



## Jimmy Carter Dies at Age 100

Former President Jimmy Carter, the nation's 39th President and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, passed away on Sunday at the age of 100. He was at his home in Plains, Georgia surrounded by his family.

Governor Gavin Newsom issued the following statement on the passing of former President Jimmy Carter:

"Jennifer and I join the country and the world in mourning the passing of President Jimmy Carter, a tireless champion for human rights and democracy whose unparalleled life of service made the world a better place.

"President Carter was a man of rare character – whose beliefs ran true and ran deep, whose moral compass never [waived]. He saw the common humanity in all of us, building bridges between people of different faiths and factions abroad while working to meet the needs of those at home. Despite daunting challenges and trying times, his bright energy and spirit never faltered.

"Service was more than a career for President Carter, it was a way of life. After leaving the White House, the Carters made it their mission to advance global peace and health through the Carter Center, improving countless lives over four decades of humanitarian efforts.

"President Carter's candor and compassion, moral leadership and sense of duty set a standard we all should aspire to. His enduring example reminds us that we can still find common ground despite our differences.

"Our hearts are with the Carter family, their loved ones and friends, and everyone grieving this great loss."

Former President Carter's official state funeral will be in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 9. President Joe Biden has declared Jan. 9 as a national day of mourning.

## Healthy Living 2025: Setting New Year's Resolutions

By Mary O'KEEFE

*We swear will keep them but most of us will let New Year's resolutions slip away as life gets in our way.*

We have the ancient Babylonians to thank for the tradition of making New Year's resolutions. It was about 4,000 years ago when ancient Babylonians made their New Year's resolutions. They were the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the New Year – though for them the year began in mid-March when crops were planted. They celebrated with a 12-day religious festival when a new king was crowned or they reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They promised to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed throughout the year. These promises are the forerunners



Photo courtesy of Church of Scientology Mission of the Foothills – Montrose. People participated in a 5K, hosted by the secular non-profit organization The Way to Happiness and sponsored by the Church of Scientology Mission of the Foothills in Montrose, to promote health and longevity.

of the present day New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept their word they believed their gods would bestow favor for the coming year; if not, they would fall out of favor with the gods, according to history.com. As with everything, there is a science behind making resolutions. Many of the resolutions made have to do with creating new habits or changing old ones.

see RESOLUTION on page 19

## ECS Works with Residents at Twelve Oaks to Relocate

By Mary O'KEEFE

As reported in CVW in August 2024, the iconic senior living center Twelve Oaks is shutting down for a complete reconstruction. For many in the community this brought up troubling memories of the past when Twelve Oaks was closed down by the then-management company, the be.group, which notified residents they had to vacate. Plans were underway for the sale of the property.

This segment of Twelve Oaks' history began in August 2013 when residents at the senior living facility were notified they had two months to vacate the site. At that point the future was unknown for the home to many seniors.

The be.group, the company formerly known as Southern California Presbyterian Homes, had taken over management of Twelve Oaks in 2002.



Photo by Mary O'KEEFE Reconstruction work will change the look of Twelve Oaks and cause residents to relocate during construction.

see TWELVE OAKS on page 9

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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

# Ugh – New Year’s Resolutions

Steve and I went to the Magic Castle with a couple of friends on Friday afternoon. At the end of his act the magician performing there – Rich Cowley – wished everyone a happy New Year and reminded all that the New Year is when we’re given a clean slate.

An exciting idea to be sure – throw out old ideas (and regrets) and start fresh. But I can’t easily throw out the resolutions of 2024 – after all, I’m still trying to lose weight (one of the most popular resolutions made every year along with adding exercise to one’s routine and improving eating habits).

The website KTSM.com offers some tips on how to keep those resolutions. Among others they include starting small and being realistic when making resolutions; thinking positively; focusing on goals; enlisting friends; being kind to oneself. (I think cutting back or eliminating alcohol altogether is on the list, too; however, if that includes wine I won’t be adding that resolution to my list.)

Keeping in mind the idea of having a clean slate, CV Weekly is excited to launch a month that focuses on health and fitness. In January we’ll shine a light on various areas including tips for seniors, kids and mental health and wellbeing. We’re excited to share information with our readers that will not only benefit them but raise awareness of those who may need some extra

attention. And as far as losing that extra weight? Well, pass me that chocolate cake and I’ll think about it...

Speaking of the New Year, as I write this the “big day” is a couple of days away. Like with Christmas, our deadlines here at the newspaper were pushed up considerably and I’m looking ahead to New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

At this point we don’t have any plans (big or small) for New Year’s Eve. A couple of years ago, Steve bought us tickets to a celebration at NOOR in Pasadena featuring one of our favorite bands, Past Action Heroes. We had such a good time and promised our table mates that we’d be back next year. Of course, we had no idea that COVID was just around the corner (we went to NOOR for New Year’s Eve 2019/2020) putting a halt to plans for the 2020/2021 New Year’s Eve celebration.

Though plans are “iffy” (at best) for this year’s New Year’s Eve, I plan on looking to the skies on the morning of New Year’s Day to see the B-2 stealth bomber as it makes its way to Pasadena to start off the Tournament of Roses Parade and Rose Bowl. A definite treat to see.

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

» WEATHER WATCH

## Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O’KEEE

On Sunday former President Jimmy Carter passed away at the age of 100. As I have stated before I had met Mr. Carter and his wife a few times while I lived in Iowa during the 1976 Iowa caucus. He was running for the Presidency at the time. He was kind and thoughtful and actually listened to all of us, from teenagers to farmers. Later, after he left office, I volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, an organization he championed and was a boots-on-the-ground volunteer.

President Carter was before his time when it came to the environment and even put solar-thermal panels on the White House.

“The White House itself once harvested the power of the sun. On June 20, 1979 the Carter Administration installed 32 panels designed to harvest the sun’s rays and use them to heat water,” according to the 2010 Scientific American article “Where did the Carter White House’s Solar Panels Go?”

At the time, he predicted, “In the year 2000 this solar water heater behind me, which is being dedicated today, will still be here supplying cheap, efficient energy ... A generation from now, this solar heater can either be a curiosity, a museum piece, an example of a road not taken or it can be just a small part of one of the greatest and most exciting adventures ever undertaken by the American people.”

But under the Reagan Administration the panels were removed during a roof repair.

In 2023, about 4,178 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) (or about 4.18 trillion kWh) of electricity were generated at utility-scale electricity generation facilities in the United States. About 60% of this electricity generation was from fossil fuels – coal, natural gas, petroleum and other gases. About 19% was from nuclear energy, and about 21% was from renewable energy source s... Of that 0.1% came from thermal solar, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Imagine what our energy independence would be now if only former President Carter’s vision was completed ... and expanded on. China is now the world’s top producer of solar panels capturing about 80% of global production.

I think one of the things as a teen that drew me to former President Carter was his faith. We may not have seen Christianity exactly the same but I admired his loyalty to his faith, and I agreed with a quote he gave to a reporter interviewing him about a book he had just completed. He said, “To me, faith is not just a noun but also a verb.”

And he showed his devotion to his fellow humans in so many ways – even being awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize “for work to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights and to promote economic and social development,” according to thewhitehouse.gov.

And just a note:

“The year 2024 is on track to be the warmest year on record after an extended streak of exceptionally high monthly global mean temperatures,” according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The past 10 years are the warmest on record and ocean heat ANNE - THE ARTICLE STATES “HEAT” RATHER THAN “TEMPERATURE” continues to rise. The Antarctic sea level is the second lowest on record, glacier loss accelerates and extreme weather and climate events have led to massive economic and human losses, according to WMO.

So here’s hoping that in 2025 we can learn from the legacy of former President Carter and find compassion for others (and the Earth) and that we all practice our faith as a verb.

Although we started the week with weak Santa Ana winds, by today the winds should die down and temperatures will be in the mid-70s; however, temperatures are expected to cool as we head to the weekend where temps are expected to be in the high 60s. No rain in the forecast; it looks dry for the next two weeks.

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# NEWS

## Taking A Look at What Was: The Year in Review

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY and Mary O'KEEFE

Every year the CV Weekly takes time to look over some of the stories of the past year that made the Crescenta Valley and surrounding areas so interesting.

### January

La Cañada Flintridge Blooms at the Rose Parade

The 2024 Rose Parade, a bacchanal of floral beauty, creative design and plant-covered characters, once again captivated viewers with its botanical masterpieces when it rolled down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. Among the floats, the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association's entry "Flower Power" was notable not just for its tie-dye design and anthropomorphic flower musicians, but also for the community spirit it embodied. This year's float, part of a tradition dating back to 1978, was a culmination of thousands of volunteer hours, encapsulating the community's dedication to artistry and innovation.



Photo by Charly SHELTON  
La Cañada Flintridge  
Tournament of Roses Association's  
entry "Flower Power" won the  
Golden State Award and also  
invited guests to climb aboard.

of issues from social media to housing and what kids are taught in school.



Glendale Unified School District board of education at its Jan. 16 board meeting recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the contributions of Black students and community members.

As part of the recognitions, the board adopted Resolution No. 21, which recognized the rich culture, contributions and value of Black students and community members.

It was a surprise to many, to even some of its employees, that Rite Aid at 2647 W. Foothill Blvd. would be closing its doors.

A spokesperson from Rite Aid confirmed the last day it would be open was Jan. 15.



Several La Crescenta organizations held bingo fundraisers to support their numerous philanthropic outreach projects, including local activities and scholarship programs for students.

The construction of permanent stadium seating at Crescenta Valley High School

track and field has hit a glitch, delaying the project. The project was scheduled to be completed very near the June 5, 2024 graduation date but due to this delay there was a concern the commencement ceremony would not be held at the school. However, the CVHS administration has confirmed that graduation will be held on the home field.

The State Board of Education voted to deny Glendale Unified School District's appeal concerning the Sagebrush transfer. The board also voted to have only those households in the Sagebrush area vote on the transfer.

The California Science Center announced all systems were "go for stack" for the space shuttle Endeavour. According to its website, "Go For Stack is the complex process of moving and lifting each of the space shuttle components into place for Endeavour's upcoming 20-story vertical display in the future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, which is currently under construction." The fuel tank, which recently moved to the campus of the California Science Center, joined the pair of solid rocket boosters already erected in the scaffolding.

see YIR on page 4

### IN BRIEF

#### CVCA LOOKS AHEAD TO NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Crescenta Valley Community Association will be on Jan. 23. This first meeting of the year will be a combined meeting of Crescenta Highlands Neighborhood Association's annual meeting and the CVCA regular meeting.

Items of interest include: Chamlian Armenian School - Conditional Use Permit/Variance Appeal; Los Angeles County Outdoor Dining Ordinance - The Outdoor Dining Ordinance is now available for review. This Ordinance proposes amendments to Los Angeles County Code Title 22 - Planning and Zoning

that enhance outdoor dining experiences while prioritizing safety and minimizing impacts on neighborhoods. More info at <https://pw.lacounty.gov/core-service-areas/municipal-services/dine-out/>.

#### PERFORMANCE SERIES APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The application to the 2025 Performance Series for the City of Glendale is now open. Performance groups based in the Southern California region and made up of trios or larger are invited to apply for two performance series: the Brand Summer Music Series and the Jewel City Concert Series.

Performances for the Brand

Summer Music Series are scheduled for Fridays in summer 2025 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Each performance must be one (1) set of one hour and 30 minutes in duration. The ACC will fund selected performance groups a stipend of up to \$2,000 per performance.

Performances for the Jewel City Concert Series are scheduled for Saturdays in fall 2025 from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Each performance must be one (1) set of 60 minutes in duration. The ACC will fund selected performance groups a stipend of up to \$1,500 per performance.

Submit an application by the deadline of Jan. 31, 2025 at 5 p.m. PST.

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YIR from page 3



County Fire responded to a call in the 2000 block of Rancho Cañada in La Cañada. Smoke and fire showed upon arrival. One occupant was outside when deputies arrived, and informed them two others were in the house. Deputies spotted a woman at a window of the house and assisted her to safety through the window. Firefighters broke down the front door and found a man there who was unresponsive. Paramedics initiated advanced life support measures, including CPR and use of the Lucas device (mechanical CPR). Despite their ongoing efforts for about 30 minutes, the man succumbed to his injuries. The family dog also perished in the fire.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the Magic Johnson, was at Crescenta Valley High School at a girls and boys basketball game.

