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VOL. 16, NO. 16

Water Usage Topic on Council Agenda

By Mikaela STONE

At its meeting on Tuesday night the Glendale City Council authorized Glendale Water & Power (GWP) to initiate steps to ensure the city is prepared to adapt to California's ever-fluctuating weather.

GWP Assistant General Manager of water services Chisom Obegolu presented information regarding Glendale's water usage. This city relies heavily on imported water to meet its need of over 5 billion gallons of water a year. While 2019 brought heavy rains, Obegolu explained "one or two wet years here are not enough to overturn decades of drought like we're seeing in the Colorado basin." The water level of Lake Mead, one of Glendale's main water sources, currently sits at 1,080.93 feet above sea level. While this level is not as severe as it has been in years past, such a drastic change – from a nearly full basin – illustrates how fickle California's water cycle is.

The scattered torrential downpours seen this year have done little to help. With so many inches of rain in such a short amount of time, water does not have time to soak into the ground before running off into rivers and oceans. With Glendale's reliance on groundwater for its locally sourced supply, drought measures must stay in place in spite of recent rains.

The GWP points out that two thirds of Glendale's imported water is supplied across the San Andreas Fault. Between aging infrastructure and fears for the next earthquake stemming from the San Andreas Fault, the organization wants to start preventive measures to keep water flowing. A \$1.2 million plan would recycle water not just for irrigation but as potable water by partnering with engineers at Arcadis U.S., Inc.

see GCC on page 8

Giving to Those Who Keep Kids Safe

By Mary O'KEEFE

Local crossing guards get surprise visits by gift-bearing student ambassadors.

On Monday community members and Crescenta Valley High School students showed their appreciation for a few of the local crossing guards.

It was quite a scene as cars from Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. - Crescenta Valley Station and two fire engines from LA County Fire Dept. pulled up to local schools and students hurriedly walked toward unsuspecting crossing guards. The students came with gifts to thank the crossing guards for helping students navigate the sometimes perilous streets surrounding local schools.

This outreach was sponsored by the CV Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition, aka CV Cares. During a meeting a few weeks ago sector coalition members heard CV Sheriff

Photo by Mary O'KEEFE
Valley View Elementary School crossing guard Damian was one of several crossing guards recognized for their ongoing help in ensuring students arrive safely at



Deputy JR Ruiz talk about drug issues in the area. The coalition focuses on drug issues; Ruiz shared information on fentanyl and about a location where it was known that individuals were in possession of illegal drugs. (Due to the diligence of LASD the location has been cleared of those individuals.)

During the conversation Ruiz spoke about the traffic issues in the area, specifically at local schools during drop off and pickup times. Everyone at the meeting shared a negative traffic experience. It was at this time the idea was born of showing support to the crossing guards.

"As a Los Angeles County com-

missioner, past president and current member of the Crescenta Valley Town Council it is very important to be involved in our community without any strings attached," said Harry Leon.

Leon is also a sector member of CV Cares.

see CROSSING GUARDS on page 8

'Tis the Season to Be Scam Aware

By Mary O'KEEFE

Although there really is not one season for scams they do seem to increase during the holidays because so many people are looking for that one spectacular deal.

One rule of thought during this season of bargain shopping is "If it looks too good to be true, it probably is."

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is urging the public to remain vigilant against an uptick in scams targeting holiday shoppers and charitable donors. Criminals are exploiting the busy shopping period, using increasingly sophisticated tactics to steal money and personal information," according to the FBI.

"Criminals don't take holidays off," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert Tripp. "We're seeing scammers employing aggressive and creative schemes to take advantage of the season's generosity and high online shopping activity."

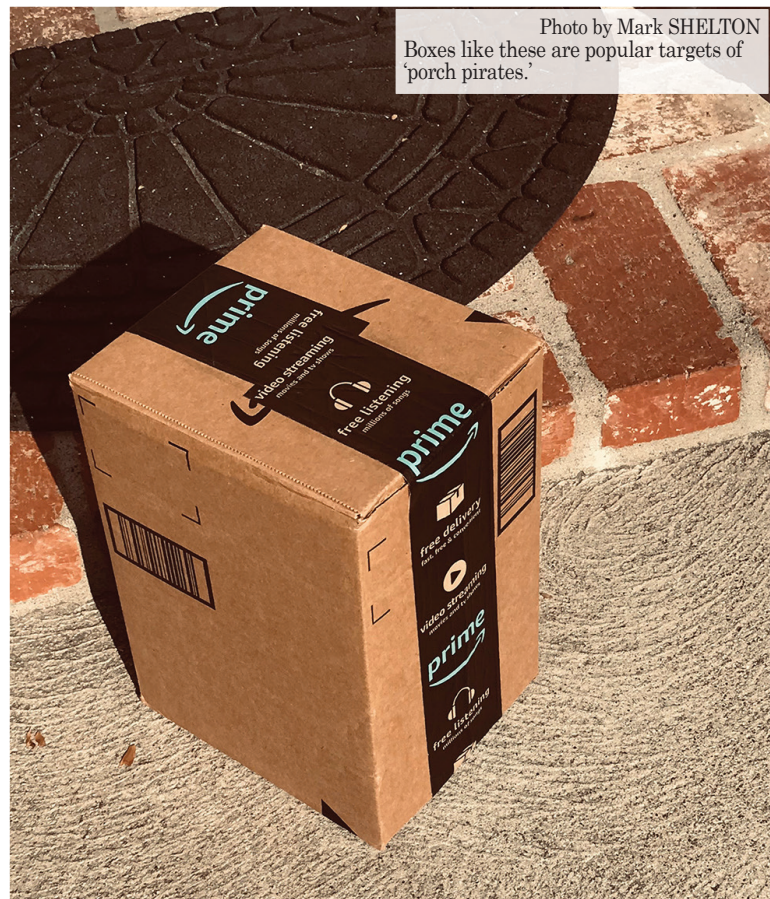
Those on social media most like-

ly have seen ads of "one-of-a-kind items" at amazing prices. Looking through the comments regarding these offers many warn fellow shoppers, sharing stories of funds paid and no items being sent or of the item received that is not anything like the photo of what was ordered.

The FBI also warns of online shopping scams. These include "items purchased through third-party marketplaces using stolen credit cards or accounts, and puppy scams involving fake advertisements for pets, with losses reported at \$5.6 million so far this year."

There are also individuals who prey on the charitable nature of people using charity scams. People are warned to be aware of fake charities soliciting donations through phone calls, emails, crowdfunding platforms and social media. There are also copycat organizations mimicking legitimate charities to steal funds.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

A Well-Oiled Machine

On Sunday night I had In-N-Out for dinner. I went to the one on Harvey Drive over by Glendale Adventist Hospital. I originally was going to drive over but I quickly nixed that idea when I saw the line of drivers coming up Harvey Drive. There was no way that I was going to be "allowed" to drive into the restaurant's parking lot. So I parked my car on Wilson Terrace and walked over.

What I first thought was a pain in the rear turned out to be a real eye-opener.

I entered the restaurant, which wasn't overly busy though there wasn't a dining table open. I somewhat quickly ordered my food then sat down to wait on an adjacent bench. Then I watched.

I watched the folks going in and out and how the workers kept their focus on the job at hand. One guy was in charge of slicing potatoes for fries – that was it. Not cooking the potatoes or serving the potatoes ... just slicing them. And he was fantastic.

The guy who cooked the fries expertly took them out of the oil and shook salt on them.

The cooks had patties on the grill, flipping at regular intervals and laying on cheese where needed. Another couple of people were in charge of assembling the burgers and, knowing what I do now about the "secret menu," I was astounded how adept these people were in getting the orders right.

Every person working wore the

same uniform, down to the oversized safety pin that kept on their apron. (Of course that made me wonder who pinned on their apron – was it someone at home or did they wait until they got to work and asked a co-worker to pin them up?)

Once assembled, the meals were placed on a counter and the girl in charge of calling out the numbers of the completed orders would grab the microphone (hoping it worked) and called out the order numbers. Promptly (probably because they were hungry) diners would come up, show their receipt and pick up their meal. There was no danger of completed meals being left too long on the counter; folks (like me) were eager to grab their dinner and enjoy what "a hamburger is all about."

Soon enough it was time for me to answer the call of my number and I made my way to my car. As I did, I couldn't help but note how many people were making their way into the In-N-Out parking lot; there were a lot.

