating jumble of former industrial buildings that were once home to East Side Tap Brewery, and later Pabst Blue Ribbon, now home to hundreds of artists and creatives, many of who will be opening their studios during the weekend.

Visitors will find nearly every discipline represented and the pleasure of meeting the artists in their studio. Start collecting art with a connection to the person who made it, and collectors will

have a story to go with the artwork that adds meaning to the experience ... and memories of the visit.

There will be a beer garden in the middle of the complex with a menu of easy to eat on-the-go food, plus an array of food trucks on Avenue 21. Free parking is available at the UPS facility on Moulton Avenue.

Open Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 621 S. Avenue 21, LA 90031. Message line: (323) 638-9382. www.breweryartwalk.com

Taleen Barsoumian Elected President of The Glendale Historical Society

Taleen Barsoumian, along with Nancy Oshima, V.P. Outreach & Events,

Tricia Loper, V.P. Membership, Kathryn Engel, treasurer and Katherine Peters Yamada, secretary, has been elected president of The Glendale Historical Society for the 2024-25 year. She succeeds John Schwab-Sims, who has led the organization since 2022. He and his family are wished the best in their new home in France.

Barsoumian is a native Angeleno who was raised in Glendale. For her preserving and restoring the city's historic landmarks is vital for fostering nostalgia and community identity. These landmarks are more than mere structures; they are the silent storytellers of local histories, embodying the aspirations, struggles and triumphs of those who came before.

Barsoumian's journey into the world of historic advocacy began when she and her husband made the decision to move to the Jewel City. Their home, a Spanish Colonial Revival, is listed as a contributor to the first historic district designated in the City of Glendale. Shortly after joining TGHS, Barsoumian embraced the opportunity to become a docent at the Doctors House Museum. In this role, she discovered a platform to share her love for history with others. During her tours, she drew

compelling contrasts between the rudimentary practices of Victorian-era healthcare and the cutting-edge regenerative medicine therapies she works with professionally. This unique perspective not only educates her audience about the medical advancements that have taken place over time but also underscores the importance of understanding historical context in appreciating contemporary progress.

Formerly TGHS's board secretary, Barsoumian played a crucial role in advancing the society's mission of safeguarding Glendale's historic heritage. Her involvement in community events has been instrumental in fostering a sense of belonging among members and encouraging active participation in preservation efforts. A standout initiative was the recent member appreciation family event she spearheaded at Montrose Bowl, which celebrated TGHS members while promoting collective responsibility toward preserving Glendale's history. By creating opportunities for families to engage with their community's historic narrative, Barsoumian wishes to instill a sense of pride and ownership in local heritage.

Now, as the newly elected president of TGHS, Barsoumian is poised to lead the society into a new chapter of growth and see TALEEN on page 13

Finding trust in a changing world

What can we confidently depend on? Recognizing a loving, divine presence can bring the reliable stability and support needed for progress.

Saturday, September 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Birch Room at Descanso Gardens 1418 Descanso Dr. La Cañada Flintridge, CA

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



» TASTY TREATS

Kitchen Staple: Marinara Sauce

Marinara sauce is a versatile yet yummy sauce that can be used for everything from the foundation of pizzas and calzones to a succulent dipping sauce for garlic bread. With many of its ingredients found in a common kitchen, making a delicious marinara sauce isn't difficult, either. With the large quantity made by the following recipe, it's easy to plan to use some now and freeze the rest for future dishes.

Marinara Sauce

Yield: 9 Quarts

Ingredients

- 1 Large Onion, small dice
- 4 oz. Oil (2 oz. canola oil/ 2 oz. extra virgin olive oil)
- ¼ C Garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. Red pepper, crushed
- 1 C Tomato Paste
- 1½ C White Wine
- 1 – 10 lb. Can Ground Tomatoes
- 1 – 10 lb. Can San Marzano Tomatoes
- 2 Tbsp. Oregano, dried
- 2 Tbsp. Granulated garlic powder
- 2 Tbsp. Granulated onion powder
- ½ Tbsp. Basil, dried
- 2 Bunch Basil, fresh, chiffonade
- ¼ C Granulated sugar
- To Taste Salt and pepper
- As Needed Cornstarch slurry

5. Add 2 cans of tomatoes, including the liquid when cleaning out the cans, and continue to cook until warm throughout.
6. Once simmering, add in oregano, garlic powder, onion powder, dried basil and granulated sugar.
7. Stir in fresh chiffonade basil.
8. Season well with salt and pepper. Finish with a little cornstarch slurry.

Chef's Notes:

This recipe is simple and yet very flavorful. It is important to sweat the onions and to not caramelize them, otherwise your sauce will come out sweeter than usual. Once adding in the garlic and red pepper, deglaze with white wine within 30 seconds as to not caramelize the garlic either. The tomatoes are San Marzano and crushed whole tomatoes, each come in 10 pound cans. As the sauce comes to a simmer, season with spices. I personally use a little bit of a cornstarch slurry (cornstarch and water) to slightly thicken the sauce so it's not watery. The final step is to add a bunch of basil to the sauce and cool it down unless you use immediately in the dish.

Bon appétit!

Method of Preparation

1. Gather all ingredients and equipment.
2. In a large stockpot, sauté onion in oil until translucent (without any color). Once onions are soft, add in garlic and crushed red pepper.
3. Add tomato paste and incorporate it well.
4. Deglaze with white wine and reduce by half.