Johnson was there to give the athletes words of inspiration.

## February

The Supreme Court of California denied the petition for the review and de-publication request in the case of Snowball West Investments vs. City of Los Angeles.

This was a case that has gone from community meetings to the courts and finally ended with a decision by the Supreme Court of California in January. And it all had to do with an old golf course and community activists who wanted to protect the nearby hills from over development and fire risks.

The property that once housed the Verdugo Hills Golf Course had been in flux for almost two decades.



see YIR on page 5

## NOTES N NODS

### LCIF Welcomes Community

Lutheran Church in the Foothills holds a variety of events for the community.

Visit [lcifoothills.org](http://lcifoothills.org) for event details. The website includes information on small group events and opportunities to serve. For those needing pastoral care or other help, please email the church at [office@lcifoothills.org](mailto:office@lcifoothills.org) or call (818) 790-1951.

The church is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. In La Cañada Flintridge. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Mt. Olive Offers A Breakfast Bible Study & A Community Lunch

Mt. Olive invites the Crescenta Valley community to its monthly breakfast Bible study at Panera Bread Restaurant, 990 Town Center

Drive, Suite A in La Cañada on the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. They are currently in the Book of Second Corinthians. Also, a weekly Bible study is held at the church on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Lastly, Mt. Olive offers a community luncheon every second Wednesday through May. For a suggested minimum donation of \$5, a delicious lunch is offered including a brief uplifting devotion and some great entertainment provided by various local artists.

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

### 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

Jan. 12, 19 and 26. Participants will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

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

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

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



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Surrounding Areas



YIR from page 3

A Glendale police officer on patrol spotted a car in the parking lot of a local pharmacy in the 1400 block of East Colorado Street. The car had tinted windows and a piece of cardboard apparently placed intentionally to block the rear license plate. Paired with the knowledge of recent pharmacy burglaries, the officer quickly detained the two men until backup arrived.

Patrol officers who searched the vehicle found blades used to defeat security gates, ski masks and gloves. The driver also had a \$20,000 warrant out of the Los Angeles Police Dept.

Glendale police received a call regarding an assault with a deadly weapon in the 3300 block of Reta Street in La Crescenta. When they arrived they saw a person down but did not see the suspect. There was no gunfire but there was an assault with a deadly weapon.

The “critical incident” resulted in a shelter-in-place/lockdown at Dunsmore Elementary School, Valley View Elementary School and Clark Magnet High School.

The Glendale Police Dept. – Robbery and Homicide Bureau has filed a murder charge with a weapon enhancement with the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office on Monday against Vahan Keshishyan, 28, of La Crescenta.

Brisket, a GPD facility dog that was trained by Canine Companions, visited students at Jefferson Elementary School.



The Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office released the victim’s identity as Ordean Neva, 63. The cause of death was recorded as “multiple sharp injuries.”

Many employees at Jet Propulsion Laboratory waited to find out if they would be returning to their jobs or if they would be part of the over 500 who would be laid off.

JPL director Dr. Laurie Leshin sent an email on Tuesday to employees that announced the layoffs. She stated cuts would also include contractors. JPL works with outside contractors throughout the world on many of its missions.

## March

Construction was done at the former Faye’s building at the northeast corner of Ocean View Boulevard and Honolulu Avenue. The construction was unpermitted. Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian presented the information at a meeting of the Glendale City Council.

“I would like to know what transpired and what is happening with that so the public is aware of it as well,” Kassakhian said.

Roubik Golanian, Glendale city manager, said as soon as he was informed police officers were sent to the site to issue a stop work notice order.

There was work being done on the exterior of the building in addition to what appeared to be work on the interior as well. A permit had been applied for but it had yet to be approved, Golanian added.

Crescenta Valley Sheriff’s Station worked with Flintridge Preparatory School officials to determine the validity of the threat of a bomb on the La Cañada campus. The students were evacuated to a safe location.

After an extensive search for an explosive device/devices by deputies and school officials no devices were located.

LA County Supervisor for the 5th District incumbent Kathryn Barger won her third and final term on the LA County board of supervisors. Members of the board of supervisors are limited to three four-year terms. Barger, representing the largest district in the county, successfully defeated four challengers ensuring her position on the board of supervisors without the need for a November runoff.

A wind event that blew through the foothills caused several power outages, scattered debris and downed trees. Trees fell on, and near, houses including in the areas

of Irving Avenue and Ridgeline Drive in La Crescenta. There were also trees tossed well below Foothill Boulevard including one on La Crescenta Avenue at the La Crescenta Woman’s Club.



The Glendale Police Dept. (GPD) issued an advisory in response to residential burglaries.

Southern California saw a rise in residential burglaries over the last several months; however, the City of Glendale has seen a decline in burglaries since November (November 2023: 24 reported burglaries, December 2023: 19, January 2024: 19, February 2024: 18 and, through March 20, 8).

GPD proactively established the GPD Residential Burglary Taskforce. The task force is comprised of GPD patrol and motor officers, Special Enforcement Detail, detectives and undercover officers. To date, the taskforce has been responsible for a significant decrease in residential burglaries in Glendale and several arrests.

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Dept. was called to the 1900 block of Verdugo Boulevard to investigate a fatality after a man appeared to have jumped from the freeway overpass into the parking lot in the area.

There was a witness to the incident and a “passer-by” stopped to give aid to the victim until deputies arrived a short time after the initial call, according to Lt. Gonzalez, CV Sheriff’s Station.

Members of Friends of Rockhaven, the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and The Glendale Historical Society noticed how rain was ravaging the buildings at Rockhaven. Rockhaven appeared to be falling apart due to neglect, which led the Friends of Rockhaven to file a lawsuit in April 2023 alleging the City harmed the historical location via Demolition by Neglect.

“Demolition by Neglect” means the process in which the owner of a building or structure allows its ongoing deterioration over a period of time as a result of lack of maintenance, failure to secure it from pests or vandals, and/or failure to take reasonable measures to prevent ingress of water or wind through the roof, walls or apertures, leading to deterioration and/or structural failure constituting a threat to public health and safety,” according to the City of Glendale’s Municipal Code 15.20.020.

## April

LASD deputies responded to a two-vehicle traffic collision at the intersection of Alta Canyon and Descanso Drive.

It appears the collision caused a small fire in one of the vehicles that was quickly dealt with through the use of fire extinguishers.

Two people reported injuries and were transported to the hospital.

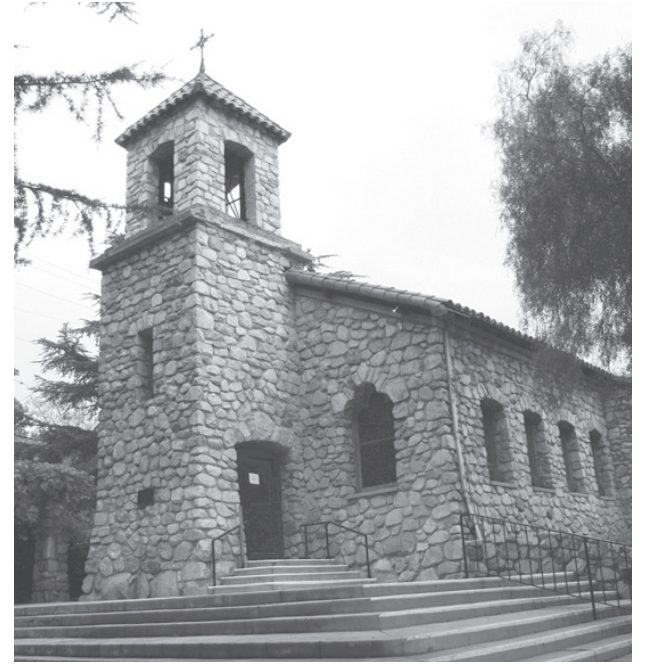
Glendale Police Dept. officers were on the lookout for those responsible for a vehicular hit-and-run death in Glendale in December 2023. In April, they arrested the alleged perpetrators, aged 14, 15 and 16, for felony murder. All three suspects were transported to the Glendale City Jail where they remain in custody.

The Glendale City Council selected Councilmember Elen Asatryan as the city’s next mayor by a vote of 3-2 at a packed, loud meeting from which at least a dozen people were thrown out for disruptive behavior.

The public was invited to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Luke’s of the

Mountains Episcopal Church, the “stone church,” at a kick off event.

The church’s cornerstone was placed on April 20, 1924 after an effort by the community, led by famous artist Seymour Thomas, to bring an Episcopal church to the Crescenta Valley.



The Glendale Unified School District Board of Education welcomed two newly elected members – Neda Farid and Telly Tse – and said goodbye to two longtime board members Nayiri Nahabedian and Jennifer Freemon.

A farewell reception was held in the community room of the Glendale Police Dept. for outgoing councilmember and former mayor Paula Devine.

see YIR on page 6

SOLUTION from page 15

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YIR from page 5

A woman whose body was found in a trash bin in Sunland was identified by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office as Heather Haas, 32.

The victim's body was found in the 8500 block of Wentworth Street in Sunland. The garbage bin was reportedly left on the side of the road and the body was inside a plastic bag.

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital held its annual Health Care Day of Discovery for 78 students from 11 local high schools, including Burbank High School, La Cañada High School and AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School. The goal of the event was to introduce students to and encourage them to learn more about careers in health care, including and beyond the traditional role of doctor or nurse.

## May

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Station – Crescenta Valley Station investigators concluded a threat toward La Cañada High School (LCHS) was not credible.

A call came into LCHS and the caller stated s/he was reportedly armed and would be on the campus. LCHS, along with nearby schools including St. Francis High School and others, were placed on lockdown.

Personnel from the sheriff stations of Crescenta Valley, Altadena and Temple City, along with California Highway Patrol, all responded. Deputies went through the school floor by floor to make certain there was no threat while anxious parents waited.

After a December 2023 ransomware cyber attack on GUSD, employees were again facing cyber attacks in the form of false tax filings.

"We were getting phone calls [from members] saying they were not able to file their tax returns. [Some] said someone else had filed in their name," GTA president Taline Arsenian said.

Longtime KTLA entertainment reporter Sam Rubin, 64, unexpectedly passed away. In the days that followed the KTLA family share tributes that came in locally and from around the world.

The 1600 block of Broadview Drive was closed as law enforcement investigated a possible explosive device that had been found in a home. The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) Bomb Squad responded. Evacuations were made in the area as the investigation continued.

The LASD Bomb Squad retrieved the explosive device, inspected it and deemed it inert. It [did] not pose a danger and the evacuation was lifted, according to a GPD spokesman.

A female driver reportedly drove into the front doors of See's Candy on Foothill Boulevard. No injuries were reported; however, as a precaution the driver was transported to a nearby hospital. The store remained closed as investigators reviewed the damage that was done to the structure of the building.

Attendees to a President's Circle reception at Glendale Community College had the chance to experience virtual reality via new technology that college offers. Guests were

escorted into a room outfitted with VR headsets and other materials, then transported to an "alien zoo," a colorful place where, using a joystick, they moved about to examine the inhabitants – some that appeared sickly. Attendees, which ranged in age from an 8-year-old to those over the age of 70, reacted positively – and excitedly – to the VR experience.

Glendale Police Dept. officers arrested four Colombian national burglary suspects in the Emerald Isle area of Glendale. The incident marks the second arrest in three weeks involving a Columbian in connection with transnational burglary operations, often called "burglary tourism."



After deeming a vehicle suspicious, a traffic stop was initiated by the sergeant and the car was searched. During the search officers allegedly found a video surveillance device with a battery pack charging system camouflaged with leaves. This evidence, combined with the finding of freshly disturbed dirt in a planter in the cul-de-sac, led Glendale detectives to believe that the suspects had strategically placed the camera in the planter. This method allowed them to create a sophisticated method to gain a view of residences and know when homeowners left, according to GPD.

Members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. (LASD) participated in the annual Memorial Torch Relay. This is a three-day run with 56 legs of the relay that covers over 300 miles. The run is a 49-year tradition by the LASD to honor LA County fallen brothers and sisters in the line of duty. The run is from the Hall of Administration to Altadena Sheriff's Station.

## June

Graduation and promotion ceremonies were held for many students in the Glendale Unified School District. It was a time for students that was sprinkled with the excitement of moving along the academic path that was mixed with a few melancholy moments for parents.