But once I bit into my perfect cheeseburger I didn't think about them anymore and only thought about my delicious meal ... and how the company really does operate like a well-oiled machine.

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

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» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

The other day I saw a post from rah_cosmic_force #heresthesoup. It shows an individual standing in a forest holding a bowl of soup and a vial of "poison." He uses a dropper to place a small amount of poison on one side of the large soup bowl.

"If I poison this side of the soup, you probably wouldn't feel comfortable eating from the [other side]," he pointed out. "We can all agree whatever is happening on this side of the soup before long will be on this side because the poison can travel. Soup is clearly a continuous flowing entity with no gaps."

He goes on to explain that everything is connected.

"But we spray our lawns with poison, dig for oil, chop down rain forests and dump raw sewage in the ocean and then struggle to connect the dots when we get ill. And that's because we're taught to believe that the universe is made up of individual objects separated by empty gaps of space," he added.

This is something that seems to be a constant – sort of "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas" kind of thinking in society. However, the fact is there are consequences. Isn't this what we teach our kids, after all? We tell them that if they don't do their homework or don't study for a tests they will have to deal with the consequences, which can mean failing a class.

There are other lessons: If you don't put gas in your car, or charge your car, it will not work. If you don't pay your

bills or don't get a medical checkup or over eat or over drink ... there are consequences for those actions, too. These consequences may not be faced immediately but they will eventually be faced.

So this soup metaphor seems perfect to describe how some think we can do anything to the Earth and it won't matter; our lawns will still be green, our weather is still perfect, we aren't seeing a lot of flooding in California and, yeah, we have an increased number of wildfires that spread faster than ever before – but that's just the way it is. Nothing we do on this side of the soup bowl really has any effect on the other side.

"Under this illusion, it's impossible to see the hidden connections between things. The discovery that trees can communicate with each other is all the rage right now, but that's only really a surprising headline to somebody who thinks the universe is made up of separate bits. One day we'll remember that everything can communicate with each other because, in reality, all things are one thing. It's all touching itself and communicating in all directions all the time. It's all just soup."

The weather will be warm on our side of the soup bowl this weekend. Today, Friday and Saturday will have highs in the upper 70s and lows in the high 40s/low 50s. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday it will cool down a bit with temperatures in the upper-to-mid 60s.

There is an Air Quality Alert for the area, which means a mandatory ban on wood burning, until midnight tonight.

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

ROSEMONT PRESERVE OPEN GATE MORNING

An “open gate” event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Saturday morning, Dec. 7. This is a chance for residents to visit the Preserve and wander the trail at their own pace and enjoy the tranquil setting, the wildlife and the natural beauty. Photographers: bring your camera to capture the morning light and citizen scientists, bring your iNaturalist and Merlin apps to identify birds and add wildlife sightings!

The gate will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Friends of the Rosemont Preserve Committee members will be available to answer questions and present this community resource.

The Preserve is located at the north end of Rosemont Avenue, just past the chain link fence. As street parking is limited, please park at Two Strike Park, 5107 Rosemont Ave. Those with mobility issues who require a closer parking spot should contact the Rosemont Preserve Committee.

Those planning on walking the trails should wear sturdy shoes and bring water to drink.

This event is free to the public and suitable for all ages; no reservations required. Rain cancels. Sorry, no pets please.

For further information, contact the Friends of the Rosemont Preserve at RosemontFriends@gmail.com.

STUDENT CERAMIC SALE AT GCC

Glendale Community College is having its semi-annual student ceramics sale on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Food will also be available for purchase.

Free parking in Lot 8.

GCC is located at 1500 Verdugo Blvd. in Glendale.

HOLIDAY AT THE STONE BARN

The community is invited to a family-oriented evening of holiday entertainment on Dec. 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Stone Barn Nature Center in Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in Glendale/La Crescenta. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Seating is limited. RSVP by Dec. 11 to glendaleca.gov.

Falcon Choirs Present Feast of Lights Concert

Crescenta Valley High School Falcon Choirs presents the Feast of Lights Concert tonight, Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. The concert takes place in the MacDonald Auditorium located in the 4300 block of Ramsdell Avenue.

ELECTRIC CAR & BIKE GUEST DRIVE

The City of Glendale is having a test drive opportunity for e-bikes and EVs on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Glendale City Hall parking lot, 120 N. Isabel St. in Glendale. Explore a wide variety of electric vehicles, including the Tesla Cybertruck, Hyundai Ioniq 5, Ford F-150 Lightning, Tesla Model Y. Also, test ride the latest electric bikes from top manufacturers.

Parking at 650 E. Wilson Ave. in Glendale.

RSVP to test drive an electric car at <https://gwp.evnavigator.com/evdrive.html>; no RSVP needed to test an electric bike.

Community Met with ‘Snoap,’ Dignitaries and Song at Tree Lightings

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY, Mary O’KEEFE and Michelle SEVANA

It was a magical winter wonderland at the corner of Ocean View Boulevard and Honolulu Avenue on Friday night as the community gathered for the annual Montrose Christmas tree lighting.

People of all ages were present, greeted by carolers strolling the avenue and by students of the Hummingbird Conservatory, under the direction of Tara Wallace, singing Christmas carols. Firefighters, with their classic fire truck, were on hand to collect toys for the Spark of Love toy drive and representatives from the Glendale City Council, including Mayor Elen Asatryan. Former State Senator Anthony Portantino, as his last official act as state senator, was on hand to offer comments and congratulations to the Montrose Shopping Park for a successful event. In addition, he presented a certificate of recognition to Andre Ordubegian, president of the Montrose Shopping Park Assn.

Pushing the plunger to light the mammoth Nobel fir tree were Montrose icons Ken Grayson and Steve Pierce. Then it was time for Santa to stop by to visit with guests.

Families gathered around “snoap” machines – machines that generated imitation snow created by soap bubbles – as snoap fell to the ground while kids made snowballs and decorated their hair with the foamy concoction.

Artist Mardy De Santo was hard at work decorating a nearby window in a Christmas theme. De Santo said it was his first time at the Montrose Christmas tree lighting and he enjoyed it. He has been drawing ever since he was 8 years old enjoys drawing colorful pictures and Christmas themes. De Santo adds his own touches to his drawings, incorporating a message or moral. For the window he decorated he incorporated the moral “The best is yet to come!”

Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger showcased the La Crescenta Christmas tree lighting on Tuesday night at the La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd. Before taking the mic, the audience listened to the sounds of



Photo by Robin GOLDSWORTHY
Glendale Mayor Elen Asatryan, with Leo and Armen Dovlatyan, made sure to visit Santa at the Montrose Christmas tree lighting.

West Wind Quartet.

“I want to thank the [Crescenta Valley] Town Council for taking this on for the 10th annual tree lighting,” said Barger, recently named the chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Barger, Crescenta Valley Town Council (CVTC) and Friends of the La Crescenta Library were sponsors of the event. It was kicked off by La Crescenta Librarian Marta Wiggins, who thanked all of those involved in the decoration and celebration. She thanked Barger for her support and CVTC members Dede Mueller and Donna Libra. Wiggins also thanked the workers from LA County who provided mics and power.

Mueller, who spearheaded the project, took the mic and also thanked everyone including all of the CVTC members who continue to work to make the event a community favorite. CVTC members who were present included President Frida Baghdassarian, Kerri Lewin Brautigam, Daniel Kim, Libra, Elizabeth Ahlers and Harry Leon.

Members of the American Legion Post 288 presented the colors and Crescenta Valley High School Charismatics, an a cappella choral group, performed several holiday

favorites.

“La Crescenta/Montrose is truly the Mayberry of LA County and I am so proud to represent it,” Barger told the audience.

She made a point of thanking Sussy Nemer, her “eyes and ears” for the area. Nemer is the supervisor’s representative who responds to the concerns of local residents and community members.

It was then time to light the tree. The crowd, with Supervisor Barger, counted down the tree lighting and then the lights popped on the tree that stands proudly in front of the library.

The tree lighting ceremony began by then-CVTC president Robbyn Battles.

“It’s throwing a big party for the community,” she said in an earlier interview.

In 2014 Battles wanted to create a holiday event that would be specific to the unincorporated area of LA County – La Crescenta/Montrose but could include the entire CV community. She decided on hosting it at the La Crescenta Library, which has become a touchstone in the community.