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!
Selling Income Property

Dear Phyllis,
My sister and I inherited four units across the street from where I live. I manage the units, and due to their proximity, the tenants often come to my home to deliver rent and sometimes just to complain. There is a lot of interaction between us. Shortly after my father passed, several tenants came over and asked if we planned to sell. Understandably, they are concerned because their rents are well below market.

My sister and I do want to sell the property. However, we're concerned about the potential disruption this may cause, given the low rents and our close relationship with these tenants. When selling income property, what is the best way to minimize the inconvenience for the tenants?

Dear Manny,
I understand that managing the property and living across the street puts you in an extremely uncomfortable situation. The tenants will likely come to your home with their concerns, and I understand that you want to minimize any additional conflict or contact. Some common ways of dealing with showings and offers exist when selling income property.

One method requires an accepted offer before the buyer can access the property. When marketing this way, there is often a renegotiation after the buyer views the property in person. Thus, the renegotiated price may no longer be acceptable to the seller. And you can go down a long line of "accepted offers" that don't result in opening escrow.

I understand your desire to minimize disruption to the tenants. It's best to try to placate

the tenants, as uncooperative tenants can be a bigger problem. When I list income property, I market it a bit differently. I often obtain a professional floor plan, photographs, and a pre-inspection. When marketing this way, we require that the buyer approve the inspection report and the disclosures, understanding that the seller is selling "as is." This method will prevent the window shoppers from requesting showing appointments, which results in less disruption to the tenants. You and your Realtor can then decide if you want to require an accepted offer before allowing access to the property.

Although you can minimize the disruptions experienced during this process, there is little you can do about rent and the inevitable rent increases.

Best regards,

Phyllis



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TALEEN from page 12

engagement. Her vision encompasses not only enhancing outreach programs but also expanding educational initiatives aimed at involving the youth in preservation efforts. By fostering a new generation of history enthusiasts, Barsoumian hopes to ensure that the stories of Glendale's past are preserved and honored for years to come.

In addition to the officers, other members of the board of directors for 2024-25 are Teal Metts, David Meunier, Michael Morgan and David VanTuyle.

Holding Out for a Hero?

Born in Los Angeles in 1993, the American Heroes Air Show has never wavered from the mission to educate Southern California about the unique capabilities that rotary-wing aviation (helicopters) delivers to law enforcement, fire service/EMS, public safety, national defense and homeland security. With helicopters on display from local, regional, state and federal/DOD agencies, the American Heroes Air Show provides families with a rare opportunity to meet the flight crews of these diversely capable aircraft and learn about careers in law enforcement, fire services, aviation/EMS, military and homeland security while getting a first-hand understanding about

why helicopters are often the first tool out of the toolbox in times of natural disasters, search & rescue operations or national security threats.

High-tech helicopters and their crews from around the region will be on static display for families to inspect. There will be exciting demonstrations of airborne capabilities with hoist rescues, precision water drops and special operations. Meet many of the Southland's well-known celebrity/media pilots and news reporters who are often first on-scene for traffic updates and breaking news.

The American Heroes Air Show is a free event and will be on Nov. 16 at the Hansen Dam Sports Complex in Lake View Terrace.

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Spiders and Boogeymen Found at Knott's Scary Farm

By Charly SHELTON

Knott's Scary Farm is the granddaddy of all haunt events in Southern California and this year, its 51st haunt season, continues the tradition of legendary mazes and spellbinding shows.

The 2024 season sees the introduction of two new mazes: "Eight Fingers Nine: The Boogeyman" and "Widows," both offering some of the most creative, intense, and immersive experiences at the event this year.

First up is "Eight Fingers Nine: The Boogeyman." This maze is set in an 18th-century colonial village haunted by a monstrous creature with an insatiable hunger for human flesh, starting with the fingers. The maze's theme gives some weight and folklore to its

boogeyman and from the moment you step inside you are transported to a world filled with dread and darkness. The atmosphere is one of constant tension, amplified by the maze's use of shadows – with the edge of the forest never far off, and the dark creatures that lurk there only a breath away. What makes "Eight Fingers Nine" stand out is its ability to tap into a very primal fear: sleep. Specifically sleep paralysis. The Boogeyman eats his victims slowly as they're frozen in sleep paralysis, awaking to find they're being devoured one finger at a time. Many of the maze designers obviously had sleep paralysis and have seen terrifying visions during the experience. They used these visions to not only guide the themes and design of the maze, but also to populate the maze walls with terrifying drawings of nightmares they've seen. This is

by far one of the best new mazes Knott's has created in recent years, and it was a highlight of my visit.

The other standout is "Widows," a maze that takes a more grounded horror and amplifies it. The premise is simple yet effective: guests walk through a decrepit nursing home that has been overrun by black widow spiders. What starts as an eerie exploration of an abandoned nursing home leads into the dark hiding spaces of legions of man-sized spiders. The maze is filled with incredibly detailed and grotesque scaractor masks and sets that make you feel like you're walking through an actual nightmare. The use of tight corridors, cobwebs and scareactors positioned to lunge at you from unexpected places keeps you on edge from start to finish. But honestly, it's the places where nothing jumps out that are the worst ... the dark corners that you know you have to walk through, where all you hear in the darkness is the skittering of eight nimble legs. That's the real tension of the maze. If you have even the slightest fear of spiders, this maze is going to haunt you long after you've left the park.

Outside of these two new mazes, Knott's Scary Farm offers returning fan favorites like "Wax Works," "Bloodline 1842," and "The Chilling Chambers," ensuring that there are a wide variety of experiences for both new and returning guests.

The park also continues to excel in creating immersive scare zones like Ghost Town Streets and The

Gore-ing 20s, where the fog rolls in thick and monsters lurk around every corner.