Local community organizers and activists gathered to celebrate, for the fourth consecutive year, LGBTQ+ Pride at Sunland Park.

The Montrose Arts & Crafts Festival hosted 242 vendors who took part in the two-day Festival that saw an estimated 40,000 people enjoying the event.

From food trucks to rides to information booths to merchants – the Hometown Country Fair has something for everyone.

## July

Reported in July, the LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation for the second year held a family friendly LGBTQ+ PRIDE (personal rights in defense and education) event at Crescenta Valley Park. In attendance were community members, a DJ, and members of local churches, local law enforcement and non-profit organizations distributing resources for LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors.

Several PRIDE flags and a banner was stolen from St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal church.



A 76-year-old pedestrian was stuck and killed by a suspected DUI driver in the area of Olive Avenue and Glenoaks Boulevard in Burbank. The driver a 64-year-old resident of Burbank was suspected of DUI.

The patriotic Sunland-Tujunga Fourth of July parade took an unexpected turn when a fight broke out between actor, author and restaurateur Danny Trejo and some parade audience members. Trejo had been invited by parade organizers as a special guest. The fight apparently began when an parade audience member threw a water balloon at Trejo and his vehicle as it passed by. Trejo got out of the vehicle and into the crowd. Trejo later said that he heard someone yell that the water balloon was acid. A statement released by Sunland-Tujunga Rotary, the parade organizers said, "...The unfortunate actions by a very small group of people, who chose to break parade rules and disrespect personal safety, incited an incident that caused harm to both parade spectators and participants, alike. ... We would like to apologize to both Mr. Trejo and his associates."

The Crescenta Valley Fireworks Association hosted its 17th annual event on July 4 at La Crescenta Elementary School. Normally the event is hosted at CV High School however this year the school's track and field was under construction.

The future of Rockhaven Sanitarium was the subject of a discussion at the Montrose-Crescenta Library. One of the subjects covered was what the project team had been looking at regarding the Pines Cottage to becoming a museum. The room was packed with concerned community members.

An assassination attempt was made against then presidential candidate Donald Trump. Lois Lee Brand Billings, president of the Glendale, Burbank, La Cañada, La Crescenta, Montrose, Sunland-Tujunga Republican Assembly stated: "Glendale-Burbank-Crescenta Valley Republican Assembly (GBRA) [prayed] for former President Trump, his family and the unfortunate victims and their families. We hope this tragic event serves to ameliorate rhetoric on all sides, and brings the country back to 'one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.'"



Susan Matrodemos of the Cañada Crescenta Democratic Club: "The Democratic Party does not condone violence as a form of political protest.

The summer had been hot, drying out vegetation and the City of Glendale called in the goats. Due to the heat, there was a lot more fuels and the vegetation was thick and dry in areas that had not burned in decades, said Patty Mundo, Glendale Fire Dept. environmental safety specialist. For the second time the City used goats from Ventura Brush Goats, to eat up to 30 acres of vegetation.

see YIR on page 7

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YIR from page 6

Kroger Company, which includes Ralphs supermarket, proposed a merger with Albertsons Companies, which includes Vons. The Federal Trade Commission had sued to block the proposed merger. The hearing began this month.

Glendale Unified School District announced an impasse in contract negotiations with Glendale Teacher's Association. Because an impasse was announced, an outside source, the California Public Employment Relations Board, had to work with both parties to come to a final decision.

Glendale police narcotics unit officers spoke about the threat of fentanyl as part of the speaker series hosted by CV Cares/ CV Substance Misuse Coalition.

Yellow sulfur crystals were found on Mars when the Curiosity Mars rover drove over rocks.

The Glendale Chamber of Commerce and WOW (Women of Wrestling) Television Enterprises, LLC announced a first-of-its kind alliance that brought eight worldwide televised live events to Glendale.



## August

Prom Plus held a meeting as new volunteers joined the board. Earlier in the year it was thought the 30-year-old organization would be ending due to lack of support however parents stepped up and Prom Plus will continue at Crescenta Valley High School.

Girl Scout Troop #1601 celebrated its last bridging from Ambassador rank to adults in a unique and memorable way – a trip to England, a trip that was a decade in the making. The troop used funds saved for over a decade of cookie sales.

School started with CVHS's track and field still under construction. The work of adding bleachers to the field was originally to be completed during the summer.

A recent discovery by the NASA Perseverance rover, which was built by and managed by JPL, brought scientists a little closer to that finding ancient life of Mars. A vein-filled rock showed "fascinating traits that may bear on the question of whether Mars was home to microscopic life in the distant past."

The annual CatCon was held at the Pasadena Convention Center. "CatCon is the biggest cat-centric, pop culture event in the world dedicated to all things feline, with a community of cat lovers that spans the globe. Inside the convention center two showrooms were filled with hundreds of booths full of cat products, cat merchandise, cat-themed games, cat-themed merchandise and, in the case of the Pasadena Humane Society, even cats.

The City of Glendale City Council proposed a plan for the development of more than 90 miles of various bike lanes and bicycle infrastructure across the city over the next 20 years. City staff was authorized to move forward with the plan and develop more details for an environmental review. The plans would have to come back to the Council for approval.

CVHS senior Chloe Ban won the top animation prize of \$1,000 in the One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest for her short film "Black Tide." She will also receive a matching gift of \$1,000 to donate to a non-profit supporting the theme of her film. Ban decided to donate this match to Earthjustice, which focuses on environmental law.

Bob Smith Toyota celebrated serving the community for over three decades. Mike Smith and his son Pete can still be found at the family business and continues to support the community.

Glendale City Council voted unanimously to move forward with plans to revitalize the property that houses the former sanitarium Rockhaven, authorizing an additional \$468,875 to consultant SWA.



The Victorian-style structure known as the Doctors House that stands in Brand Park, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its unique architecture and storied past. The Glendale Historical Society, which rescued the house from demolition in 1979, unveiled the plaque at its annual meeting.

A competency hearing for La Crescenta resident Vahan Keshishyan was held in the Superior Court of California. The court found Keshishyan "is not presently mentally competent to stand trial. Keshishyan was charged with the murder allegedly murdered Ordean Neva, 63, who was working as a pool man at a La Crescenta residence. The victim died of "multiple sharp injuries," according to the LA Coroner's Office. The weapon allegedly used by Keshishyan was a machete.

Residents at Twelve Oaks Senior Living on Sycamore Avenue had been given six months [from February to August] to find another facility to live in due to an upcoming complete remodeling. That six months ended in August. Episcopal Community Services, the management of Twelve Oaks, supported the seniors in finding new senior livings locations.

## September

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital announced it would be closing its labor and delivery services including its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). According to a statement by USC-VHH, "This decision is based on a careful and thorough examination of the hospital's services and the shifting demographics and needs of the community it serves." The state-of-the-art NICU at USC-VHH had opened in March 2018. The NICU, at the time of the closure had a staff of 12 nurses and five respiratory therapists in addition to occupational therapists. The closure included the total 18-bed unit and affected about 70 staff.

Glendale City Council voted 3-2 to move forward on plans to rehabilitate La Crescenta Avenue. The plan included eliminating travel lanes and adding bike lanes aimed at slowing traffic and enhancing the safety of the street. Councilmember Ara Najarian voted against the project. "It's just not the right street for this," he said.

Adventist Health Glendale reaffirmed its commitment to maternity care. In light of USC Verdugo Hills Hospital's announcement regarding the closure of its labor and delivery services, including its neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), Adventist Health Glendale wanted to assure the community it is fully prepared to support and accommodate patients affected by this change.

Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce members Steve Pierce and Dwight Sityar announced there would not be a Patriot Day Motorcade this year. The event was founded by Sityar, Pierce and late Jean Maluccio. Community members and students across the valley would gather each year to see first responder vehicles, classic cars, muscle cars and hot rods drive past schools and other locations to honor the fallen of 9/11/01. The purpose of the motorcade was to draw attention to first responders and add an emphasis to the American mantra of "Never Forget." Organizers stated it just seemed time to end the motorcade at its 10 year mark in 2023.

The third speaker in the four speaker series for CV Cares was Annie Varvayan, Psy.D., licensed clinical psychologist with Couch

Conversations Psychotherapy. Varvayan spoke to an intimate audience about how people's thoughts can affect their lives.

At a special traffic meeting held by the Crescenta Valley Town Council many residents and parents shared their opinions, frustrations and concerns about the traffic issues around schools. Four students stepped up to share their real life "boots on the ground" issues. "I'm here today to please ask the adults in this room to make student safety a top priority," said student Claire Kim. Other students shared their concerns on traffic safety at CVHS and Rosemont Middle School for themselves and their siblings.

SuperScopers aircraft from Canada arrived to support LA County Fire Department in battling wildfires. Quick Reaction Force is a 24/7 fire suppression helitanker fleet that operates in the counties of LA, Orange and Ventura. It began about six years ago as a piece of the Southern California fire fighting force.

Fremont Elementary School celebrated the unveiling of a newly refurbished main entrance that featured outdoor seating and a native plant garden. The project is part of the preparation toward the school's 100th anniversary in 2024.

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge celebrated its 75 years of service in the foothills.

Over 300 members of the Glendale Teachers Association gathered in front of the Glendale Unified School District office to demand wages that progress at the same rate as the cost of living.

Sunland-Tujunga residents met with their community Los Angeles Police Department officer and shared concerns including the growing homeless population and abandoned businesses and homes. For example the Crow's Nest, a well-known business in Tujunga that closed earlier this year after new owners purchased the building and the bar's owner lost the lease. At present the location is empty and is a location where transients are known to live.



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St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church held a gala celebrating its 100th anniversary. In the early 1920s several residents in the area, including well known artist Seymour Thomas, worked to get an Episcopal church built. Land was donated at the corner of Rosemont Avenue and Foothill Boulevard. Thomas then painted the church he wanted to see at the corner, and it was completed in 1924.

La Cañada Flintridge and Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station began an education outreach concerning e-bike safety and compliance with local laws. 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.

### October

LEGOLAND California celebrated Halloween with rides and events throughout the park. The biggest draw, and the longest part of the day, is the trick-or-treating. There are treat stations set up all over the park.



GUSD board voted to end seventh period for schools. Two years – that is how much time the Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) board has before the district runs out of money if changes are not made. In what members described as the least harmful decision in a set of bad options, the GUSD board voted to remove seventh period from the schools that adopted the schedule using one time COVID relief funds.

La Cañada Unified School District administration received an e-mail that indicated a bomb threat. The threat came just prior to the school's scheduled Homecoming celebration. An investigation found there was no credible threat and the campus was safe.

The members from the Crescenta Valley Armenian Community Center and Meher and Satig Der Ohanessian

Youth Center honored emergency responders at an event at their Montrose location.

Veterans from American Legion Post 288 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1614 participated in a "packing day" at Operation Gratitude, a program that provides opportunities for people to express their gratitude to military personnel and first responders for the work they do.

As the November election approached the LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office and LA Country Sheriff's Department held a press conference focused on election safety to keep voters and poll workers safe. As of the press conference over 900,000 vote-by-mail ballots had been received.

A California Supreme Court ruling upholds a state law barring 14-to-15 year olds from being tried as adults and sent to adult prisons. Due to that ruling in October the case of Michael Demirdjian was heard and he was resentenced in juvenile court. Demirdjian was charged and found guilty of murdering and robbing two teens whose beaten bodies were found on the schoolyard of Valley View Elementary just prior to it opening as a public school. Demirdjian was 15-years-old at the time of the murders.

### November

Crescenta Valley High School (CVHS) band made history at its recent competition at Gahr High School in Cerritos earning a score of 89.775, which is the highest score in the history of CVHS.

Donald J. Trump was elected President of the US, for the second time. During an acceptance speech Mr. Trump called his win the "greatest political movement of all time." He thanked the American people for being elected as the 47th, and the 45th, President.

More election results included Adam Schiff elected into the Senate, incumbent Judy Chu won her election and will return to Congress, Laura Friedman was elected to take Schiff's longtime held Congressional seat, Sasha Renée Pérez was elected as State Senator district 25, and Nick Schultz was elected into the State Assembly District 44. And LA District Attorney George Gascón lost his bid to remain DA to Nathan Hochman.