The event has continued to be a place where community members can gather to kick off the holiday season.

For more pictures visit CVWeekly.com/NEWS

Holiday Open House
at Lanterman House
Sunday, December 15
1pm to 4pm
FREE Admission
Celebrate the holiday season at the Lanterman House.

- Caroling, crafts and treats!
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For more information, please visit www.lantermanhouse.org No reservations necessary
The Lanterman House is located at 4420 Encinas Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011.

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NOTES N NODS

LCIF Celebrates A New Sound This Holiday Season

The season of Advent is here and with it comes a new season of music at Lutheran Church in the Foothills. Written and arranged by LCIF music director Mark Anzelon, the songs are intended to be meaningful and easy to sing.

From the Latin word "coming," Advent is a time when Christians begin the liturgical year with preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Anzelon's liturgical music along with familiar Christmas carols will be sung each Sunday in December during LCIF's 10 a.m. Advent worship service with Pastor Rick Hall.

All are invited. And calling all bakers ... LCIF will hold its annual "Cookies and Carols" event on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall. All are invited to bring their favorite homemade cookies to share. It's a festive opportunity to mingle, enjoy delicious desserts and participate in the singing of classic Christmas carols.

For more information or to request/offer help, email office@lciffoothills.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. A study of the Book of Second Corinthians began on Nov. 16.

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.

'Mary, Did You Know?' Pondered at Mt. Olive

This year during the season of Advent at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church the question "Mary, did you know?" will be addressed during the midweek Advent services. Come and ponder Mary's experience with heaven's perfect lamb (Jesus) at Mt. Olive's Holden Evening Prayer services at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays on Dec. 11 and 18.

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

St. Bede Music Ministry Presents Mozart's 'Coronation Mass'

On Friday, Dec. 6, St. Bede the Venerable Choir, in collaboration with East Los Angeles College's Chamber Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, will present a stirring performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Coronation Mass." Kick off the holiday season with this special concert that starts at 7 p.m. at St. Bede the Venerable Church, 215 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada.

Pre-sale tickets are \$25/adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under; they can be purchased online at www.bede.org or on-site the evening of the event (\$30/adults and \$15 for kids 12 and under).

All are welcome as this event is open to the public.

UUCVH Hosts Oncology Chaplain

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills will host oncology chaplain Michael Eselun on Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. Eselun will speak about spiritual report cards, asking congregants to consider: How many of us live our lives as if there will be a report card at the end of the term? What would constitute an "A" in each member's book, spiritually speaking? And does it matter? Eselun is a highly regarded keynote speaker who has worked tirelessly as an activist/educator addressing anti-LGBTQ bias and homophobia in the larger community for over 30 years.

UUCVH is located at 4451 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. To join via Zoom, visit the UUCVH website for the link <https://www.uuverdugo.org/>.

Experience The Nativity – A Free Gift To The Community

Community Christian Church of the Foothills in Tujunga invites the community to experience the joy of Christmas at its drive-thru nativity on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13 and 14, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Community Christian Church of the Foothills will offer the opportunity to step back in time and experience the first



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Christmas via a drive-thru nativity. Guests will drive past various scenes of the nativity story with actors portraying Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the angel and the wise men.

Community Christian Church is located at 10193 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. in Tujunga, just north of Foothill Boulevard and next to the Tujunga post office.

To learn more, visit CommunityChristianChurch.info or phone (818) 353-8080. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m.

Christmas Concert at La Crescenta Presbyterian

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church invites the community to "How Great Our Joy," a Christmas concert on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Operatic baritone Joel Balzun and trumpet virtuoso David Washburn will join Sinfonia Orchestra members and the La Crescenta Presbyterian Choir for a selection of Christmas favorites arranged by Dan Forrest.

The concert in the church sanctuary, followed by a dessert reception, are free to the community; a free-will offering will

be collected. La Crescenta Presbyterian is located at 2902 Montrose Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information, visit lcpc.net or call (818) 249-6137.

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 Dec. 8, 15, 22 & 29. Participants will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

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:Jeanne@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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SUNDAY SERVICES 10:45 a.m.
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Lutheran Church in the Foothills



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

Sunday Worship Service
(with Sunday School for kids) 9:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study
6:30 PM

Check out our Website!
www.molc.org
See us on Facebook!

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

Community Lunch This Wednesday
All Welcome
Entertainment Following
December 12 - 12pm - Cost \$5.00

Check out our Website!
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ANSWERS for page 21

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CRIME BLOTTER

NOV. 28
5100 block of Alta Canyada Road in La Cañada Flintridge, a person providing private security for the location reported that he was inside his vehicle when he heard the security alarm activate at the residence. He stepped outside his vehicle and saw three men described as Black adults running from the residence's front door facing east toward the driveway just west on Alta Canyada Road. The three suspects reportedly jumped a metal fence and enter a dark four-door BMW sedan. There were two other suspects sitting inside the vehicle. All suspects were described as wearing black hoodies, black pants, medical masks and gloves. One of the suspects was carrying

a black backpack, another had a handgun hanging from inside his waistband. Upon an investigation it was found the glass patio door had been shattered and several rooms had been ransacked. Numerous items were reported missing including jewelry and two semiautomatic handguns. The residential burglary occurred at 8:15 p.m.

NOV. 27
900 block of Milmada Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, a woman left her home about 9:20 a.m. and returned at 1:02 p.m. When she returned she found drawers inside her garage open. She then saw the rear patio glass door had been shattered. The electric panel controlling her residence was open and the electricity had been shut down. Numerous rooms had been ransacked and several items were stolen. Surveillance footage revealed three people, all wearing black tops, black pants, black masks and black gloves, exit a silver four-door sedan and run up the driveway at the location at 12:15 p.m.

900 block of Wiladonda Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident reported that person/persons unknown attempted to enter his home. The resident received a text at 6:59 p.m. alerting him that his residence alarm had been activated. He investigated and found the rear sliding window had been shattered. Deputies arrived and it appeared no one had entered the home. The incident occurred at 6:51 p.m.

NOV. 26
2600 block of Pine Lawn Drive in La Crescenta, a witness reported that an unknown male wearing a black hoodie and black pants with a white stripe stepped out of the passenger side of a black four-door sedan, walked up to the front of the house and stole a box containing items. The man then walked toward the street, got into the vehicle and drove on Pine Lawn Drive and out of view at 5:19 p.m.

NOV. 21
4400 block of Rockland Place in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident reported that someone had tampered with her driver's side door lock and her vehicle's steering wheel column had been removed between Nov. 21-27.

Obituary

Bernie Richter



Dec. 1, 2024

Bernie Richter, a cherished member of the Montrose community for over 40 years, passed away on Dec. 1. Born in Germany, Bernie immigrated to Los Angeles as a young man, bringing with him a love for science and a deep appreciation for community.

For more than three decades, Bernie worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory contributing significantly to the Mars Rover landing. His dedication to exploration and discovery left an enduring impact on the field of space science and inspiring those around him.

In Montrose, Bernie was a familiar and beloved figure known for his daily strolls along Honolulu Avenue. He loved connecting with neighbors, sharing a friendly wave or engaging in conversation. His warm presence enriched the community he called home.

Bernie is survived by his brother Eberhard "Ed" Richter, sister-in-law Gemma Richter, niece Jennifer Williams and her husband Jonathon Williams, and niece Angela Richter, who will forever hold his memory close.

The family invites friends and neighbors wishing to pay their respects to Crippen Mortuary, located at 2900 Honolulu Ave. in La Crescenta/Glendale, on Friday, Dec. 13 any time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Obituary

R. James Richards



Dec. 1, 1958 to Nov. 20, 2024

Robert James (Jim) Richards, 65, quietly passed away at his home in La Crescenta after a long illness. Jim was born in Glendale on December 1, 1958 where he continued to live throughout his life. He attended Crescenta Valley High School, graduated in 1976, and received his degree in business from Cal State LA. He spent over 30 years working at Wedbush Securities, where he rose from an order desk clerk in the trading room to Executive Vice President. He played a pivotal role in the success of the company, guiding the firm into the digital age with his innovation, programming and implementation of Broker Insight, elevating Wedbush to become a leader in financial services. He was also a member of the Wedbush Executive Management Committee. He enjoyed all his years there and made many great friends.