Overall, Knott's Scary Farm 2024 delivers in every way one would hope. With stellar new mazes, intense atmosphere and plenty of scares, it remains one of the top haunts in the country. Make sure to prioritize "Eight Fingers Nine" and "Widows" –they are not to be missed.

To see a full in-depth review of Knott's Scary Farm, as well as peeks inside each house and scare zone, scan the QR code attached to this story.

Knott's Scary Farm is on now on select nights through Nov. 2.

THEN & NOW

Avignone's
Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



THEN » In 1967 (when this shot was taken), the Top Hat was a popular dining and cocktail lounge located at 2321 Honolulu Ave. It specialized in Chinese dishes and in its advertising claimed to be "tops" for dining pleasure. Note the elaborate neon signage and logos. It must have been beautiful when lit up at night!



NOW » Avignone's occupies the 2321 Honolulu address now and its signage is much more subdued. Avignone's is a classic neighborhood bar and has been at this location for many years. True to the Montrose tradition of being a favored location for movie shoots, Avignone's served as the smoky bar where Robbie (Adam Sandler) goes to drown his sorrows in 1998's "The Wedding Singer."



‘Tokyo Cowboy’ is a La Crescenta Filmmaker’s Dream Comes True

By Jabe BELL

A La Crescenta-born filmmaker finally had his lifelong dream come true – and it can be watched right now.

For over 30 years, Marc Marriott has had the goal of bringing his vision to the big screen. “Tokyo Cowboy,” his debut film, is that vision.

In this tale, brash businessman Hideki attempts to transform a failing Montana cattle ranch into a profitable venture. But when his Japanese Wagyu-beef expert falters, Hideki is forced to realize that the missing element to success is not just in the land or the livestock – it’s within himself.

Marriott, the director, shared the making of his film and what it has been like to see his dream become reality.

Marriott attended the UCLA graduate program in film, which is what originally brought him to the LA area with his wife Lisa. Brigham Taylor, his producer, is also a La Crescenta resident. Interestingly, much of the film takes place in Japan and stars a Japanese character.

“I lived in Japan for two years when I was 19 years old as a volunteer missionary. I learned Japanese and the entire experience was very impactful for me. After that I was an apprentice to famed Japanese film director Yoji Yamada and I worked on a film with him in Japan,” said Marriott. “Around the same time, I noticed an article in a magazine about a real ranch in Montana that was owned by a Japanese company. The Japanese company was sending workers from Japan to the cattle ranch in Montana to learn ranching and they would become Japanese cowboys. I was really captured by this idea and thought it would be a great idea for a movie. That was over 30 years ago and the idea stayed in my head as I worked in television and documentaries over a long career.”

But like all good stories, “Tokyo Cowboy” has a moral or message for the audience to take away. To Marriott, his is the idea of unity and putting aside differences in favor of a common good.

“Essentially the film is about bridging divides between people and bringing people together,” he said. “It is about becoming connected to each other and to the land, and it shows us that we all have much more in common with one another than we have differences or divisions. This is a powerful idea that I think we all need right now.”

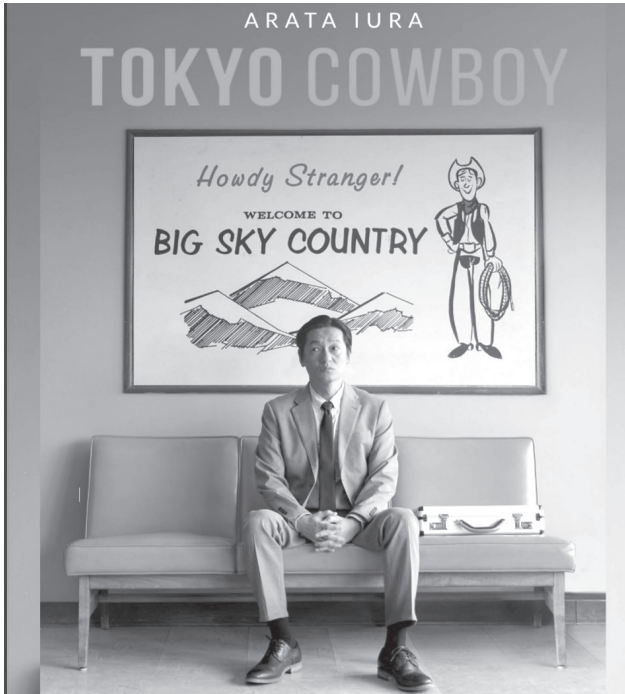
He also shared some harrowing details about the filming process of “Tokyo Cowboy.” It was a tight schedule, totaling 15 days in Montana and only four in Tokyo. During a shoot day at the Montana ranch it started to snow, causing the crew to move inside. Luckily, the weather eventually cooperated.

And Marriott is quick to claim that making the film couldn’t have been done alone.

“My family has been incredibly supportive and I’m very grateful for that. It can be a big sacrifice to take on a passion project like this and I didn’t take any salary to direct or produce the film, so financially it was a stretch,” he said. “I’m so glad and grateful to have had the chance to make this film. I’m also very grateful to the people who helped by investing in the film and making it possible to produce.”

In addition, Marriott’s son Alden, a college student and CV music graduate, was asked by Chad Cannon, the film’s composer, to write some songs for the movie’s soundtrack. Without family and community support, “Tokyo Cowboy” would never have been possible.

But questions surround what’s next for Marc



TOP: La Crescenta filmmaker Marc Marriott has brought his film “Tokyo Cowboy” to the big screen.