A bear became a Falcon after hanging out in a tree at Crescenta Valley High School for several hours. The cub bear's mom and sibling was seen roaming the campus earlier however at some point the cub got separated from it's family. It hung out in a local neighbor's pepper tree until it moved to a tree in staff parking lot just outside the campus' fence. The school was under shelter in place for awhile until staff and law enforcement were able to help students leave school. After everyone was gone the little bear, named Buddy by school officials, made its way to CV Park where it family had been seen earlier.

GTA and GUSD reached a tentative agreement for the 2023-2024 and 2024-25 school years.

The Natural History Museum (NHM) of LA County opened its doors to its brand-new NHM Commons wing. At the heart of the Judith Perlstein Welcome Center is the museum's latest permanent resident Gnatalie, a 75-foot sauropod skeleton unlike any other. She's the most complete sauropod skeleton on the West Coast and holds the distinction of being the only green-colored fossil specimen anywhere in the world mounted for display.

The Friends of Rockhaven and the City of Glendale entered into an agreement regarding Rockhaven Sanitarium, thus ending a lawsuit that was filed over a year ago.

A moon tree was planted at Rosemont Middle School. The seeds for the tree had been carried into lunar orbit aboard the Orion spacecraft. The seeds travelled thousands of miles beyond the Moon spending about four weeks in space before returning to Earth.

### December

What was thought to be a done deal appears to actually be done – just not the deal anyone expected. A federal judge temporarily blocked the acquisition of Albertsons by Kroger.

The LA County Board of Supervisors approved the West San Gabriel Proposed Land Use Policy and Zoning Plan, which replaces the 1986 Altadena Community Plan. The policy plans to use the next 20 years to increase walkability, conservation of wildlife and old oaks, and increase traffic to small businesses. The plan is the result of 15 years of community outreach and research.

Glendale City Council voted to scrap the "complete streets" experiment concerning the North Brand Boulevard bike lanes. The decision was made to return the street to its previous configuration. Outreach from the City found that out of 73% of the respondents living in or near the project corridor, 76% deemed the project negatively.

After about 70 years in business, Montrose Bike Shop announced they are going out of business due to the proposed sale of their building at 2501 Honolulu Avenue. And after seven years, Alissa's Ocean View Bar and Grill suddenly closed their doors. The owners said they "took it as far as it could go" but needed to close the restaurant.

The dispute over the development planned in the hills of La Tuna Canyon in Tujunga took a litigation turn with the recent filing of a lawsuit against the No Canyon Hills, a non-profit organization, and two individuals by developer Whitebird, Inc.



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# Continuing to Watch Bird Flu

By Mary O'KEEFE

It may seem a little like déjà vu but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states, "While the current public health risk is low, CDC is watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposure." This time the disease being monitored is not COVID-19 but bird flu, and this time no one seems to be waiting for the disease to spread.

In December Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency to enhance the state's response to avian influenza A (H5N1), commonly known as bird flu, following the detection of bird flu in Southern California dairy cows and across 16 states.

Since the spread of COVID, medical organizations and local leaders are taking precautions in a proactive manner instead of waiting for it to get worse. The Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health has confirmed a human case of H5 bird flu in an adult who was exposed to livestock infected with the H5

bird flu at a worksite, according to LA County Dept. of Public Health.

The person had mild symptoms and was treated with antivirals. The first severely ill hospitalized patient, in Louisiana, had showed signs of mutation.

"This marks the first instance of severe illness linked to the virus in the United States. The case was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday, Dec. 13. Since April 2024, there have been a total of 61 reported human cases of H5 bird flu reported in the United States," according to CDC.

Currently there is no evidence of person-to-person spread of this virus. CDC and California Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) are following all cases of bird flu. They continue outreach to California farmers/agriculture workers.

CDPH does have some suggestions for people to remain safe including:

Do not drink raw milk or eat raw cheeses and undercooked

meat products. Do not feed these items to your pets. Avoid unprotected contact with sick or dead animals, birds or any materials contaminated with bird feces. Avoid handling wild birds, even if they appear healthy. Wear a well-fitting mask and gloves and practice good hand hygiene. Some birds may carry the virus without showing symptoms. Report sick or dead birds. Contact local animal control if you see sick or dead birds. Protect pets or poultry; keep them away from wild animals and birds. Ensure that wild birds cannot defecate into areas holding or housing pet birds or poultry. Take down bird feeders and communal bird baths to reduce the risk of the virus spreading from bird-to-bird. And everyone should receive a seasonal flu vaccine. While this vaccine does not prevent avian influenza infection, it can reduce the risk of getting sick with human and bird flu viruses at the same time.

There have been some food recalls, most recently for cat



Photo by Charly SHELTON

Though the CDC states the risk is low, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency regarding bird flu.

food.

Northwest Naturals voluntarily recalled one batch of its cat food after a house cat died of bird flu and the raw food it ate was found to be contaminated with the bird flu virus. Dozens of cats have contracted bird flu in the U.S. since the outbreak began earlier this year.

The recall of Northwest Naturals include Feline Turkey Recipe sold in two pound plastic bags with a best use by date of

05/21/26 to 05/23/2026. The food was sold in 12 states including California.

In early December the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture also announced a recall of raw milk products at Valley Milk Simply Bottled in Stanislaus County. The recall came after the detection of the bird flu.

CVW will continue to follow the bird flu investigation and spread.

## TWELVE OAKS from Cover

A spokesman for be.group stated it was just too expensive to remodel/renovate Twelve Oaks to bring it up to "our safety standards." The plan at the time was to sell the property to a development company and stories began to circulate of how senior residents were struggling to leave their homes at Twelve Oaks.

But what be.group and

developers were not aware of was the power of this community. At first there were protests by local residents as the news of the closure began to spread. Then the Crescenta Valley Community Association (CVCA), CV Town Council and Glendale City Council got involved, which spread to then-Assemblymember Mike Gatto

and former state senator Anthony Portantino. CVW continued to focus on the plight of the elderly residents and their families as they attempted to find another facility to move to.

The National Charity League (NCL) of Glendale had operated Twelve Oaks until it was transferred to the be.group about

a decade earlier. At the time Rose Chan, then-president of NCL, said the sale of the location for profit violated the spirit in which their transfer of stewardship had been conducted. A lawsuit was filed and in 2015 a tentative agreement was reached between the be.group and NCL. Twelve Oaks returned to its roots as a senior assisted living

facility.

The property did go through some renovations in 2018 and some residents returned who had been forced to vacate; however, for many the transfer from one place to another was just too much and they decided to stay in their new facility.

see TWELVE OAKS on page 16



YMCA OF THE FOOTHILLS

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2025

**Saturday, January 11**  
**10AM-12PM**

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**Crescenta Valley YMCA**  
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- Gymnastics Demo
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# VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

## The 100-year-old La Crescenta Business – La Crescenta Pharmacy

Whereas the business district of Montrose has a sense of long-term stability, Foothill Boulevard's business center and anchor storefronts have shifted like wind-blown sand dunes in the desert. Although CV's founder Benjamin Briggs laid out the "city center" of La Crescenta at Foothill and La Crescenta Avenue in 1884, other competing business blocks set up in a leapfrog pattern up and down the boulevard over the years. The businesses have been, and still are for the most part, transitory.

It's hard to pin down a longest-lasting business in La Crescenta, but I'll take a stab at it. I'll give the "oldest La Crescenta business" title to La Crescenta Pharmacy with a start date of 1924.

La Crescenta Pharmacy was first opened in 1924 by "Pappy" Bane on the corner of

La Crescenta and Montrose avenues where the 7-Eleven is today.

Pharmacies were the convenience stores of their day and Pappy Bane offered a wide variety of goods and services, including a soda fountain featuring locally made Crescent Ice Cream. The little store, built from local stone, received its supplies daily on the Glendale and Montrose trolley line that ran on Montrose Avenue, and in the quiet Crescenta Valley the store clerks could hear the trolley coming all the way down at Verdugo and Honolulu as it pulled out of the station.

In 1927 we find La Crescenta Pharmacy in a beautiful new brick building on the southeast corner of Foothill and La Crescenta, replacing the old wooden La Crescenta General Store and Post Office built in the 1880s. It would of course

have featured the required soda fountain. Apparently in 1955 La Crescenta Pharmacy moved to a new retail building next door at 2764 Foothill where it still is today. A list of the pharmacists over the years includes Pappy Bane, Vic Nemechek, Bruno Barbaro, Herb Woloshin, Mort Farina and the much-loved Lou Fram.

The pharmacy today is owned by the dynamic and energetic "KB" Patel. KB was educated in pharmacology in London, England and moved to the U.S. in 1998 for better opportunities for his two kids. That gamble paid off as both kids have lucrative careers in medicine. Previous La Crescenta Pharmacy owner Lou Fram had died of a heart attack in March of '98, and Lou's brother was searching in vain for an independent pharmacist to buy the business. By August he had just about given up and

signed the business over to Rite Aid when KB appeared. He bought it and has been running it successfully ever since.

We can't tell this story without recounting KB's real-life role as an action hero. One afternoon in 2005, KB and another pharmacist were working alone in the dispensary. A young man walked in, went right past the counter and into the dispensary, walked up to KB, and pulled out a gun. KB quickly decided to resist, looked the gunman in the eye and reached out and slapped the gun downward. As the gun went down, it angled up and went off. The bullet went through KB's bicep and into the ceiling. The gunman fled and KB went to the emergency room where he was bandaged up and, by 5 p.m., he was back behind the counter serving customers at La Crescenta Pharmacy. KB has left the bullet hole in the

ceiling as a reminder of that day.

KB is fiercely independent and regularly receives offers to buy his business from giants Walgreens and CVS. KB's strong sense of morality won't allow him to sell out. He feels a responsibility to his staff and to the community to continue and said he works and makes decisions as though God is watching over his shoulder.

La Crescenta Pharmacy personifies the community loyalty displayed by independent businessmen and after 100 years in business is a good representative as the "oldest business in La Crescenta."

Congratulations on a century of service to the community!

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

VIEWS FROM THE VALLEY » SUSAN BOLAN

## What to Watch in 2025

It's 2025! Can you believe it? Time passes much too quickly. For someone as busy as I, it's all I can do to just keep up.

As a steering committee member of the Crescenta Valley Community Association, I follow proposed development that will affect land use in the Crescenta Valley. For 20 years, the CVCA has been watching Canyon Hills, a project that was stalled soon after it was approved in 2005 but came back to life after the owner, Whitebird, Inc., applied for an encroachment and a grading permit in 2021-22. These actions revealed the intention of the company to move forward with its plan to build 221 houses in

La Tuna Canyon at the crossing of the Foothill (210) Freeway before the deadline of the City of Los Angeles in 2026. It also prompted the creation of a new community activist group called No Canyon Hills. The group had real concerns that the outdated environmental impact report from 2003 did not consider changes to the wildlife corridor after the study but more so the severe risk from fire.

The La Tuna Fire in 2017 originated in the same area as the proposed Whitebird site and became the catalyst to reexamine evacuation plans in high fire danger areas. The City and Superior Court officials

ruled against Snowball West Investments, LP in its appeal to build 229 houses on the adjacent Verdugo Hills Golf Course property, essentially killing the project. The No Canyon Hills group continues to gather petitions against grading the hillside and documenting wildlife sightings in the area. Its members were recently named in a lawsuit filed by Whitebird, Inc. that claimed interference by the non-profit group. The CVCA will continue to watch the unfolding of this David versus Goliath story.

Since its inception in 2007, the CVCA has heard complaints about Chamlian School, a school

that leases the property at 4444 Lowell Avenue from the City of Glendale. The private school operates in a residential neighborhood, which is not allowed by zoning ordinances, so Chamlian has been required through a hearing process to obtain a variance every 10 years. Neighbors near the school claim that their concerns of traffic, noise and safety have gone unaddressed for decades and they are fed up. A recent decision by the Glendale Planning Commission further dismissed neighbor reports that the school has not complied with many of the conditions required for the variance approval in 2014. Not only did the Glendale Planning Commission vote to approve the 2024 variance, but it made the approval permanent, meaning neighbors could no longer weigh in publicly. The Planning Commission also did not consider the current plans Chamlian has to expand its campus. It has designs to build the Hacob & Hilda Baghdassarian Preschool on the newly acquired church property across the street. Neighbors have appealed the Commission's decision and the hearing is supposed to be

scheduled after the new year.