He met his future wife, Julie, sitting across from him on the order desk, and they were married in November 1985. They had just celebrated their 39th anniversary before he passed away. Jim spent all his childhood summers fishing on the Rogue River in Oregon with his parents. He was a talented water skier and enjoyed spending time on the lake in his younger years. He was a very skilled woodworker building his own house and many of the cabinets and furniture for it. He enjoyed building various gifts for friends and family. He was a lifelong baseball fan and, along with his daughter Jennifer, set out to visit every baseball stadium. He completed 24 stadiums before Covid and illness prevented him from completing this mission. In his honor, Jennifer is continuing to finish his goal. He so enjoyed helping his son, William, build a Halloween haunted house and a huge Christmas light show that ran for many years at their home.

Jim leaves behind his wife, Julia Long, son William (Stephanie), daughter Jennifer (Mike) Lim, and three grandchildren that he adored, McKenna and Alanna Richards and Thomas Lim. He is also survived by half-sister Rhonda Richards and other extended family members. He is now reunited in death with his parents, Robert G. Richards and Catherine (Kay) Richards, and his half-sister Ruth Wiser. Jim will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

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GLA Mixer Supports Cops For Kids

By Ruth SOWBY

Porto's Café in Glendale played host to Glendale's finest on Nov. 14. Cops, partnering with the Glendale Latino Association, has been presenting the Cops for Kids toy drive for more than 10 years. For November's GLA mixer, more than 50 supporters were especially generous. The collection table groaned with toys for the little kids and makeup, hair accessories, arts and crafts, art supplies and science kits for the older kids. Gift cards were also welcomed.

GLA Treasurer Miryam Finkleberg checked in the attendees. Sitting by her side was Jasmine Venegas-Goulet, GLA board member.

"Our goal is to give back to the community, especially to the needy ones," she said.

Porto's owner Betty Porto socialized with guests and urged all to partake of Porto's pastries and sandwiches.

GLA President Anita Quiñonez Gabrielian welcomed all and announced the GLA 2025 honorees. Desiree Portillo-Robinov was named Woman of the Year. She is president of the Glendale Community College board of trustees and president-elect of Glendale Soroptimist. Greg Fish, Glendale Fire Dept. chief, was named Man of the Year. Both



accepted their new titles and thanked GLA. Recognized as Organization of the Year was Glendale Forest Lawn.

Cops for Kids was founded in 1995 by two deputies on patrol from the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station. The deputies saw a need to help children at Christmas time. Along with other deputies at the station, they started delivering gifts to

underprivileged children while on patrol during the holidays.

Photos by Ruth SOWBY
 TOP: Collecting for Cops for Kids are, from left, Officer Kory Petrosyan, Capt. Rafael Quintero, Sgt. Jose Barajas and Officer Daniel Lee at Porto's Café in Glendale.
 ABOVE: Thanks to the donated gifts via the Cops for Kids partnership with the Glendale Latino Assn., Glendale kids will have a very Merry Christmas.

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The Costs of Caregiving and Resources to Support Caregivers

November is National Caregivers month, a time to honor the millions of caregivers who give their time and energy to support loved ones. More than one in five Americans provide care for an aging loved one. Informal or unpaid caregivers are the backbone of long-term care in people's homes.

Caregivers routinely make significant personal and professional sacrifices, including stepping out of the workforce or moving from full-time to part-time work. Because of this, it's no surprise that caregiving for loved ones can have a significantly negative impact on a caregiver's income. According to the AARP, the estimated economic value of uncompensated family caregiving in the U.S. was \$600 billion in 2021, up from \$470 billion in 2017.

While caregiving for aging parents and spouses can bring satisfaction and strengthen relationships, in addition to straining one's pocketbook, caregiving can also affect the caregiver's physical and emotional wellbeing. According to the Centers for Disease Control, many caregivers report experiencing challenges with sleep and mental health and over 40% have two or more chronic diseases. Caregivers often put their own health and wellbeing behind that of the loved ones they are caring for.

Some self-care tips for primary caregivers from the California Dept. of Aging include:

- If you know someone who is a primary caregiver, some ways in which you can help include:
 - Offer to stay with the older adult while the caregiver runs errands
 - Run errands for the caregiver or provide a meal
 - Listen when the caregiver needs to talk
 - Stay with the older adult for a few days so the caregiver can take a vacation
 - Write a card or letter to show gratitude

Organizations such as the Family Caregiver Alliance (caregiver.org) can be very helpful in providing resources to help caregivers identify barriers to self-care, identifying what can and cannot be changed, goal setting and seeking assistance.

The USC VHH Community Resource Center for Aging can help caregivers talk through their situations and find creative and local resources that fit with a family's needs, budget and sensibilities. We can be contacted at aging-resource@med.usc.edu or by calling (818) 949-4033.

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CROSSING GUARDS *from cover*

“[It is also important] to acknowledge the people who make our lives easier and safer, especially the crossing guards. [In my opinion] they don’t get paid enough to make sure our kids are safe in the streets. They are there, rain or shine, making sure our parents and kids cross the streets and get to school safely,” Leon continued.

“Is this for me?” asked Tony, the crossing guard at Dunsmore Elementary School.

The gifts included clothing items, like a jacket, vest and a warm hat, in a duffle bag from Albert Abkarian & Assoc. APC. In addition there were lots of cookies and snacks from Byblos Mediterranean Bakery. All the items were placed in a festive holiday bag and presented to the crossing guards.

Tony, like most of the crossing guards, was overwhelmed by the gifts and the presence of so many supportive community members.

“I need to call my wife,” Tony added.

Glendale Unified School District board of education member Neda Farid, whose school site assignment includes CV High School and Rosemont Middle School, joined the support caravan. She took time to speak to each of the crossing guards and thanked them for what they do every day to protect GUSD students.

CV Cares youth ambassadors, all students from CVHS, got up early to participate. Victoria Malone, executive director of CV Cares, said the outreach

demonstrates the community’s support for the crossing guards. “We really want to acknowledge the crossing guards in our community and hand-in-hand with that the high school students, who did the gift giving. It’s important for them to exercise their gratitude,” Malone said, “and to exercise their advocacy.”

Traffic is not directly under the banner of what are the primary goals of CV Cares, which is drug education and student safety; however, shepherding students across the street during times of heavy traffic is another aspect of student safety.

Students being involved in the outreach efforts empower them and is an opportunity for learning, Malone said.

“This is the season of giving and our community is full of positive spirit and we would like to pass it along to others. When I was a kid, people did good things to make sure that I was safe and now it’s my turn to pay back my community,” Leon said.

Kimberly, one of the crossing guards at La Crescenta Elementary, was moved that the community would show its appreciation in this way.

“It was very nice,” she said of the outreach. “I love working as a crossing guard because it is a way I can make sure the kids are safe.”

To say Damian, the crossing guard at Valley View Elementary, is popular would be an understatement. He is

very positive and kids, and parents, all greet him with a smile and a wave.

“Hi, Damian! How was your Thanksgiving?” A child yelled from his car as it turned toward the school and passed Damian. The student did a Spider-Man web slinging gesture.

“I had a great Thanksgiving, Spider-Man! How was yours?” Damian asked.

When he was presented the gifts, parents who saw what was occurring were very moved.

“He deserves recognition,” said one parent.

“He is super friendly,” said another, “and good at his job.”

“He makes a personal connection,” said a third parent. “And he has dog treats too.”

“CV Cares is doing a great job and we should acknowledge what they do for our youth to make sure they are safe too,” Leon said.

The fact that LASD and LACoFD supported the effort to recognize the crossing guards made an impression on the recipients. All guards voiced their appreciation of the support of safety personnel.

“The LA Sheriff Dept. and LA County Fire Dept. are always there to help our community. They are part of the community and they always contribute to our community,” Leon said adding how much he appreciated their presence at the presentations to the crossing guards.

GCC *from cover*

Council member Dan Brotman said he believes the longer Glendale waits to take action the more difficult and expensive water concerns will be to address.

“The climate – physics – doesn’t care about our feelings,” he said. “This is something that’s not controllable. This is something that we have to do for the new world we’re living in.”

Already actions taken by Glendale residents have shown results. Even though the city’s population is growing, its overall water usage has decreased.

Council members assured the public that cutting water and power costs for consumers will be addressed in a future meeting.

The GWP will be holding an Electric Car & Bike Test Drive Event on Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside city hall. Reservations for test driving vehicles can be made at <https://gwp.evnavigator.com/evdrive.html>.