ABOVE: Hideki realizes that success is not where he expected it. BELOW: Fellow La Crescenta resident Brigham Taylor produced “Tokyo Cowboy.”



Marriott. According to him, he isn’t going anywhere just yet.

“I’m planning to direct many more films in the future ... The film has been embraced by so many people,” he said. “We were invited to over 25 film festivals and we won awards at many of them. The film has been playing for over two months in Japan and has been really embraced by Japanese audiences. Sometimes we hear comments from the Japanese audience that it feels like a film that was made by Japanese filmmakers, which is one of the highest compliments I think we can receive. We currently have a 90% rating from film critics on Rotten Tomatoes and a 97% rating from the Audience. That’s huge!”

“Tokyo Cowboy” can be seen now at AMC Burbank Town Center, or on demand in November.

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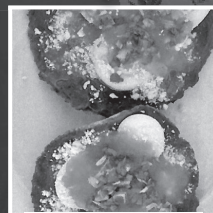
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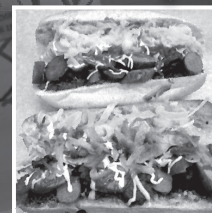
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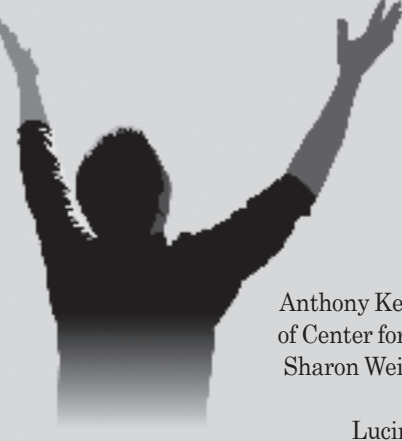
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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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 Anthony Kelson RScP, Laney Clevenger-White, RScP, and Rev. Dr. Beverly Craig of Center for Spiritual Living-La Crescenta; Rabbi Janet Bieber, Carolyn Young, Sharon Weisman; Rev. Mary Morgan, Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta
 Rev. Dabney Beck, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel;
 Lucinda Guarino, Rev. Karin Ellis, La Cañada 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. Sharri Johnson, One Heart Retreat Center; Larry Maib 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.

Question: Our nephew who recently graduated from college has a job here in California. His parents live in another state so he asked if he could stay with us until he gets his first paycheck. This has turned into the second and third paycheck. He still hasn't moved. Is there a gentle way of getting him to move without upsetting the apple cart?

—Loving Aunt

Dear Loving Aunt,
 The first steps out into the world as an independent young gentleman can be terrorizing. The certainty of a family connection in the face of an unknown life adventure (such as living independently on your own) can be a difficult final attachment to give up in light of the fear and uncertainty a leaving entails. But you are right: it is time for him to spread his wings and leave the family nest. So the question is, how to handle this? There are two ways: a pragmatic and a spiritual.

The pragmatic way is to sit

him down, acknowledge the uncertainty, fear and concern he might have being fully on his own and all the responsibilities that entails. But it is time to take that final step. You may wish to tell him that you were happy to assist him part way in that transition. But you feel your part in that, as an unintentional and unexpected landlord, must now come to an end if he is ever to hope to become a fully responsible and functioning adult. Be encouraging, supporting and reassuring that he can make it on his own. There will be challenges but like many other young people before him he will successfully meet them in spite of his fears and doubts. This, of course, is the hard solution. No one likes to have confrontations and face creating possible and unintentional family problems because of it. But taking a positive and supportive attitude, rather than a resentful one, should yield positive results.

The other solution is the spiritual one. I have often shared on here the

Ernest Holmes saying (Holmes is the author and founder the Science of Mind) that to change anything going on outside you (even when it involves another person) all you really need to do is to change your thinking, and the situation will change by itself. Why is this? For whatever odd reason there is, life reflects back to us what we think/feel/imagine into it. We can think/feel/imagine either fear thoughts or positive thoughts (life doesn't care), and life will deliver it or provide its perfect equivalent solution back to us. It's uncanny how this works when you finally begin to recognize it.

In this case, we can use affirmative prayer to manifest the solution you wish to see that is good for you and the young gentleman while at the same time avoiding the imagined risks of a confrontation and retaining family good will. Here is a brief affirmative prayer you can use to heal this situation

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/RELIGION

NOTES & NODS

Free Family Carnival at La Crescenta Presbyterian
 The community is invited to enjoy games, crafts, live music and more at a fall carnival hosted by La Crescenta Presbyterian Church this Saturday, Sept. 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission and all activities are free and food, including the In-N-Out truck, popcorn, snow cones and baked goods will be available for purchase.

Grandparents and parents are encouraged to bring their little ones and teens to the carnival, which will feature a bounce house, craft stations, game booths and a magic show by Hiccups the Dodger Clown.

Musical acts will include a barbershop quartet and the Scottish Fiddlers of Los Angeles, a group working to keep Scottish musical traditions thriving. In between acts, DJ Ryot will be on hand to keep the tunes spinning.

The fall carnival will be held in the parking lot of La Crescenta Presbyterian Church, 2902 Montrose Ave. For more information, go to lpcp.net/events or call (818) 249-6137.

Women's Nondenominational Bible Study
 Seasons of Life Bible Study offers three classes to choose from: Joy of Living will be studying "The Letters of John and the Gospel of Mark." Women of Faith will be studying "Minor Prophets" and "Living a Purposeful Life." This year, a Women's Coffee Club will be offered along with "Ribbons of Renewal" discussing daily struggles with the stress and anxiety of life.