There are two other projects that have been in the works that early this year may introduce updated plans. One is the property located at 3411-3437 Foothill Blvd. on the northwest corner of New York Avenue. The preliminary plan is currently being redesigned for four-story buildings with nine commercial and 78 residential units. The other project is located at 2817 Montrose Ave., west of La Crescenta Avenue, which is now in its fourth design phase. The Glendale Planning Dept. has told CVCA that plans are "coming soon" for these two properties.

The City of Glendale has also been very busy working on components of its updated General Plan. For further details and how to get involved, go to <https://www.glendaleplan.com/>.

And ... we have a new crop of elected officials across the state and country that will be taking office soon. I am interested to see what the new changes will mean for all of us and if everyone will work together for the greatest good. Fingers crossed.

*Susan Bolan  
susanbolan710@gmail.com*

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# WINNERS ANNOUNCED NEXT ISSUE JANUARY 9TH

STREET ADDRESS	AREA	ZIP	NOTE
10531 Mather St.	Sunland	91040	
6817 Day St.	Tujunga	91042	
9916 Provo Ave.	Tujunga	91042	
9606 Tujunga Canyon Blvd.	Tujunga	91042	
4007 Willalee Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	off Honolulu Avenue
3552 Prospect Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
4012 New York Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	The Backyard Ballerdazzle Musical Light and Snow Show
3425 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3437 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3440 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3452 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3239 Los Olivos Ln.	La Crescenta	91214	
3113 Pontaic St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3014 Paraiso Way	La Crescenta	91214	
2653 Orange Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
4723 Sunset Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	off Kemper
1200-1400 Oak Circle Dr.	Sparr Heights	91208	
2200-2400 Honolulu Ave.	Montrose	91020	Montrose Shopping Park
3528 Sierra Vista Ave.	Sparr Heights	91208	
1968 Waltonia Dr.	Montrose	91020	
2229 Crescent Ave.	Montrose	91020	
3117 Sparr Blvd.	Glendale	91208	
2211 Sherwood Pl.	Glendale	91206	

CRESCENTA VALLEY WEEKLY PRESENTS

## The 2024 Merry & Bright Holiday Light and Display Tour!

Share your merriment and brighten the spirits of your community this Holiday Season! From December 19th – January 4th families will be driving past identified houses that have been decorated festively for the season.

To include your address in the Merry & Bright Tour and be entered into our contest, send your address to **HollyWeen@cvweekly.com** by **5 p.m.** on Dec. 26. Your address will be included in all three issues of the CV Weekly that feature Merry & Bright Tour addresses! Entries received after Dec. 26 will be included in the following issue/s of the CV Weekly. Get your address in asap so families can create their own drive-by experience.

**Judging will be done between December 20th - 29th.**

The first 25 entrants will receive two tickets to the Holiday Exhibit at the Ronald Reagan Library. The winners will be announced in the January 9 issue of the CV Weekly!

### JUDGING CATEGORIES

**1. Christmas Story Award**

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

**2. Clark Griswold Award**

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

**3. Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree Award**

(best use of music and technology)

**4. Santas Coming to Town Award**

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

**5. Most Original Award**

(not your usual every-day holiday decor)

**6. Best In Show Award**

(ya blew the judges minds)

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YMCA OF THE FOOTHILLS



Kathryn BARGER  
5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles

RHODES SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Jodi Deranja, Realtor  
COMPASS





# BETWEEN FRIENDS

## Specialized Service for a Special Community

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

It was 1998 and KB Patel, a longtime pharmacist residing in London, decided to immigrate to the United States where opportunities abounded.

"I'm glad I did," he said.

Not long after arriving in the U.S., a friend told KB that the owner of La Crescenta Pharmacy – Lou Friend – had died. Friend's brother had tried to sell the pharmacy but couldn't find a buyer and was actually considering selling the business to giant Rite Aid. Patel was able to purchase the business, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary, thereby keeping it an independent pharmacy.

Patel said that he's glad he was able to purchase the business and properly serve those in need.

"[That level of service] is hard to find in a chain pharmacy," he said. "The dollar is not as important as service. [We're able to] give more

time to folks in need."

Being in the area for more than 26 years has given him the chance to learn about the local community, which he said embraced him from the start.

"We share a similar philosophy," he said of the local area. "We're here to help and to serve."

Over the years, La Crescenta Pharmacy and Patel and his crew have received awards and other recognitions for their service.

"We also get letters from patients about our service," he said. "It really makes our day."

Patel and his workers take the time to examine each prescription and ask a critical question: Would we give this to a member of our family?

"If not, then we'll go back to the doctor," Patel said.

Patel also offered kudos to the people who work at La Crescenta Pharmacy.

"They date back decades," he



said. "They share the philosophy to do the right thing."

Patel is especially proud of the service given to the elderly.

"We will send a delivery driver to

the home to check on them," he said.

Between the knowledgeable and caring staff and not having long wait times, Patel is proud of the business he has built over the years.

"I'll be here for a while," he said.

La Crescenta Pharmacy is located at 2764 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta, phone (818) 248-5851.

## Assistees Spread Holiday Cheer to Families in Need

On Dec. 8, 56 Assistees gathered at their local Target with one goal in mind: to bring holiday joy to families in need. The Assistees is an auxiliary of Assistance League Glendale (ALG) and is made up of a group of young dedicated teens interested in providing services to the needy. Partnering with Ascencia, a non-profit organization dedicated to lifting individuals and families out of homelessness, the Assistees participated in the Adopt-A-Family program, making this holiday season brighter for nine local families.

The Assistees received a detailed family profile, which included information about the family for whom they would shop. This allowed them to carefully select gifts that would best suit each family member's needs and

wishes. From toys and clothing to board games and kitchen gadgets, the Assistees made sure to shop with thoughtful attention to each family's unique circumstances.

Once the shopping was completed, everyone returned to the ALG Chapter House in downtown Glendale where a whirlwind of wrapping paper and ribbons filled the room. Volunteers worked together to wrap the presents with care, preparing them for delivery. Some gifts were delivered directly to the families' homes while others were sent through Ascencia's network of support.

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to bring joy and warmth to local families each year," said Betsy Savant, ALG Assistees coordinator. "This has been a tradition for over 10 years,

and we will continue to carry out this mission in the years to come. It's a privilege to make a positive impact in the lives of those who need it most."

The Assistees' commitment to serving their community through this annual initiative is a testament to the power of giving and the difference one group can make in the lives of others.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer member at Assistance League Glendale can find additional information at [alglendale.org](http://alglendale.org) or reach out to [info@assistanceleaguenglendale.org](mailto:info@assistanceleaguenglendale.org). ALG is also always looking for donations for its Glendale-based thrift shop where proceeds support initiatives like these and many more. Please keep ALG in mind when donating household items that could be sold at the thrift shop.



*Congratulations  
La Crescenta Pharmacy*

*Anniversary*

**CV Weekly**  
The Finest  
2015

**CV Weekly**  
The Finest  
2016

**CV Weekly**  
The Finest  
2018

**CV Weekly**  
The Finest  
2019

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# The Lanterman House Open Applications for the Junior Docent Program

The Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation is inviting local seventh, eighth and ninth grade students to apply for its junior docent program. Students will learn about the history of the Lanterman family, the house and their community and share these details with visitors to the Lanterman House.

If accepted into the program, junior docents will attend three 90-minute training sessions at the Lanterman House during the spring 2025. Once trained, they can assist at community events as room docents. Students are asked to make a commitment

of 10 volunteer hours for the program, but will be welcome to do more, depending on time and interest.

“We had seven students complete the inaugural junior docent program in 2024,” said Mary Lou Langedyke, president of the Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation Board. “The program was a resounding success and we’re looking forward to welcoming a new group of students.”

The local students who completed the 2024 junior docent program were Liam Anderson, Declan Conwell,

Raffi Hovhannisyian, Max Kim, Ian Lee, Alex Lowry and Quinn Seltzer.

Students who attend a local school or who live in the 91011 zip code are eligible to apply for the 2025 program. They must fill out a short application, which can be found on the Lanterman House website at <https://www.lantermanhouse.org>.

Space is limited in the program, so students are advised to apply asap if interested.

The applications will close on Jan. 20, 2025 (or earlier if the program fills).

Junior Docent Declan Conwell in the Lanterman House dining room with Docent mentor Yvonne Everson



# Verdugo Hills Women’s Chorus Brings Holiday Music to Many



Shown at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church earlier this month are, from left, Diana Barnes, Carol Leining, Gale Musker, Jody Weems, Anne Beachey-Kemp, June Rim, Linda Pfeffer, Peggy Smith, Kay Morris, Rita La Face, Tammie Break, Santa, MaryAnn Laun and Eojini Park. Not shown are Christy Sabinsky, Mary Walsten, Adele Cavalier, Jeanne Long, Tess Sandoval and Ki Park.

The Verdugo Hills Women’s Chorus is a fun volunteer group that brings a variety of songs to church gatherings and retirement homes over the

holidays and in the spring.

They are pictured after their recent performance at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, which has allowed them to rehearse

there on Monday mornings. Women who love to sing are encouraged to join; it’s good for the mind, body and soul! For more information, contact

director Ki Park at (818) 720-6465 or [kiparkvhwc2018@gmail.com](mailto:kiparkvhwc2018@gmail.com).

Submitted by Gale MUSKER

# People Making News

Cadie Taylor Carlson of La Crescenta is one of over 3,200 candidates to be recognized in the University of Georgia’s Class of 2024 fall commencement ceremonies recently held.

Carlson was a candidate for AB Journalism.

For additional details and a complete 2024 commencement schedule, visit UGA’s commencement website, [commencement.uga.edu](http://commencement.uga.edu).

**CV WEEKLY**  
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## Questions About Today’s Real Estate?

### Ask Phyllis!

#### Should I Sell or Rent

Dear Phyllis,  
I love your real estate column! My wife and I will be moving to Texas next year and the home we will buy will likely be in the \$400,000 range. I want to sell our La Crescenta home, but my wife wants to rent it out because the interest rate is just 2.75% and she doesn’t think we should give that up. I understand her point of view, but I don’t want to be an out-of-state landlord. Do you think we should sell or rent?

Brian

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your kind words. I recommend that you discuss both options with your accountant or CPA.

I understand your wife’s point of view. Giving up a 2.75% mortgage is like letting go of a gold mine. Keep in mind that California is

not landlord-friendly. Remember, during COVID, all a tenant needed to do was say the word, and they didn’t have to pay rent, even though the landlord still had to pay property taxes, maintenance, and, when applicable, a mortgage payment. Discuss with your CPA potential tax consequences, such as capital gains and tax exemptions, as you’ve lived in the home for at least two of the past five years. However, selling means losing out on future property value appreciation, and facing possible capital gains tax if exemptions don’t apply.

If you opt for renting, I think you should hire a property manager. Additionally, ask a neighbor for updates on the landscaping. Renting provides a steady income stream, which can be especially beneficial in retirement. Additionally, landlords can often

deduct mortgage interest, property taxes, maintenance, and repairs, which reduces taxable income. This steady income stream and potential tax benefits could significantly boost your financial situation. Unfortunately, there is always a risk of vacancy, which can disrupt your income stream, and rental income can be affected by local market conditions and regulations. Tenant issues, such as late payments or property damage, can also arise.

Ultimately, deciding whether to sell or rent should align with your financial goals, market conditions, and personal preferences. Your comfort and peace of mind should not be overlooked in this decision. Feel free to ask if you need more specific advice tailored to your situation!

Best of luck,

Phyllis

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, in partnership with YMCA of the Foothills, presents:

## Hybrid DocTalks

### Unraveling the Molecular Link: Food and Cancer

Tuesday, January 21st  
12-1 p.m.

**Dr. Uttam Sinha**  
Uttam K. Sinha, MD is a world authority in head and neck diseases, dedicated to patient care, research, and education. As the Watt Family Endowed Chair for Head and Neck Cancers, he advances cancer detection using liquid biopsy and rehabilitates speech and swallowing with real-time MRI. His research also includes reconstructive and robotic surgery. Dr. Sinha received the Technology Commercialization Award for his saliva-based diagnostic test and co-founded HNC Support International, a support group for head and neck cancer patients and family caregivers. Recognized as a Top Doctor by the Los Angeles Business Journal and Castle Connolly, his work is inspired by witnessing untreated head and neck tumors in his hometown in India.