The City Council also authorized an amendment to the law regarding public camping. This decision comes in light of the Supreme Court’s decision that enforcement of such laws does not constitute cruel or unusual punishment. The amendment expands the definition of camping to include “living in a parked trailer,

camper shell, motor home or any motor vehicle as defined by the California Vehicle Code.”

One public commenter felt that this was forcing police officers to take the role of social workers and that enforcement of the law will cost resources better spent elsewhere. However, defenders of the amendment believe this will make Glendale streets safer. One citizen stated he felt unsafe walking by unhoused people with his son and felt action needed to be taken.

Council member Vartan Gharpetian assured those assembled that this law will not replace the resources Glendale already has for unhoused people. Such services include outreach programs, landlord incentives and a mobile shower. The city also recently approved a budget for hotel vouchers for up to 30 days for unhoused people and domestic abuse victims.

Brotman added, “This doesn’t preclude us from building affordable housing; it isn’t an either or.”

While decisions regarding water and law enforcement resources sparked discussion, the much more emotionally-charged bike lane debate of the next Glendale City Council meeting overshadowed public comment and the scheduling of tabled topics. Attendees can expect a fraught debate to come.

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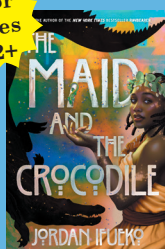
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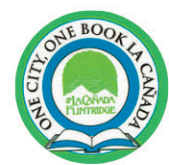
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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Verdugo Hills Ridgeline Drive Proposed in 1924

Our Verdugo Mountains are an amazing treasure. The north side that faces the Crescenta Valley is lush with oaks and sage. The entire range, which extends from Glendale northwest to Sunland and Sun Valley, provides a wildlife oasis almost entirely surrounded by development. It is a hiking and recreation mecca for greater Los Angeles. While the south side features many hillside homes, for the most part the north side facing our valley has been largely free from development. In recent history, large-scale development has been fought down by grassroots efforts and most of the land today is dedicated open space.

But as Glendale grew after the turn of the last century, developers eyed the Verdugo Mountains. The first proposal to access and develop the mountains

was a rail line. In 1912 a serious stab was made at building a funicular style railway, similar to Angels Flight in Downtown Los Angeles, going from Glendale to the top of the mountains. But by 1924 the automobile had become king and a roadway across the mountains was proposed instead.

The '20s were boom years in both Glendale and the Crescenta Valley with hundreds of homes being built. The development of Sparr Heights had been completed by the Barnum-Walters Company and Mr. Walters cast his eyes on the Verdugo Mountains as his next grand development scheme.

In the summer of 1924, Walters put together a big meeting of Glendale movers and shakers, large property owners adjacent to the Verdugo Mountains and local realtors, to pitch his

vision for a roadway across the mountains that would open them up for massive development. The meeting started with an automobile tour of Sparr Heights. The caravan then wound up to a hilltop in the foothills of the Verdugos overlooking the Crescenta Valley. A steak dinner was served and speakers stood to extol the virtues of building a ridgetop road across the mountains.

First up was Harry Merrick, a big developer of housing in the Hollywood Hills. At that point in time Mulholland Drive was halfway finished. Merrick explained how the highway had been financed and built, and its critical importance to the development in the Hollywood Hills. He stated that land in the Hollywood Hills had been \$3 an acre before the highway but was now going for \$3000 an acre.

Next up was M.V. Hartranft, the founding father of Sunland-Tujunga. He praised Glendale for both its growth and for

considering the development of the "Verdugo Skyway." He said it would be good for both Glendale and Tujunga. The head of planning for Glendale got up and presented a map the planners had drawn of the proposed road. It would have two entrances, at the top of Brand Boulevard and from Verdugo Road, and would wind along the top of the mountains all the way to Foothill Boulevard in Sunland. As the sun set and the lights of Montrose below flickered to life, the meeting was adjourned and it was voted to continue planning and assemble again later.

That next meeting happened in October under the auspices of the newly formed Verdugo Hills Crestline Boulevard Association. The association members toured the Mulholland Highway, then under construction, and finished at the Oakmont Country Club to elect officers and form committees. It was proposed there that the entire range of the Verdugos be annexed to

the City of Glendale. The so-called Verdugo Skyway would be financed by bonds. Perry Whiting of Whiting Woods even offered 500 acres of his own land free to the city for a park along the new road.

So what happened to the Verdugo Skyway? Perhaps the bond issue failed. Perhaps it was the massive fire of 1927 that consumed nearly the entire Verdugo mountains range. Whatever the reason, the grand plans fizzled. The plans came back in the 1960s and '70s for a ridgeline road, the Verdugo Mountains Scenic Parkway, which included the building of tens of thousands of hillside homes on both sides of the Verdugos. That ambitious plan was fought down by community effort and the Verdugo Mountains have remained for the most part wildland.

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

IEWS FROM THE VALLEY » SUSAN BOLAN

Thanksgiving Blessings

Thanksgiving was a bust ... or so it seemed. Our family was looking forward to a quick getaway to our ranch house in the high desert for Thanksgiving weekend – just the five of us and the dogs. But our plans changed. I caught a cold four days before, which meant two family members had to bow out due to an impending surgery. Understandably, no one wanted to share germs and the two had dinner with friends instead. Our Thanksgiving gathering was down to three.

The day before we were set to leave on the trip, our 13-year-old cat Midnight slipped and

face-planted into a concrete step, knocking out his left canine tooth. A trip to the vet confirmed the loss but he was eating and drinking without any trouble. We felt comfortable leaving Wednesday evening with the plan of one of us coming back Friday and watching his movements in between from a home camera. He seemed fine and was often seen grooming and eating.

Since our last visit to the ranch, Caltrans had completed the bypass project it has been working on for two years, rerouting the main highway around the town to the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains, near the end of our street. I have been upset about this project ever since I learned what it was planning. When we arrived, the stark reality of the opened highway so close to our house was just too much. The whoosh of cars and trucks behind our backyard was far different than the peaceful sounds of the wildlife we were accustomed to hearing. Daughter Delaney wondered why I didn't seem cold as it was only 36 degrees as I watched in disappointment. I told her my rage was keeping me warm.

After unpacking and getting everything turned on, I settled down about the highway and set to work making apple and chocolate cream pies. Since there would be no "company" the next day we decided to eat some while they were still warm from the oven. Yum.

We woke the next morning to a glorious Thanksgiving Day. The trees were a brilliant yellow set against a clear blue sky and we could see the desert around us for miles. We started cooking,

the three of us together, and soon the house filled with varying aromas of our traditional comfort foods. In between our tasks, we took the pups out to the large garden we designed in 2020 and they enjoyed running around while we warmed our bodies in the sunshine. By the end of the day, we had enjoyed our delicious dinner and all of us, including the dogs, were tucked out.

It was right around this time that I realized that my cold had evolved into something else entirely. I was getting sicker. I developed a fever, sore throat, crackly noise in my lungs and an explosive cough that could only be described as demons emerging from my body. It became clear that I should be the one to return home to care for the cat and so I could take some antibiotics.

The next day, after sleeping quite a bit, I packed up only what I needed for the drive and left the last two family members behind to finish the leftovers and clean up. I was nervous about entering the new highway, which was confusing to navigate; nevertheless, I managed it and was home in three hours. A quick test after that revealed no COVID-19, which was a relief.

I tell this story to illustrate that life often throws us curve balls but we don't have to let these disruptions keep us from celebrating. Despite everything that happened, I really enjoyed my Thanksgiving. It was memorable and I am so very grateful every day for the love of my family, friends and the support of CV Weekly readers.

Thank you.

*Susan Bolan
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YOUTH

Kids Cook Up Fun at LCF Library

By Ruth SOWBY

The La Cañada Flintridge Library recently hosted a free, one-hour kids' cooking program. On Wednesday, Nov. 13, some 25 kids ages 5-12 stormed the library's meeting room to make pear bread. Most, though, were interested in eating it instead of making it.

Supervising the bunch was librarian Sarah Loverme, who has worked at the branch for 10 years.

"The goal of our cooking class is that the children will be able to help out their families over the holidays," said Loverme.

Mom Divya Patel brought her aspiring chefs Rayna, 9, and Kaiya, 6.

"Here they will learn concentration and cooperation skills that can translate outside the classroom," she said. "My kids love to cook."