Studies meet on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 26 and continuing through April 14, 2025 at Highlands Church (4441 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta).

If interested, contact Lynda Hessick at (818) 640-6022 or email lyndahessick@gmail.com.

Mt. Olive Offers Community Breakfast Bible Study
 Mt. Olive Lutheran Church reminds the public that all are invited to its monthly breakfast Bible study at Panera Bread Restaurant, 990 Town Center Dr., Suite A in La Cañada on the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. The Book of Ephesians is currently being studied.

A weekly Bible study is held at the church on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

All are invited.

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

Walk and Word
 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 Sept. 29. 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.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/RELIGION

Center for Spiritual Living Announces The Eclectic Mini Marketplace
 The Center for Spiritual Living will be having an event on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring artisans, vintage, antique and collectibles sellers and intuitive readers. As a special treat there will also be a sound bath healing practitioner.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Admission is free to the public. Parking is available on the lower level for the general public.

For more information please contact: Myrna at earthcreationsbym@aol.com.

The Center for Spiritual Living is located at 4845 Dunsmore Ave. (at the corner of Santa Carlotta Ave.) in La Crescenta.

JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. The club will be dark on Sept. 27 due to the previous night's installation of new president Carl Povilaitis.

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.

ANNUAL BIG STRIKE AUCTION

The annual Big Strike Auction supporting Scouting America takes place at the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 6-9 p.m. The Big Strike Auction will feature unique items up for bid, plenty of food, and lively company—all in support of a cause that directly benefits the youth in the local community. Cathy Zappala will be honored with the North Star Award during the program, which recognizes above and beyond service by an individual not registered in Scouting.

The community's participation, whether through attending, bidding,

or sponsoring, is crucial in helping to continue the important work of Scouting.

For more information, including registering to attend, immediately contact Laura Clay at (818) 243-6282.

DANCING AS EXERCISE

Dancing As Exercise is a free ongoing weekly event sponsored by the Los Angeles County Park program for seniors (50 plus) as a form of staying healthy.

There is live music every Friday (note new day) from 10 a.m. to noon in the Park's building at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

Light refreshments and water are provided along with socialization and information about other park activities.

Dancing, per se, is not required; single persons are welcome.

HISTORIAN MIKE LAWLER TO PRESENT AT LCWC

The community is invited to join the La Crescenta Woman's Club at its Oct. 9 meeting, which starts at 10 a.m. followed by the program and (free) lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Get into the Halloween spirit with spooky stories from local historian Mike Lawler when he presents "Creepy Crescenta Valley." From speakeasys to haunted mansions, from murders to mysteries, Lawler knows it all and will answer questions as well.

For reservations, call Betsy Mortimer (818) 249-9403.

CANASTA IS CALLING

Canasta – an activity that will brighten your day with fun and relaxation. Those who have not played before – don't worry; you will be taught! Come on Tuesday afternoons to play canasta from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Montrose Library, 2465 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose (818) 548-2048.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES

The community is invited to the Bolton Hall Museum at 1 p.m. on Oct. 12 participants will "travel around the world" in little more than one hour via a goodly number of 19th century stereoscopes that will be circulated through the audience.

The conductor for this whirlwind

trip is Sunland-Tujunga's History Hunter Craig Durst. Durst's collection of stereoscopes and hand selected stereo cards will be the vehicle for this trip Around the World in 80 Minutes. His history programs are always entertaining and enlightening.

This event is free and open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Bolton Hall Museum, home of Little Landers Historical Society, is located at 10110 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga.

Additional information is available from Little Landers Historical Society, (818) 352-3420 or BoltonHall.org or email llhs@boltonhall.org.

CCLCF HAS SEVERAL EVENTS

Fall registration for classes at the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge continues. Fall registration II opened Sept. 18 (session dates are Oct. 21 to Dec. 14).

Early bird registration takes place through Sept. 30 for the Thanksgiving Day Run and Food Drive. Adults are \$30 and children are \$15.

Senior activities include MUSE/

IQUE Encounters, Bingo & Brunch. Artwork auction on Sunday, Oct. 27.

Visit the CCLCF website at cclcf.org or call (818) 790-4353.

WEST COAST SONGWRITERS CONFERENCE

The charitable organization West Coast Songwriters is having its 44th annual conference sponsored by the DISCO Music Management Platform on Sept 27 from 4 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., Sept 28 from 9 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. and Sept 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is being held at the Los Angeles College of Music, 300 S. Fair Oaks Ave. in Pasadena. <https://lacm.edu/>

The cost for tickets and registration is \$300. To purchase, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3x7z3njs>.

For more info, visit <https://westcoastsongwriters.org/conference/>.

This event will bring together aspiring songwriters and music industry professionals for a weekend of education, creativity and networking. The conference is open to the public.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/JUST FOR FUN

ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com September 16, 2024 - September 22, 2024

♈ ARIES March 21 - April 19
Make sure you're getting enough sleep and not spending the hours when you're supposed to be resting thinking about all your problems. You seem to be as busy at night as you are during the day, and this is going to take its toll. If you have trouble relaxing, try meditating or doing yoga in the evening to help you wind down.

♉ TAURUS April 20 - May 20
This period is perfect for joining an exercise class that enables you to make friends and get the support you need. You don't have to stick to just one. You can join several - one for each health issue. Discussing problems with others and sharing advice will help you succeed in your quest.