**To Register:**  
We will have box lunches for takeaway at the end of the talk for our in-person attendees. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the talk will begin promptly at 12 p.m. Reservations for takeaway box lunches are required 48 hours in advance.  
**Please visit [uscvh.org/doc-talks](http://uscvh.org/doc-talks) or call (818) 952-2228 to register.**

**Note our New Location**  
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# TRAVEL & LEISURE

## Scene In LA January 2025

By Steve ZALL and Sid FISH

Everyone is celebrating the arrival of the New Year and adjusting to the many changes that inevitably come with it, but you can still count on the shows to be seen in local theaters. Try one and see if it doesn't help you to remember what is and isn't real.

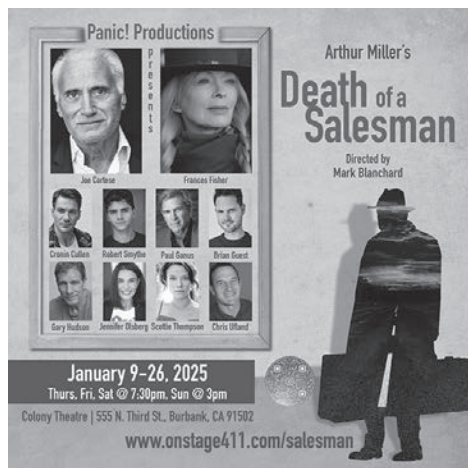
COVID protocols continue to be dictated by each individual venue so bring a facemask to wear during the show in case the venue requires it. Check with the theater before attending a show to find out what is their current policy.

The information presented in this column is the latest available at the time of printing; however, it should be confirmed with the theater prior to making definite plans.

Here are the shows that have announced opening dates for this month or are already running:

**"Death Of a Salesman"** This iconic American drama harnesses bold realism with riveting theatricality and is a commentary on the American Dream that resonates even today.

Written by Arthur Miller and directed by Mark Blanchard, it runs from Jan. 10 through Jan. 26 at the Colony Theatre in Burbank. For tickets, visit [www.onstage411.com/salesman](http://www.onstage411.com/salesman).



**"Jest a Second"** In this follow-up to "Beau Jest," Sarah and Bob are now married and expecting their first child. However, Sarah's brother Joel is now the one having trouble admitting something to their parents – and Bob once again steps in to "help." Hilarity once again ensues as the family deals with its latest drama.

Written by James Sherman and directed by Jonathan Fahn, it runs from Jan. 10 through Feb. 16 at the Theatre Palisades in Pacific Palisades. For tickets, call (310) 454-1970 or visit [www.theatrepalisades.org](http://www.theatrepalisades.org).

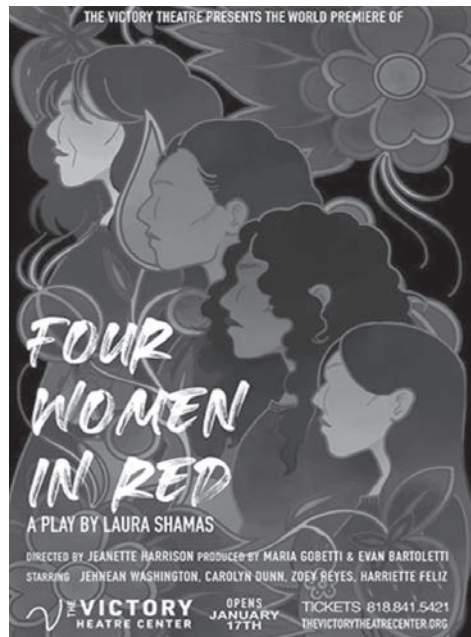


**"Mean Girls"** Cady Heron may have grown up on an African savanna but nothing prepared her for the wild and vicious ways of her strange new home: suburban Illinois. How will this naïve newbie rise to the top of the popularity pecking order? By taking on The Plastics, a trio of lionized frenemies led by the charming but ruthless Regina George. But when Cady devises a plan to end Regina's reign, she learns the hard way that you can't cross a Queen Bee without getting stung.

Written by Tina Fey, based on the screenplay by Jeff Richmond with music by Jeff Richmond, lyrics by Nell Benjamin, and directed by Casey Nicholaw, it runs from Jan. 10 through Jan. 12 at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks. For tickets, visit [www.BroadwayInThousandOaks.com](http://www.BroadwayInThousandOaks.com).

**"Wish You Were Here"** It's 1978. Protests break out across Iran as five close girlfriends plan weddings, trade dirty jokes and try to live their young lives. As the revolution escalates, each woman is forced to face an uncertain future by staying in Iran or leaving it.

Written by Sanaz Toossi and directed by Mina Morita, it runs from Jan. 12 through Feb. 2 at the South Coast Repertory Julianne Argyros Stage in Costa Mesa. For tickets, call 714-708-5555 or visit [www.scr.org](http://www.scr.org).

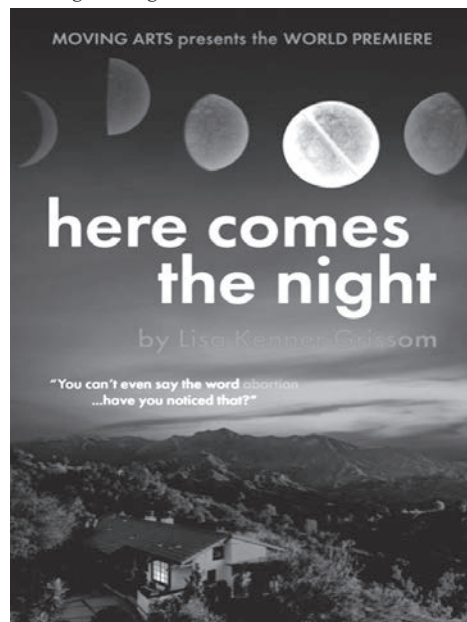


**"Four Women in Red"** is about four resilient women searching for missing friends and relatives in the face of apathetic sheriffs and dwindling clues. Are their loved ones lost? Were they taken? Are they even alive? This moving new play celebrates the power of community as the women seek answers against all odds. Their roller coaster journey involves mystery, grief, prayer and moments of sudden joy.

Written by Laura Shamas and directed by Jeanette Harrison, it runs from Jan. 13 through Feb. 19 at the Victory Theatre Centre in Burbank. For tickets, call (818) 841-5421 or visit [www.thevictorytheatrecenter.org](http://www.thevictorytheatrecenter.org).

**"Here Comes the Night"** When Olivia, a musician's wife and climate science advocate, invites Maggie, an old friend turned social media influencer, to spend the weekend while she has an at-home medical abortion, she doesn't realize that Maggie is about to throw Olivia off-course. And actually, these women of different generations are about to alter each other's lives in ways they hadn't expected or imagined. What happens when a woman's right to choose becomes a litmus test for all of her life choices?

Written by Lisa Kenner Grissom and directed by Hailey McAfee, it runs from Jan. 15 through Feb. 16 at the Moving Arts Theatre in Atwater. For tickets, call (323) 472-5646 or visit [www.movingarts.org](http://www.movingarts.org).



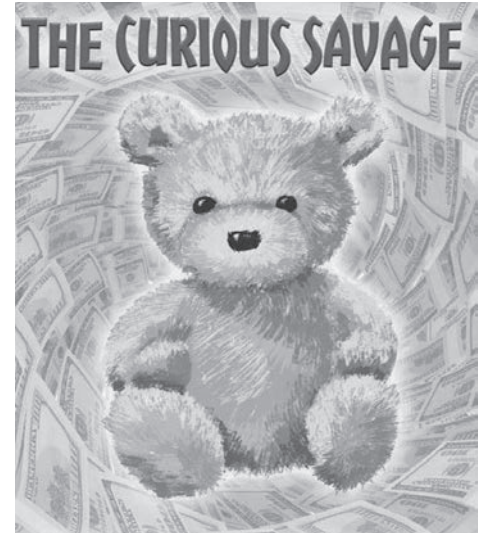
**"The Seagull"** On a country lake, a star-struck girl of 19 becomes entangled with a famous actress, her famous writer-boyfriend and her troubled son. The girl rejects the romantic pleadings of the son but steals the heart of the famous writer and heads for Moscow to pursue

him and pursue a life in the theatre as an actress.

Written by Anton Chekhov and directed by Bruce Katzman, it runs from Jan. 16 through Feb. 9 at the Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles. For tickets, visit [www.stretratmedia.wixsite.com/the-seagull-la](http://www.stretratmedia.wixsite.com/the-seagull-la).

**"The Curious Savage"** When Ethel Savage's late husband leaves her \$10 million, she decides to establish a fund to support dreamers. But her three greedy stepchildren commit her to a mental institution hoping to "bring her to her senses." In the sanitarium, she befriends the other "guests." Meanwhile the stepchildren discover that Ethel has hidden the family fortune and attempt to browbeat her into confessing where the money has been stashed. There is a wild goose chase where the question, "Who is really crazy and who is sane?" comes into play. With warmth, humor and dignity, this charming play celebrates those who are often overlooked, emphasizing kindness, affection and empathy in a world that too often rewards greed and ambition.

Written by John Patrick, it runs from Jan. 17 through Feb. 23 at the Lonny Chapman Theatre (Main Stage) in North Hollywood. For tickets, call (818) 763-5990 or visit [www.thegrouprep.com](http://www.thegrouprep.com).



**"Sleeping Giant"** When a firework-filled marriage proposal goes very wrong, the accompanying explosions wake up something very old that has been sleeping in the nearby lake for thousands of years. What follows are intimate, darkly comic and sometimes startling vignettes about the lengths people go to when they desperately want to believe in something.

You can read more at [CVWeekly.com/LEISURE](http://CVWeekly.com/LEISURE).

### THEN & NOW



**Then:** When Dr. Benjamin Briggs laid out the streets for the new town of La Crescenta in the 1880s, the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and La Crescenta Avenue was envisioned as the "town center." And indeed, an "old west" style post office and general store was located on the southeast corner of that intersection. By the '20s the old wood building had been replaced with this brick structure housing the La Crescenta Pharmacy.

### La Crescenta Pharmacy Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



**Now:** In 1958 the pharmacy moved next door and the brick building was remodeled and reopened as the iconic Spike Jones Market, a La Crescenta landmark through the '50s and '60s. La Crescenta Pharmacy is still there at 2764 Foothill. It's celebrating its 100th year in business!



# JUST FOR FUN

## CALENDAR this

### GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. The club is dark on Jan. 3 in observance of New Year's. The club returns on Jan. 10. The cost to attend Friday meetings, which includes lunch and program, is \$25. All are welcome.

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

### 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. There are no events on Dec. 27 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

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

Library, 2465 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose (818) 548-2048.

### BACK TO SCHOOL EXHIBITION AT BOLTON HALL MUSEUM

Bolton Hall Museum is celebrating the history of Sunland-Tujunga's public schools. Its new exhibit, Back to School with Bolton Hall, traces the history of local education from its humble beginnings as a one-room schoolhouse to the vibrant community of schools that exist today. Spotlighting each of the area's public schools, the exhibit features vintage yearbooks, textbooks, photographs and more.

Bolton Hall Museum is open for visits on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. This exhibit runs through spring 2025.

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

enthusiasts that meets regularly to share their passion for this timeless hobby.

The Glendale/La Crescenta Stamp Club meets every third Tuesday at the LA County Library - La Crescenta located at the corner of La Crescenta Avenue and Foothill Boulevard, 2809 Foothill Blvd., at 7 p.m. in the second floor community room.

For more information about the club and upcoming meetings, call (818) 903-4451.

### LEARN MODERN SQUARE DANCING

A new 13-week beginner's class in modern square dancing is starting Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7:45 p.m. at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 3561 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta. The first two classes are free.

Meet new people while getting exercise for both body and mind. Learn the Steps to Fun! For more info email illi313@yahoo.com or visit www.setsinstep.org.

per game.

For more information, contact Scott Frost at scottf@css-cg.com.

### BOLTON HALL PRESENTS 'IMBIBING LA'

Bolton Hall Museum invites the public to get the New Year off to a good start by taking part in the first

2nd Saturday program of the New Year. The program is at 1 p.m. on Jan. 11 at Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga.