CREATive Plate sponsored the program that teaches the fundamentals of cooking and nutrition. At the library, the students learned how to use measuring tools, cooking equipment, basic cooking techniques and how to read recipes.



Photos by Ruth SOWBY

ABOVE: Nanny Clara Lewis is sous chef for 3-year-old twins, from left, Brooke and Sierra Curtis. TOP RIGHT: Budding chefs, from left, Aurora Cheng, 7; her cousin Charlotte Cheng, 6; and Eva Olson, 7, try their hands at mixing bread dough. RIGHT: Eating their pear bread is the best fun of all for Eva, Charlotte, and Aurora.



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Grand Marshal Judy & Ralph Winter

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The Parade will be taped and the video will be available to view on-demand from the MyGlendale YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/myglendale>), and will replay on Glendale TV throughout December. Check the GTV schedule at: <https://www.glendaleca.gov/glendaltv>



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For more information, email info@MontroseChristmasParade.com or visit the Parade website www.montrosechristmasparade.com

BETWEEN FRIENDS

McGroarty Arts Center Launches Holiday Season

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

McGroarty Arts Center invites the community to its annual Holiday Festival – now in its 20th year – on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Approximately 30 vendors will present their wares at the historic location according to facility director Annette Bethers.

“We’ll offer a wide selection of merchandise for sale – jewelry, glass art, stained glass, apparel and ceramics,” she said. She added there will even be products on sale for pets – truly something for everyone.

What makes the McGroarty Arts Center Holiday Festival unique is that shoppers, for an additional price, can purchase a ceramic bowl made by one of the Center’s artists then enjoy a bowl of chili in the bowl.

Bethers shared that the chili bowl aspect is especially popular at the Festival.

“I moved here nearly 20 years ago and had never heard of chili

being sold at a Festival,” she said. She explained the bowls are made by McGroarty Arts Center students and some of the Center’s instructors.

“These are longtime students who are very experienced and very talented,” she said. “Our instructors are master artisans.”

She added that it takes an “enormous amount of work” to create the wide selection of chili bowls with an estimated 1,000 man hours utilized.

The chili is made by volunteers and students of the Center and for a nominal fee can be filled with hot chili. In addition, purchasers can dress up their chili with a variety of sides: sour cream, onion, cheese, crackers, etc. and also enjoy freshly baked corn bread. All types of chili are served: vegan, vegetarian and traditional.

For those who want to gift the bowl, for an additional charge it can be filled with holiday candy ready for gift presentation.

In addition to the goods for sale and the chili, the Festival will feature demonstrations



Photo courtesy of McGroarty Arts Center

by artists, including a demonstration by potters on how to make one of the popular bowls, plus there will be paintings for sale. A longtime supporter of the Center – Laurelle Geils – recently died and left to the McGroarty Arts

Center her extensive collection of art. The works will also be on sale at the Festival with proceeds benefiting the Center’s scholarship fund. An exhibit of student work will be on sale as well with a portion of the proceeds going to students and a

portion to the Center.

A bake sale, live and piped in music, poetry readings, and a visit by Santa Claus will fill out the day.

McGroarty Arts Center is located at 7570 McGroarty Terrace in Tujunga.

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Adventist Health Glendale Joins Pioneers in Interventional Pulmonology

By Ruth SOWBY

In recognition of November's Lung Cancer Awareness Month, the pulmonology staff at Adventist Health Glendale hosted an informal program showcasing its new robotic bronchoscope. On the early afternoon of Nov. 20

more than 200 visitors lined up to look at the bronchoscope in the hospital's West Tower lobby.

The free event was held to raise awareness about lung cancer, its warning signs and the importance of early detection. Prevention, screening and care resources were also

discussed. Dr. Arin Aboulhian described the minimally invasive bronchoscope's ability to get to hard-to-reach areas in the lung, a detection tool helpful for smokers ages 52 to 80. Prevention outreach into the ethnic demographic of the Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena areas has been more effective among the older population than among younger smokers who are increasingly turning to vaping. Current studies show that vaping may have more harmful side effects than smoking.

The use of its robotic bronchoscope puts Adventist Health Glendale now in line with large academic hospitals around the country.

Photo by Ruth SOWBY
Drs. Ramyar Mahdavi, Arin Aboulhian and the robotic bronchoscope are taped by videographer Romik Arts at Adventist Health Glendale.

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

Understanding The Buyer's Brokerage Agreement

Dear Phyllis,

My wife and I are in a two story home and we think the time is nearing that we should move to a single story. We have a Realtor we have known for years. A new listing in our neighborhood just came on the market and I texted him to see the home. Before even looking at the home, he told me I had to sign a paper stating he was representing us. And that if the seller didn't pay his commission we would have to pay him ourselves. Although he explained that this is because of the National Association of

Realtors lawsuit I was insulted. We have known him for more than twenty years and when we helped our daughters buy their first home, we hired him for that too. Am I right in feeling insulted?

DK

Dear DK,

I understand that discussing a Buyer's Brokerage Agreement can feel uncomfortable, especially with long-time relationships. However, this agreement has become a requirement for all Realtors using the Multiple Listing Service (MLS).

Additionally, they can be fined if they show you a home prior to signing this agreement. I understand that you feel insulted but your Realtor is simply following very strict rules.

As members of the MLS this agreement must be signed before a buyer tours a home—whether in-person or virtually—to provide transparency about services and costs. However, if you're simply speaking to an agent at an open house or inquiring about their services, a signed agreement isn't needed. Agent compensation remains fully negotiable for both

buyers and sellers.

A Buyer's Brokerage Agreement is a contract between a buyer and their real estate agent that outlines exclusive representation, services provided, compensation terms, agreement duration, and cancellation options. It can also state that it is only for the home you want to see. It ensures the agent's commitment to prioritizing the buyer's interests and clarifies responsibilities on both sides.

Best regards,

Phyllis



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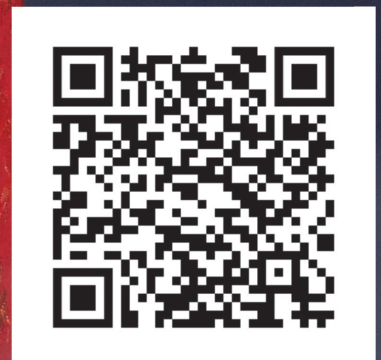


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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Universal Holidays and Holidays on the Hill

Photo by Charly SHELTON
Universal Studios Hollywood is dressed for the holidays. Scan the QR code at right for the full review and to see everything at Universal Studios Hollywood and Holidays on the Hill.



By Charly SHELTON

The holiday season is upon us and Universal Studios Hollywood has brought even more holiday magic to the park delivering a festive experience that's both enchanting and whimsical. From Nov. 29 through Jan. 6 the park is decked out in holiday splendor with each area offering its own unique twist on the celebrations.

Grinchmas has returned to USH bringing with it the citizens of Whoville and the notorious Grinch to make a festive Christmas celebration in Universal Plaza with meet-and-greets, festive food, shows and a giant tree lighting nightly. And over in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Christmas celebrations are underway with decorations, a nighttime light show on Hogwarts Castle, and the best specialty dish the park offers

all year – The English Holiday Dinner at The Three Broomsticks.

The big news is this year Super Nintendo World for the first time joins the holiday festivities. The Mushroom Kingdom is adorned with festive decorations featuring garlands, lights and themed ornaments on Christmas trees as well as Mario and Luigi snowmen at the entrance to the land. And while it is super cute, it seems like the land could do with much more decoration. While the garlands on Peach's Castle are lovely they only cover one building and a gazebo while the rest of the land is left "undressed." There is a Christmas tree inside the land and that's about it. Seeing how cute the decorations are makes me want to have the whole land decked out, especially in the ice cave that already feels wintry, and a Christmas tree there wouldn't be amiss.

see UNIVERSAL on page 23



Disney On Ice Presents 'Magic In The Stars!' In SoCal Dec. 12-Jan. 5

Fifty six favorite Disney stars – the most Disney characters in one show including Mirabel, Woody and Buzz, Tiana and Moana plus the on-ice debuts of the "Frozen 2" story and Raya from "Raya and the Last Dragon" and Asha from "Wish" – highlight Disney On Ice presents "Magic in the Stars." This all-new production plays the Honda Center (Anaheim) Dec. 12-16, Crypto.com Arena (L.A.) Dec. 19-22, Toyota Arena (Ontario) Dec. 26-30 and Long Beach Arena (Jan. 2-5). Tickets can be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com or in-person at the venue box office.