♊ GEMINI May 21 - June 20
Get expert help and advice with your workouts and health routine by hiring a personal trainer. He or she will be able to tailor a program to your needs and encourage you during the times when you feel like giving up. If you've found it hard to know what to do in order to reach your fitness potential, this could be the answer.

♋ CANCER June 21 - July 22
You're being encouraged by the cosmos to get your partner to join your daily fitness routine. The more the merrier. It will give you a chance to spend some quality time together while eating the same things and maintaining a similar routine. You can cheer each other on in the process.

♌ LEO July 23 - August 22
After all your hard work, you may wonder what happened to your discipline. Has it flown out the window? Hopefully, you're still doing your workouts and eating in such a way to maintain fabulous health. Don't let complacency overtake you and encourage you back down that slippery slope. If you have a fit body, do what it takes to keep it that way.

♍ VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22
Continue to pace yourself as far as your health and well-being are concerned. You may put too much pressure on yourself to lose weight or get into shape quickly. It's better if you go slowly. Take it all one day at a time and persevere rather than burn yourself out. If you're able to develop a daily discipline, it will stand you in good stead.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You have a fabulous opportunity now to make a fresh start with your health. Whether you want to move to a new level of commitment or get back on track, this is the time to go for it. You'll be more likely to stick with it. Watch out for the tendency to overindulge, as this could ruin all your hard work.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Don't be surprised if you feel a natural urge to get moving, especially if you've been lax lately. You may find it easier to stay the course if you find a way to exercise and be healthy that has a philosophy attached to it, such as tai chi or yoga. The combination may make it more meaningful for you.

♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
This is the perfect time to make some lifestyle changes. If you want to create a home gym, make the space. If you want to spend more time in the garden, try growing your own vegetables. Think about your kitchen and what you can do to it that will make it easier to prepare more healthful meals.

♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Now you face a time of serious changes. Aspects affect your career sector, making it doubly important to dream big and keep your eyes open for anything that seems too good to be true. Chances are it is. But don't let that stop you from striving for what you want regarding money. You're the favorite now. Make it pay off.

♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
You'll need to pace yourself and make sure that you look after your health more than ever now. You may have big plans and projects going on, and these may be impacted if you don't feel your best. As you make plans to achieve your goals, you'll also want to work on a diet and exercise routine that helps you accomplish them.

♓ PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20
You have the opportunity to make a fresh start in whatever area of life you choose, including your health and well-being. Use this chance to begin a diet, get back on track if you've recently gotten off, and begin those regular workouts. It's also a good time to do a short detox.

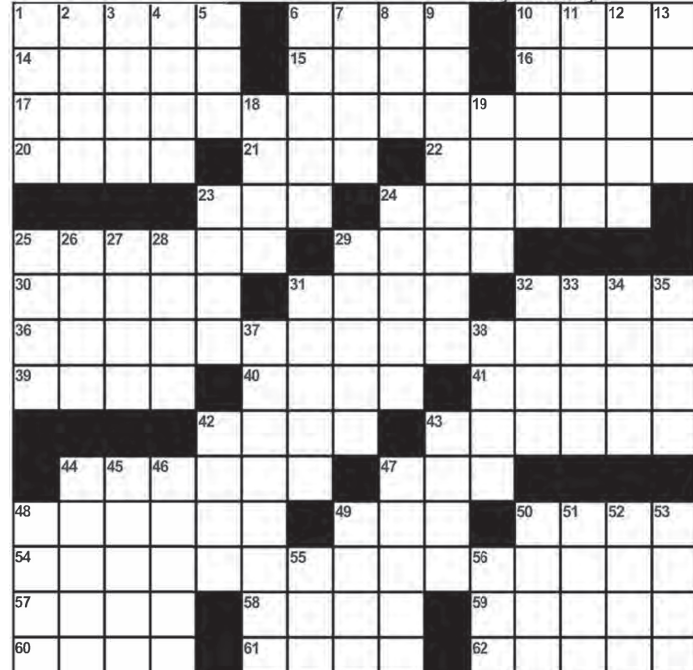
ACROSS

- 1) On one's toes
- 6) Developer's map
- 10) Hard knocks upside the head
- 14) Unusual collectible?
- 15) Grain holder on a farm
- 16) Assortment of stuff
- 17) Reward for an outstanding investor
- 20) Con
- 21) Color subtlety
- 22) Societal no-nos
- 23) Disobeyed a zoo sign?
- 24) Most like King Solomon
- 25) Flowering ornamental shrub
- 29) Exclusive
- 30) Break one of the Ten Commandments
- 31) Lass
- 32) Chickens and ducks, e.g.
- 36) Transportation choice in Chicago
- 39) Dress in India
- 40) Have confidence in (with "on")
- 41) Tractor handle?
- 42) Bulk beer purchase
- 43) Mixes smoothly
- 44) Certain iron, in golf
- 47) Sauce variety
- 48) Caterpillar case
- 49) "Eureka!" relative
- 50) On the briny
- 54) Privilege for some producers
- 57) Italian money of old
- 58) ___ out a living (barely scraped by)
- 59) Certain meat cut
- 60) "All in the Family" producer Norman
- 61) Addition column
- 62) Moms' relatives?