LA has been a center of winemaking and brewing since the wine-loving Spaniards first settled in the area.

see CALENDAR THIS on next page

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com

December 30, 2024 - January 5, 2025

### ARIES March 21 - April 19

For you, this week is about taking advantage of circumstances that present themselves in your working life. You're lucky, so you may find that you have a chance to impress someone who has the power to make financial decisions. These will positively affect your life going forward, so make sure to put out your best effort. You can learn important personal and financial life lessons. Incorporating them into your daily existence makes you stronger.

### TAURUS April 20 - May 20

This week you're dealing with making over not just your personal style (though that could use some help as well) but also the way you express yourself. You have creative ideas about how to do this, and the means to convince others that this is a good idea. After all, not everyone is going to be on board for all of your changes. Meanwhile, aspects bring unique ideas no one else has. Your earning power increases.

### GEMINI May 21 - June 20

You may find that you're expanding a home-based business at this time due to a lucky aspect in this area of your chart. If need be, turn an extra bedroom into an office so you can close the door on your work at the end of the day. One aspect now gives you all you need and more to launch a new business if you want more freedom in your working life, or to publicize an existing one to a higher level.

### CANCER June 21 - July 22

This week you get a nice break. People you may have lost touch with are back on the scene. One or more of them may come bearing wonderful business opportunities. You don't have to jump into every single one of them, but certainly hear these people out. Since there are great aspects in your chart now, your influence over social groups is increasing. Hopes, dreams, and money aren't too far behind. Let it all come to you.

### LEO July 23 - August 22

If you've been seeking ways to earn more money, you may find that looking to the past yields the best results this week. This is due in part to your house of money and values. Mine old jobs, employers, and skills to bring in more cash now. You may also be able to use them to hook up with acquaintances from an earlier time in your life who can help you create a portfolio of investments to protect your future.

### VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

Your home situation and inner emotions indicate a possible move for you right now. Have you been thinking about creating more space for yourself? A change of scenery may be just the thing to increase your creativity and get the juices flowing toward a new job or

new source of income. The trick will be in not going overboard with this endeavor. Strive for balance between spending and saving.

### LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You may want to get it in gear this week. Your communication skills are ramping up, showing you that you can get ahead through strong, clear requests of those around you. Ask for what you want and you just may get it, at work and in your money life. But things may be tense, so it's best to stay clean, karmically speaking. Don't be mean or use your words to harm.

### SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

This week you have a great deal of impetus to bring in more dough. It isn't just that your ambition is coming to the surface. It's positively bursting out of you now, as others see you for the successful person you're in the process of becoming. There could be some tension with workmates or social acquaintances. Just make sure you don't bet the farm.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

For you, this week is about unsupportive relationships. You want to push forward toward financial and work-related goals. The decision may between shining a light on you as an individual and being a member of a great team. Part of you wants the ego boost, but the other, smarter part of you realizes where your bread is buttered. Serve the greater good.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Highlighted this week is your need to refresh your skill set. Furthering your education not only makes you feel more confident in what you can do but also gets others in the habit of perceiving you as an expert in your chosen field. You may need to incorporate skills from past lives. You don't have to know why you're good at them - you just are.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You may seek a wider audience for what you do now so you can attract buyers, investors, or others with money. Something you're planning requires more money in order to get it off the ground. It's very important to pay some attention to money you share with others. Co-investments or debts need tending. Make sure to sign off on any papers and pay any fees on time. From there, you can reap the rewards.

### PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

You have a tense week ahead. You're caught and may feel like a cow being pushed through a cattle chute. In situations like this, it's always best to go with the flow of the prevailing energies. Fighting will only make it worse. You're being pushed toward your home and inner emotions now. Check in with yourself. Are you really doing what you want with your life?

## » ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



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### ACROSS

- 1) Animal with a striped rear
- 6) Insect feeler
- 10) Sorrowful sigh
- 14) Pneumonia type
- 15) Malaria symptom
- 16) Passed-down knowledge
- 17) Lady between Hillary and Michelle
- 18) Better safe \_\_\_ sorry
- 19) Sleeping?
- 20) Reo, for one
- 23) Partner of only
- 24) Pride or lust, say
- 25) James Cameron film
- 27) In on the latest trends
- 30) Little row
- 33) Hopeful singer's tape
- 34) Hearty draughts
- 36) Cenozoic and Big Band
- 38) Textile fiber
- 41) Secondhand store section
- 44) All finished, as dinner
- 45) Thailand's former name
- 46) Words with "record" or "trap"
- 47) More than dislike
- 49) Ski lift
- 51) Cover with turf
- 52) Play friskily
- 54) Pen point
- 56) Monetary unit of Romania
- 57) "Stairway to Heaven," e.g.
- 64) Choir recess
- 66) To the sheltered side
- 67) Vietnam capital
- 68) They shall inherit the earth
- 69) Minimal amount
- 70) Dazzling display
- 71) "So what \_\_\_ is new?"
- 72) Musical notation
- 73) "I like your \_\_\_!"

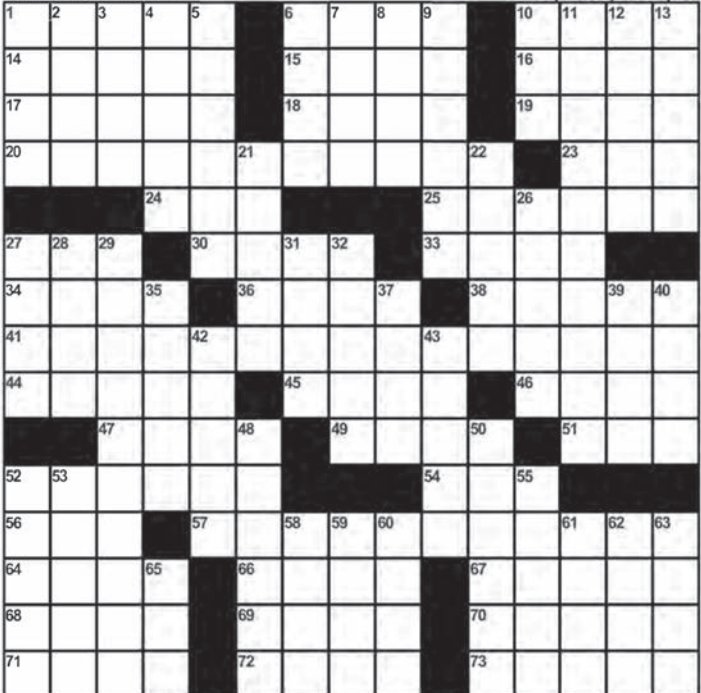
### DOWN

- 1) Paella cooker
- 2) "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" e.g.
- 3) Lie adjacent to
- 4) The City of Light
- 5) Natives of Umm Qasr
- 6) Hors d'oeuvre selection
- 7) Turkish honorific (var.)
- 8) Oahu gala
- 9) Group of five
- 10) Beginning for "carte" or "king"
- 11) Surgeries that affect mental ability
- 12) Venue for big crowds
- 13) Commemorative meal
- 21) Remove, as a tent anchor
- 22) Difficult to miss
- 26) New Delhi nannies
- 27) One of the wealthy
- 28) Russian gold medalist Kulik
- 29) Places to live the high life?
- 31) Hawk among gods
- 32) Implicitly understood
- 35) It's better than a bargain
- 37) Thickish piece
- 39) Really enthusiastic about
- 40) Mild exclamation of surprise
- 42) Bit of nuttiness
- 43) Dweller on the Arabian Sea
- 48) Cream-filled dessert
- 50) Entrepreneur's dream
- 52) It's attractive to a moth
- 53) Parry
- 55) Flower base
- 58) Shaving cream ingredient
- 59) Mends, as bones
- 60) Act the usher
- 61) "For Your Eyes \_\_\_"
- 62) Furnace fodder
- 63) Windy day toy
- 65) \_\_\_ out (just manage)

1.2.25

### OLD SCHOOL

By Gary Cooper



ANSWERS on page 5



PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

# Ticketmaster refund trouble: Why can't I get my money after a canceled concert?

When Valeria Villacorta's BTS concert is canceled, Ticketmaster promises her a prompt refund. More than three years later, she's still waiting. Is there any way she can get her \$654 back?

**Q:** I had tickets to see BTS, but the show was canceled during the pandemic. Since then, I have been going back and forth with Ticketmaster and Bank of America trying to receive my refund.

Here's the problem: I had to cancel the debit card that I used to pay for the tickets because I had lost it. Ticketmaster said there should be no issue with receiving my refund since it was still the same account number.

In 2021, when I should have received the refund, I waited one month before I filed a dispute with Bank of America. The bank denied it since it fell outside the 60-day timeframe for filing chargebacks.

I have been in contact with both Ticketmaster and Bank of America for many months, but nothing has been resolved. The only thing Ticketmaster has given as proof that they sent the refund was a reference number.

Anytime I have given this number to Bank of America they tell me that doesn't mean anything.

I have tried so many times for years and nothing has been resolved. I am hoping you can help me get my money back.

-- Valeria Villacorta, Glen Burnie, Md.

**A:** I'm sorry you missed the BTS concert -- I heard they put on a great show. But during the pandemic, they didn't get permission to dance, so it made sense to cancel their shows.

You're right: the problem was your debit card. Ticketmaster's policy is to refund your ticket to the original form of payment, and when you changed your card, it was no longer the original form of payment. So the refund got stuck.

But you also made another error when you filed a dispute with your bank, and it wasn't an issue with the 60-day rule.

Unfortunately, your bank misinformed you about your debit card. The Fair Credit Billing Act, the law that allows you to dispute a charge, only applies to credit cards. I have details on the rules and regulations in my complete guide to a credit card dispute.

If you had purchased your ticket with a credit card, would that have changed the equation? Maybe, maybe not. If, as your bank said, you were outside the 90-day window, your bank may have still accepted your dispute.

But wires could have still gotten crossed with Ticketmaster, and there is no guarantee that would have worked. You're better off going directly to Ticketmaster and making arrangements to have it send you the money. Ticketmaster can bend its own rule about crediting the original form of payment, so it could have bypassed your bank entirely. I list the names, numbers and email addresses of the Ticketmaster



Illustration by Dustin Elliott

executives on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. (And by the way, this isn't the first Ticketmaster case involving BTS. I wonder how many more readers are out there, thinking, "Save me!")

I contacted Ticketmaster on your behalf. It reviewed your refund case, which should have been resolved more than three years ago, and it quickly refunded

you \$654, the full price of your BTS tickets. As BTS might say, that's dynamite.

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](mailto:chris@elliott.org) or get help by contacting him at <https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/>  
© 2024 Christopher Elliott.

CALENDAR THIS *previous page*

Presenter for this program is journalist, author and culinary historian Richard Foss who will talk about how Los Angeles' tastes in alcoholic beverages have shifted through the years from the first communion wines served by monks to the Prohibition era of law-dodging partiers to modern beverage craftsmen.

This event is free to attend and open to the public; 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, by calling (818) 352-3420, visiting [BoltonHall.org](http://BoltonHall.org) or emailing [llhs@boltonhall.org](mailto:llhs@boltonhall.org).

## LCWC HOSTS BINGO

The La Crescenta Woman's Club is having a bingo game on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the clubhouse. Check-in is at 5 p.m.; games begin at 6 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per person, which includes bingo sheets for 10 games (four cards per game).

Sponsors are wanted.

Tickets are now on sale; visit

<https://lacrescentawomansclub.org/> for more information.

The LCWC clubhouse is located at 4004 La Crescenta Ave.

## FRITZ COLEMAN'S SHOW EXTENDS AT THE EL PORTAL

"Unassisted Residency," the live comedy performance by TV personality Fritz Coleman that features special guests, has been extended at the El Portal Theatre in the Monroe Forum, 5269 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood.

Shows are on Sundays at 3 p.m.

on Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 30 and April 27, 2025. Further 2025 dates to be announced.

Admission is \$40 for general admission; \$50 for cocktail table seating.

Online ticketing is available at <https://www.elportaltheatre.com/fritzcoleman.html>.

## ACTIVITIES AT SUNLAND SENIOR CENTER

The Sunland Senior Center offers a selection of classes and activities daily. Whether seniors are looking to exercise or dance or are interested in art, theater, or

knitting, the Center has something for everyone. Sunland also hosts bingo on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and a movie matinee on the big screen at 1 p.m. on Thursdays; on Mondays and Fridays there is country line dancing from noon-1:30 p.m. The Sunland Senior Center runs programming from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. with a donations-based lunch served daily from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sunland Senior Center is located at 8640 Fenwick St. in Sunland. For further information, call (818) 353-9571. These special events are free.