See the brightest Disney stars come to

life through cutting-edge figure skating, high-flying acrobatics, unexpected stunts, innovative lighting, thrilling special effects, eye-catching costumes and stunning set designs.

Join Disney On Ice presents "Magic in the Stars" for a magical journey with Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Donald and Daisy through timeless tales and today's favorites. The adventure begins when the North Star shines brightly and descends upon Jiminy Cricket as he welcomes and reminds the audience that the most fantastic, magical things can happen ... and it all starts with a wish.

Journey to Rosas, the kingdom of wishes, to

meet optimistic and sharp-witted Asha from the newest Walt Disney Animated Studios' musical adventure "Wish." She makes an impassioned plea to the stars, which is answered by a cosmic force, a little ball of boundless energy named Star. Together they face the most formidable of foes to save her community and prove that when the will of one courageous human connects with the magic of the stars wondrous things can happen. Asha and her friend Star will dazzle audiences as they skate to "This Wish," performed by Academy Award®-winning actress Ariana DeBose.

see DISNEY on page 19

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‘Moana 2:’ Though Lacking it’s Entertaining

By Ayrton-Lewis Avery

The movie “Moana 2” is nothing compared to the first one ... but it is still Disney. “Moana 2” lacks the elements of plot that made the first so engaging and original. Instead, the filmmakers focused on animating water, waves and the sky. This gives viewers many spectacular moments of lightning, storms and winds, all with perfect lighting and top-notch cinematography.

The songs, though, are quite emotional and focus on retrospection and interior emotions. New songwriters (Abigail Barlow and Emily Bear) have done a good job following in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s footsteps, providing many enjoyable moments. The lyrics are clever and the music provides a nice contrast with the film’s often hectic and crowded scenes.

An intimate look is given into the mind of Moana (played by Auli’i Cravalho), now a young leader of her people, and the

audience is forced to consider her aspirations, her mistakes and her goals as she leads a search for a lost island. Co-star, the demigod Maui (Dwayne Johnson), has also grown in passion and wisdom since the first movie as he assists Moana in finding the island. With any luck, they hope that finding the island would break an ancient curse and reunite the people of the sea.

If I were to choose a favorite moment, the first 30 moments are the best in the entire movie. They are full of symbolism and focus on the inner turmoil of the characters and their society against the backdrop of the shoreline. The TikTok-esque dancing on the transition between the land and the sea serves to emphasize the transition in Moana’s own life. As for the rest, the audience is supposed to lie back and watch a film about the ocean, almost documentary style, with such stunning shots of sea animals and turbulent waters.

“Moana 2,” in very classic



Photo provided by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

Disney franchise style, has embellished a great deal upon the mythology of the first movie. At times this is enjoyable, as the audience gets a deeper look at Moana’s universe and culture. However, it is mostly just extra storylines and a meaningless mass of information that fails to give the audience a deeper emotional connection to one of Disney’s most charismatic

heroines. Overall, I recommend “Moana 2” because like most of Disney’s other expeditions it is engaging and entertaining. This, however, is no homage to the first “Moana.” It does not have the simplistic

beauty of the original, but instead it is full of distractions, lights and fanfare, which is pleasant but does not make for very deep or insightful viewing.

Rating: 2.5/5

THEN & NOW

Verdugo Mountains

Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then: This was Montrose with the Verdugo Mountains in the background around 1910, looking down from the San Rafael Hills (where the hospital is today). On the left is the Sparr fruit orchard where Sparr Heights is today. To the right is empty ground where Montrose is now. The only development on the mountains is the Onandarka Ranch, which is that bare spot on the foothills.



Now: Over 100 years and still very little development in the Verdugo Mountains. This photo from the Verdugo Hills Hospital shows the dominant features of the land to be the 2 Freeway in the foreground as it merges with the 210 Freeway, and the many commercial buildings of the Montrose Shopping Park. The mountains beyond are amazingly green and unmarred by roads.

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Knott's Merry Farm Returns



By Charly SHELTON

Knott's Merry Farm has once again transformed the park into a festive wonderland, inviting guests to celebrate the holidays with warmth, light and plenty of joy. Running now through Jan. 5 this year's event blends fan-favorite traditions with new experiences, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy during this magical season.

This event, as with most winter holiday events, really comes alive after dark. As dusk falls, the park becomes a holiday haven. In Calico Park, the new 'Tis the Season Tree Lighting Ceremony kicks off the night – daily. The iconic giant Christmas tree is brought to life in a dazzling display of twinkling lights set to the sound of carols and festive music. The ceremony is complete with performances by dancers, singers and even Snoopy, creating a festive holiday moment that sets the holly jolly tone for the evening.

In Ghost Town, the Snow and Glow experience brings thousands of synchronized lights to the historic streets set to music from "Home Alone," which works beautifully with the gentle "snowfall" of genuine Southern California soap bubbles. The soft glow of holiday lights paired with the gentle fall of "snoap" creates a picture-perfect scene that is straight holiday magic and perfect for shooting a wintery family photo without having to travel somewhere with actual weather.

Of course, no trip to Knott's Merry Farm is complete without indulging in the park's incredible holiday food offerings. As always, Knott's culinary team has really tried to capture the festive spirit in every bite. Guests can savor holiday classics like a glazed ham, cheese and cranberry aioli sandwich or turkey balls with mashed potatoes, gravy, and crispy Brussels sprouts. Or for those looking to explore less traditional fare, there's the indulgent Philly cheesesteak loaded tater tots, chorizo-mushroom-Alfredo ravioli, or birria pizza. But for my perfect plate I went for a bit of both.

For the experimental entry, my pick is the loaded maple waffle fries with bacon and cheese. Imagine a maple donut, but swap the fried dough for a pile of waffle fries topped with bacon and cheese chunks. It's like a donut poutine ... and it's one of the best foods I've ever had. I finished the whole box and, while I did regret it afterward for a day or two, in the moment I was in heaven.

And for the traditional entry, my vote goes to the fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies at Santa's Christmas Cabin. The booth has ovens behind the counter so the cookies are literally fresh baked within seconds of being delivered. Out of the oven, onto a plate and into my hands in under 30 seconds. Sharing a classic delicious chocolate chip cookie while waiting in line for my son to see Santa is the best holiday experience one can have.

Whether it's the traditional



flavors or the new exciting dishes that are calling to you, there's no shortage of culinary delights to keep guests fueled for the festivities.

Knott's Merry Farm is a celebration of the holiday season at its best where tradition meets creativity in the most joyful way. From the spectacle of the tree lighting to the serene snoapfall in Ghost Town to the bevy of incredible seasonal dishes throughout the park, Knott's Merry Farm has made an event that embraces everything magical about this time of year. On now through Jan 5, visit Knotts.com for more info.

Photos by Charly SHELTON

LEFT: Knott's Merry Farm embraces the holiday season

RIGHT: 'Snoap' was found in Ghost Town.

ABOVE: Donny Shelton told Santa what he hoped to find under the tree on Christmas morning.

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December 5TH Specials!

DISNEY from page 17

Watch as Raya from "Raya and the Last Dragon" debuts live on ice and ascends into the air, lifting the show to higher heights as the strong warrior performs an aerial acro-pole routine.

For the first time on ice, escape "Into the Unknown" with Elsa and Anna from "Frozen 2," hit the road with Disney and Pixar's Lightning McQueen and Tow Mater as they cruise on the ice to "Life Is A Highway," and reconnect with "Toy Story's" Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie, Rex and Hamm. Travel to the mountains of Colombia where the Madrigal family lives, unlock the magic in the family's casita and discover why "We Don't Talk About Bruno." Set sail with Moana on her canoe into the open ocean to witness her encourage Te Kā to "Know Who You Are" and transform into Te Fiti.

Pursue your dreams with Tiana from "The Princess and the Frog" as she strives to make her wish come true of opening a restaurant. Discover the power of three wishes with Aladdin when he finds a magic lamp in the Cave of Wonders. Reminisce with Cinderella, Snow White, Belle and Rapunzel as they remind us to never stop wishing and dreaming.