DOWN

- 1) Tablet brand
- 2) Hilo feast
- 3) Blows it
- 4) Irritate
- 5) Part of a Happy Meal
- 6) Prefix meaning "false"
- 7) Dietary, in ads
- 8) Late rhyming boxing champ
- 9) Mexican snack
- 10) Frigid, molded dessert
- 11) Unnatural bread spreads
- 12) Burgundy grape
- 13) Drunkards
- 18) Perlman of "Cheers"
- 19) "___ on Down the Road"
- 23) Greek cheese
- 24) Fret
- 25) Air force heroes
- 26) "J'accuse" author
- 27) Affirm
- 28) Jeans name
- 29) Emulate a crab
- 31) "Silly" birds
- 32) Hightail it
- 33) "A Prayer for ___ Meany"
- 34) Mr. Cleaver of classic TV
- 35) Caustic cleaning supplies
- 37) Thing on an HO scale
- 38) One way to stand by
- 42) Chinese dynasty during Confucius' time (var.)
- 43) Crude dude
- 44) Daring
- 45) Ghana capital
- 46) Kind of battery
- 47) Place for rakes and shovels
- 48) Kind of phone
- 49) Baker's necessity
- 50) Eastern pooh-bah
- 51) Con artist's operation
- 52) Volcano in Sicily
- 53) Tries to get an answer
- 55) Eisenhower's nickname
- 56) "Catholic" ending

VISITING THE ER By Timothy E. Parker



see ANSWERS on page 6

Can you help me restore the 654 product reviews Amazon has deleted?

Amazon has removed all of Susan Deonier's product reviews from the platform, but it won't say why. Is there any way to get these comments restored?

Question: I recently received an abrupt robotic removal of hundreds of customer reviews I've posted on Amazon since 2018. I've also been blocked from posting new reviews.

Amazon did not give me a specific reason for this action and I've received no response to my respectful inquiries from any human at Amazon, including two letters I sent to the Amazon executives you list on your consumer advocacy site.

My detailed, voluntary reviews consumed more than 1,300 hours of my time. If any of my customer reviews have somehow violated Amazon's community guidelines, I want to know what I did wrong. I also want the opportunity to rectify the situation by rewriting the offending reviews so my 654 deleted reviews can be restored, and I can resume posting helpful reviews of the items I purchase on Amazon. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

— Susan Deonier
Ontario, Oregon

Answer: At a minimum, Amazon should have told you why it deleted your reviews. But the company should also have a process for proving that you're a real person and getting your reviews reinstated and, based on this case, I'm not sure if it does.

Why would Amazon arbitrarily remove all 654 product reviews without giving you a reason? That's easy. Amazon is fighting a losing war against spammers and scammers who are trying to manipulate a product rating with bogus reviews. Your reviews must have triggered Amazon's fraud detection algorithm, which looks for the telltale sign of a manufactured review – things like the use of superlatives or granting too many one-star or five-star reviews.

Once Amazon suspected your reviews of not being completely genuine it cut off your account without debate.

"We have zero tolerance for fake reviews," it told you in an email. "Our advanced technology and expert investigators stop the vast majority of attempts to publish fake reviews. We also

take legal action against people and companies that buy and provide fake reviews."

All Amazon would say is that your reviews violated its community guidelines. It didn't say how.

I've seen this kind of thing before. A few years ago, Airbnb developed a system that screened its users for criminal records. Airbnb naively believed that it could simply ban these users without any appeal mechanism. They were wrong. The system had issues with false positives and tagging people who were accused, but not convicted, of minor crimes. Airbnb had to create a system to vet requests to reinstate their accounts, and it's still far from perfect.

It's possible that Amazon is in a similar situation. Then again, with the use of artificial

intelligence increasing every day, it's possible that the current system for vetting consumer reviews is hopelessly confused. Maybe it can't tell a fake review from a real one. It apparently couldn't in your case.

But the problem isn't that Amazon is screening its product reviews. It is and it should. The problem is that it didn't respond to your repeated requests to review your account. You put a lot of time and effort into reviewing these products and you didn't even get paid for your work. Having Amazon cut you off like this feels insulting.

I publish the names of the Amazon executives on my consumer advocacy, Elliott.org. You could have continued escalating your requests until someone responded. But

honestly, it should have never come to that and Amazon can do better.

I contacted Amazon on your behalf. A few days later, Amazon restored your reviews without explanation.

"You accomplished in five days what I was unable to achieve during five months of fruitless attempts to get a response from anyone at Amazon," you told me. "I am impressed and very grateful to you!"

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/>. © 2024 Christopher Elliott

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Info for the Bob Smith Toyota/Crescenta Valley Chamber Smart-A-Thon Mixer, February 18, 2025!



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LEGALS & CLASSIFIEDS

LEGALS

NOTICE OF BUSINESS NAME

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT First Filing No. 2024178620 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CRESCENTA VALLEY FLOWERS, 2900 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214 LA COUNTY, Registered Owners: ZARUHI YEGIAZARYAN, 2900 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214. This business is being conducted by: an INDIVIDUAL. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: 8/2024. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct signed ZARUHI YEGIAZARYAN, Title: OWNER. NOTICE - A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Published Crescena Valley Weekly, September 19, 26, October 3, 4, 2024.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice US Storage Centers - La Crescenta located at 4454 Lowell Ave La Crescenta, CA 91214 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagecenters.com on 10/17/2024 at 10:00AM. Blaise Devitt; Rumina Khachomian; Eugine A Diaz; Jozeph Deravanesian; Chris Lee Carson; Vicente Morales Quiroz (2 units); Henry Runge (2 units); Jack Kiredjian. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. Published in the Crescena Valley Weekly September 26, 2024.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Montrose located at 3708 Clifton Place Montrose, CA 91020 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagecenters.com on 10/17/2024 at 10:00AM. Alexander Enrique Espinoza. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. Published in the Crescena Valley Weekly September 26, 2024.