TWELVE OAKS *from page 9*

Since then Twelve Oaks has been welcoming seniors and hosting community events. But in August 2024, Twelve Oaks, affiliated with Episcopal Communities & Services (ECS) informed residents they would have to leave the property due to construction. But there was a difference from the behavior of the be.group.

First of all, ECS is not planning on selling the property for profit. Instead it is keeping it and updating the senior living facility to meet new standards in the assisted living industry.

"On Aug. 14 [2024] Sharon [Pewtress, senior vice president of Operations and COO of ECS] and I went out to meet with the team at Twelve Oaks, the residents and their families," said James Rothrock, president and CEO of ECS.

In addition they had several meetings with all stakeholders at Twelve Oaks. Karen McAuley, former NCL, NCL Sustainers and current member of ECS and Twelve Oaks Foundation Legacy boards, was also at the meetings.

This was a different approach than last time when those at NCL

were caught unaware of the for-profit sale proposed by the then-management company.

"We tried to help everyone understand what was happening in terms of the desire of Twelve Oaks to develop the community," Rothrock said.

They gave residents six months to find another facility to move to. They made certain the residents didn't feel abandoned and that they understood that due to the mass construction that would be required at the property it was not safe to continue to house residents there.

Rothrock added engineers surveyed the property and found a lot of the buildings would have to be taken down.

"That was a difficult message to have to convey and I'm sure [for residents and staff] to receive," he said.

Immediately though ECS and Twelve Oaks representatives began to support the residents and their families in the move.

"We assured [them] we would pay for moving costs," he said.

They also helped residents organize.

"Also because Twelve Oaks is

very modestly priced and hasn't in some ways kept up with increasing costs over time, we [then told residents] we would subsidize residents' current costs. For example, if they moved from our memory care [at Twelve Oaks] to another memory care facility the difference [would be] substantial. We would cover that cost for a period of up to five years, or their lifetime -- whichever was shorter," Rothrock said.

Rothrock said as the ECS support was explained to families it seemed to lessen their concerns.

"As a non-profit both organizations, Episcopal Community Services [ECS] and Twelve Oaks, have a history of being there for the people we serve," he added.

By the end of February 2025, the plans are for everyone to be relocated and the property to be vacant of residents. Although regulations require a six-month notice to vacate Rothrock said they felt in some cases that just wasn't reasonable so they offered to help those residents who could not yet move.

"What has been interesting is all but one had moved and the last

resident [was scheduled to move] by Dec. 10. So what we found is they wanted to be settled before the holidays," he added.

In addition to the organizational and financial support, ECS offered spiritual support with a non-denominational chaplain who would visit staff, families and residents.

Although ECS did not recommend any other facilities several of the residents found nearby senior living facilities.

Rothrock said that when the construction was first announced many of the residents seemed more concerned for the property than for themselves. Twelve Oaks is an unusual senior living facility. It is nestled in a forest of oak trees and nature, between the Verdugo Mountains and a quiet residential neighborhood.

"Sharon recalled one lady who asked if she could donate," he said. "She wanted to see some roses planted [at the location]." The woman wanted roses planted in memory of those who had lived at Twelve Oaks.

ECS also supported the staff at Twelve Oaks.

"For the team [staff] members

it was a hard message to receive, but they've been great. We [at ECS] let them know early on that we would provide a retention and severance for them," Rothrock said. "And they were generously compensated for staying with the residents [as the moving process continued]."

He added it was difficult not only leaving their jobs but leaving the residents. ECS did what they could for the workers, including sustaining health care benefits for those who were in their early 60s until they qualified for Medicare.

The construction will see the small cabins torn down that have been the cornerstone of Twelve Oaks.

"The new place is going to be one large building," he said.

However, ECS and Twelve Oaks representatives understand the uniqueness of the location and have planned for the new building to follow the topography so it will look like smaller buildings combined into one.

The reason the small cabin footprint would not work is because of the care that is now required to maintain them.

see TWELVE OAKS on page 19



# BUSINESS

**NEWS FROM THE CV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE » OUR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS**

## The CV Chamber of Commerce hopes everyone enjoyed the holidays! What a season, too!

The Chamber held its last mixer of the year at the business of one of its board members: Kira Antuna of KNX Clawwsy LA, located at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Foothill Boulevard. What a mixer it was, too. Great people, delicious food and beverage and even some vendors who offered some special gift ideas.

I love KNX Clawwsy. Its decor is all about the ladies – pink everything! Clawwsy is a full service beauty salon and boldly answers the call of anyone in need of pampering. Make sure to check it out. Its phone number is (747) 895-9147.

In preparation for the New

Year, the board of the CV Chamber is considering ways to better serve our businesses. One of these will be by hosting our newly elected assembly member Nick Schultz. Assembly member Schulz will be having an open forum on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. at Sadler Hall, on the campus of St. Luke's of the Mountains, 2563 Foothill Blvd., to discuss the issues facing many local businesses. He will also offer ways that Sacramento can help small businesses. Plan now to attend this free event and bring your questions; Nick Schultz wants to learn what our business owners are most concerned about and how he can help.

In January, the CV Chamber will also have its swearing in of new and returning board members. We say goodbye to some special people including Christine Benitez, and Win Saw. Each brought a dynamic energy to the board and will be missed. We are grateful that Christine and Win have extended their ongoing support of the Chamber and its goals and projects.

Another person we say goodbye to is Rev. Beverly Craig. Rev. Bev served on the board of directors for the last 10 years or so. Her death brought a sadness to the Chamber that she worked so hard on. She, too, will be missed.

Looking ahead, the Chamber

will be having a pre-Smart-A-Thon mixer on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. at Bob Smith Toyota, 3333 Foothill Blvd. At the mixer, the board of the Mary Pinola/Crescenta Valley Chamber Education Fund will be disbursing some funds to deserving local organizations. It promises to be a great night!

Are you interested in becoming a member of the CV Chamber? Come to one of our mixers! If you sign up for membership that night you'll not only have the processing fee waived, admission to the mixer will be free for one person!

If you are a Chamber member we are available to help your

business plan a ribbon cutting, a grandre-openingofyourbusiness, or even help you organize promotional opportunities. For those of you who are not business or residential members there are numerous advantages of a CV Chamber of Commerce membership. For details simply call the CV Chamber office at (818) 248-4957 or email us at info@crescentavalleychamber.org.

Remember our Chamber motto: "Our Business is Your Business."

*Robin Goldsworthy, President CV Chamber of Commerce*

**NEWS FROM THE MONTROSE-VERDUGO CITY CHAMBER » ADAM FRANKO, PRESIDENT**

Over the past four years the Montrose Chamber Board of Directors has had the absolute honor and pleasure of working closely with our executive director Mavil Aghadjanian.

When Mavil became the executive director four years ago, our Chamber was not in a good position. The COVID pandemic had just started and the future of our Chamber was unknown. Our reputation in the community had been tarnished for various reasons and we had lost the trust

of some community members and partners.

However, in a short period of time and facing multiple challenges along the way, Mavil was able to get our Chamber back in a financially stable position, restore our reputation in the community and grow our outreach and support to local businesses, non-profit organizations and schools.

Every time we hear someone talk about the Chamber, one of the first things they bring up is

how great Mavil is and how she has done such a fantastic job – and we couldn't agree more. In leadership you are blessed to have a chance to work with individuals who leave an indelible impact on your life, the life of others and the community. Mavil is that person for our chamber and all of us on the board.

That is why it is with deep gratitude and appreciation for Mavil that the board announces her wishes to step down as our executive director at the end of

January.

On behalf of our board of directors, we want to thank Mavil for everything she has done for our Chamber. We cannot thank her enough and our Chamber is better because of her; it will not be the same without her. We wish her the best of luck in the future and we hope to still see her around Montrose.

Due to this announcement, the Montrose Chamber Board of Directors is now in the process of searching for its next

executive director to continue our commitment to support local businesses, non-profits and schools in and around the Montrose area. Anyone interested can find the job posting on Indeed. Submit resumes there or by emailing them to the Chamber board president, Adam Franko, at afranko@ymcafoothills.org.

*Adam Franko, President Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber*

## Chanukah Festival Attracts Hundreds to Memorial Park



By Ruth SOWBY

The Chabad of La Cañada-La Crescenta celebrated the fifth day of the Jewish holiday on Dec. 29 by hosting The Chanukah Festival 2024. The free Festival featured Chanukah crafts, a petting zoo, jelly donuts,

latkes (potato pancakes), chocolate gelt and a bouncy house. Memorial Park in La Cañada Flintridge was the site of the festivities.

A photo booth was standing room only. Glendale resident Marsha Green posed for a photo with her grandchildren,

also residents. Glendale Rochelle Campomanes also visited the photo booth. She came to the Festival to learn more about the Jewish culture. Also spotted among Festival attendees was former California State Senator Anthony Portantino.

The highlight of the Festival was the lighting of a giant menorah at sundown. Chabad's Rabbi Mendy Grossbaum did the honors. He climbed on a ladder to light each branch of the menorah. According to Jewish tradition, after the Maccabees' victory over the Greeks, there

was only enough oil to burn for one day in the Temple. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days.

"Lighting the Chanukah menorah commemorates this miracle," said Rabbi Grossbaum.

The evening ended with a performance by ventriloquist Chuck Field.

Photos by Ruth SOWBY  
LEFT: Former California State Senator Anthony Portantino, left, joins Chabad Rabbi Mendy Grossbaum at the Chanukah Festival in Memorial Park.  
RIGHT: Grandmother Marsha Green poses for a photo with her daughter Samantha Dvora (left) and grandchildren Hunter Green, 14, and Savannah Dvora, 11.



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RESOLUTION from Cover

For example, people resolve to eat healthier, exercise more, spend less time on social media or quit smoking.

Below is some information on resolutions from Psychology Today: Habits are automatic 'conditioned' responses. Contrary

TWELVE OAKS from page 16

The small cabins made it difficult for health care workers to receive deliveries and get services needed for specific residents.

Rothrock said they are respecting the environment and the neighborhood look of Twelve Oaks. In fact there was a building in the original plans that would have been on a corner that was too close to oak trees so that had to be changed. An arborist was also hired to help preserve everything possible as construction moves forward.

ECS has also reached out to the CVCA to get community feedback and to keep its members informed. It also wants to reach out to other organizations, including the Historical Society of Crescenta Valley.

Gabriel Mendham, director of ECS, said ECS has gone above and beyond in its outreach and support.

"[It] approached it in as kind a manner as possible [by] giving residents six months to find other homes. [It has supported them by] financially facilitating the moves," she said. "I feel like a lot of time and processing was put into this change. And ECS did a wonderful job consulting with NCL ... I think it took into consideration the families' and residents' physical and emotional wellbeing."

ECS also worked with NCL to send out holiday cards to residents regardless of where they were living to let them know they are still thought of at Twelve Oaks.

to popular belief it is not hard to change habits if it is done based on science. To change an old habit people have to create a new one; so whether they are changing an existing habit or creating a new one, the "scientific method" for doing so is the same. People have already created hundreds of habits and don't even remember how those habits started, so creating a new habit can't be that hard or people wouldn't have so many of them.

To create a new habit it is best to pick a small action. Many times people make resolutions that look great on paper but are very difficult in practice. Ideas like getting more exercise or eating healthier are not small. So instead of making a resolution to "get more exercise" choose to walk one-third more than usual or take the stairs instead of the elevator or have a healthy smoothie in the morning.

It is advised to attach new actions to previous habits. For example,

those who already go on a walk should just increase the number of days walked or the distance walked. And ease into a resolution; don't expect to change everything overnight.

According to studies, 38.5% of adults in the U.S. set New Year's resolutions annually but only 9% successfully keep them. And 23% of us abandon the resolutions within the first week while only 36% make it past the first month. The majority give up by mid-February.

However setting goals, like New Year's resolutions, is an optimistic way to begin the new year. It is a good practice to set goals and follow through and gives people a sense they are in control of their lives.

The most common resolutions are those related to health, exercise and diet. For the month of January, CVW will be focusing on those health issues as well as mental health, children's health and health for seniors.



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