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JUDY CHU from page 9

2022, which President Biden signed into law. This landmark legislation finally allows our veterans to receive benefits from the VA for 23 toxic exposure-related conditions, including those who have been previously denied benefits and care for burn pit exposure. It is the largest increase in veterans' health benefits in 30 years.

Since its passage, the PACT Act has been remarkably successful in getting veterans their much-

needed benefits, with over one million claims submitted with a 77% approval rate, including for nearly 900 of my constituents.

And for years, our region faced a lack of resources for our local veterans, which is why I fought so hard alongside veteran service organizations to bring a VA health clinic to my district. And in 2019, the San Gabriel Valley Community Based Outpatient Clinic opened its doors in Arcadia, finally giving local

veterans a close-by option for care. I also want to share that the East Los Angeles Vet Center was recently relocated to Monterey Park, which means our local veterans can receive counseling on benefits, employment, substance abuse issues and medical services. Together, these resource centers ensure that our local veterans can receive high-quality, well-rounded services in their own community.

I'm also thrilled to highlight

the recent opening of the Los Angeles Regional Veterans Business Outreach Center. Located at Long Beach City College, it will provide essential resources to veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs and small business owners. This is especially notable because, until this Center's opening, the closest Veterans Business Outreach Center to Los Angeles was two hours away in San Diego.

If you or a veteran you know

are encountering any issues with the VA, please don't hesitate to reach out to my District Office for assistance. My trained caseworkers and I will do everything we can to deliver for the brave men and women who risked everything in service to our country and to the families.

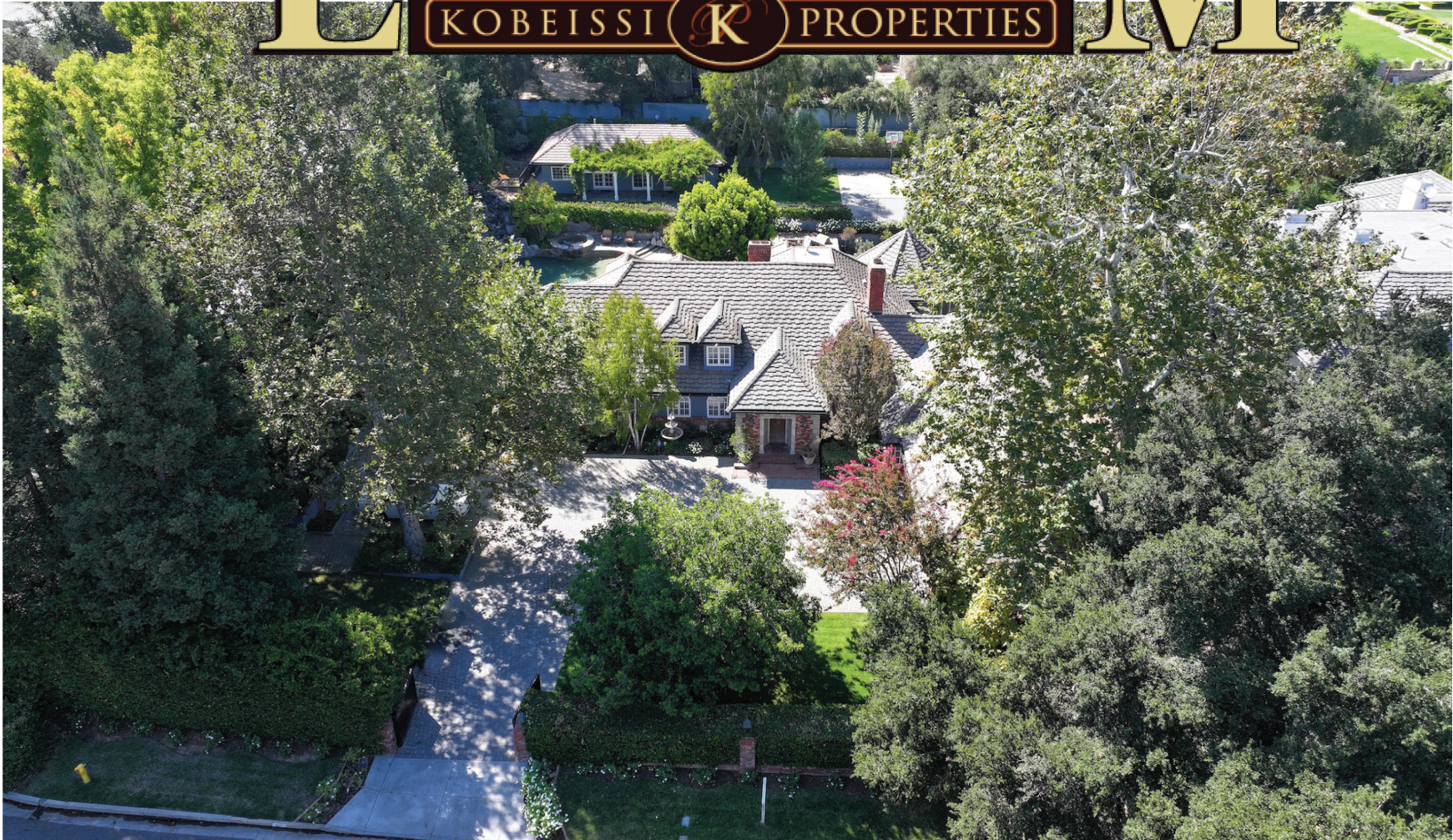
Judy Chu serves Congressional District 28, which includes Pasadena and the west San Gabriel Valley of Southern California.

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