For specific SoCal local show information please visit:

<https://www.disneyonice.com/magic-in-the-stars/anaheim-ca-honda-center>

<https://www.disneyonice.com/magic-in-the-stars/los-angeles-ca-cryptocom-arena>

<https://www.disneyonice.com/magic-in-the-stars/ontario-ca-toyota-arena>

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Scene in L.A. December 2024

By Steve ZALL and Sid FISH

While we may not have snow on the ground here, we do have other ways to enjoy the holiday season – such as going to see live theater in one of our local venues! With so many to choose from how can you miss?

COVID protocols continue to be dictated by each individual venue, so bring a facemask in case the venue requires it to wear during the show. It's a good idea to 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 verified with the theater before making definite plans.

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

"A Christmas Carol" Every word in Elliott's play is right out of the novel – not a single one has been added. Throw in lush original music, eye-popping costumes, holiday crafts in the beautifully decorated lobby and photo ops with the cast after the show, and this "A Christmas Carol" might just be the best holiday party in town.

Written by Charles Dickens, adapted by Geoff Elliott, with music by Robert Oriol and directed by Geoff Elliott and Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, it runs through Dec. 24 at A Noise Within in Pasadena. For tickets, call (626) 356-3100 or visit www.anoisewithin.org.

"A Cowboy Lullaby" Immerse yourself in the timeless allure of cowboy culture as our talented singers and instrumentalists weave a rich tapestry of song, story and frontier spirit. From haunting ballads to foot-stomping anthems, "A Cowboy Lullaby" celebrates the rugged charm and indomitable spirit of the American cowboy. So grab your hat and join us under the stars for a night of music that will transport you to

a place where dreams are as vast as the open range.

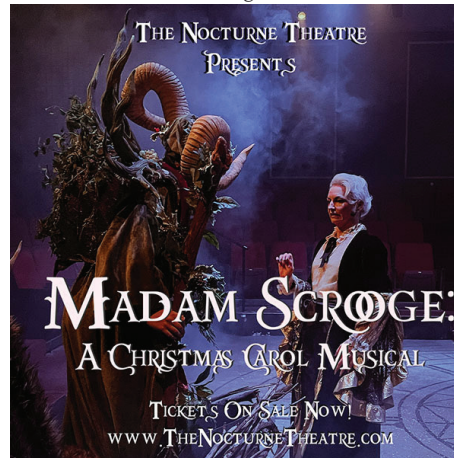
Written by James O'Neil and Dan Wheatman, with music by Dan Wheatman, and directed by James O'Neil, it runs through Dec. 22 at the Rubicon Theatre in Ventura. For tickets, call (805) 667-2900 or visit www.rubicontheatre.org.



"Madam Scrooge: A Christmas Carol Musical" This unique holiday adaptation recounts the story of Madam Eleanore Scrooge, a miserly spinster visited by the ghost of her former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. For those 21-plus you can make the evening extra special by adding the "Spirits Of The Season: Vintage Cocktails & Holiday Jazz Speakeasy" pre-show event. Hidden inside The Nocturne Theatre are two festive holiday lounges to explore. This pre- and post-show lounge is a whimsical space filled with enchanting decor and stunning photo opportunities that are sure to make all your friends jealous.

After capturing the perfect snapshot, relax and enjoy the one-hour jazz show in the Speakeasy Cabaret lounge featuring nostalgic seasonal songs performed by talented holiday

singers and pianists. Guests may also enjoy holiday twists on favorite vintage cocktails and mocktails, crafted with fresh-pressed ingredients. It's the perfect way to complete the holiday theatre experience! Offered on various dates during the run of the show. Entry price includes reserved seating to the show.



Written by Justin Patrick Meyer, with music by Chris Thomas and directed by Melissa Meyer, it runs Dec. 5 through Dec. 22 at the Nocturne Theatre in Glendale. For tickets, visit www.TheNocturneTheatre.com.

"A Christmas Carol" The story follows the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future who take him on a journey of self-discovery. Through their guidance, Scrooge learns the true meaning of Christmas and embraces the spirit of generosity and compassion.

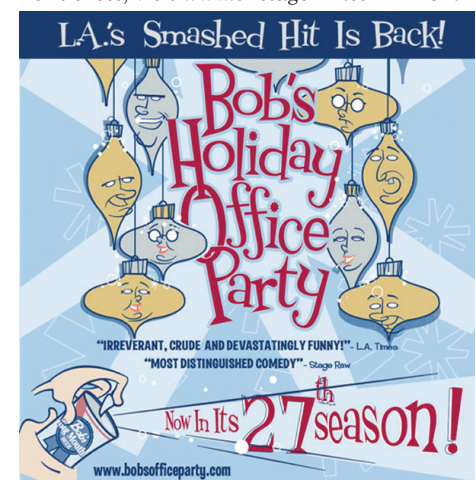
Written by Charles Dickens with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by and directed by Tim Nelson, it runs Dec. 6 through Dec. 22 at the Rose Center Theater in Westminster. For tickets, call (714) 793-1150 Ext. 1 or visit www.rosecentertheater.com.

"Bob's Holiday Office Party" Every year, insurance agent Bob Finhead's whacked out friends and clients stop by his small-town Iowa office for their annual holiday bash. The town

mayor, the sheriff, the twin farmer sisters, the stoner, the town floozy and the pastor's wife have already RSVP'd for this year's event. But Bob has dreams of a bigger life and wants to escape their narrow-minded thinking. Will he be able to fulfill his dream of becoming a professional inventor and move to the big city or will he come to realize how much he is the heart and soul of the town? Will any of this matter once the party starts, the bickering and fighting begins, and the drinks hit the floor?

The play is set in the office of insurance salesman Bob Finhead in Neuterburg, Iowa (population 382). Bob is carrying on a flirtation with the mayor's wife while the mayor himself is busy accommodating a male houseguest. Joe, the alcoholic town sheriff, is attracted to Brandy, the town party girl who is the twin sister of Carol, the minister's emotionally disturbed wife. There's one other set of twins in town, La Donna and La Voris Johnson, wealthy farmers who are proud members of the Neuterburg Tea Party.

Written by Joe Keyes and Rob Elk, and directed by Matt Roth, it runs Dec. 6 through Dec. 21 at the Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles. For tickets, visit www.onstage411.com/BHOP.



You can read more at CVWeekly.com/LEISURE.

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. 16. Your address will be included in all three issues of the CV Weekly that feature Merry & Bright Tour addresses! Entries received after Dec. 16 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 - 24th.

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!

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 everyday holiday decor)

6. Best in Show Award
(ya blew the judges minds)

JUST FOR FUN

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com December 2, 2024 - December 8, 2024

ARIES *March 21 - April 19*
 You're in seventh heaven this week with a happy aspect in your sign. This can make you funnier, not to mention more attractive to others, so it's bound to increase your social activity and confidence. In fact, you may feel it so much that you volunteer for all kinds of exciting new projects at work, and even take on the responsibility of managing your company's future social events! No doubt monetary rewards will come soon.

TAURUS *April 20 - May 20*
 You may be more serious than ever about straightening out your money life this week. The planets can help you sort out your affairs, get more organized about financial reporting, and just make a better plan for saving more each month. This week there's an emphasis in your house of relationships. You can't do everything alone. Sometimes it pays to consult an expert in the field.

GEMINI *May 21 - June 20*
 You have a friendly cosmic overtone helping you this week, which almost makes a few bumps in the road a little less annoying. You want to beautify your life now, and you could have no problem with dipping into savings in order to do that. You might have a sudden surprise in your employment sector, for better or for worse. Best to stay safe and keep saving. You never know what tomorrow may bring.

CANCER *June 21 - July 22*
 This week is about importing and exporting, if you do this kind of work, or how to sell your goods and services to overseas markets. Since the planet of sudden change and insight is lurking around you, a brilliant idea for how to get this off the ground could come to you. The stars are asking you to get all your ducks in a row first.

LEO *July 23 - August 22*
 This week you head into a time of greater curiosity. The planets affect the sector of your chart governing education and learning, teaching, travel, metaphysics, and the law. Under fortunate aspects you may find that you're able to bring in money from one or more of these pursuits, or that adding new skills allows you to earn more in the future. How exciting!

VIRGO *August 23 - Sept. 22*
 You have aspects affecting other people's money and debt. This signals a need to communicate with those to whom you owe money and make sure you're both on the same page about what will be paid and when. There's a bit of ease in shared investments. These may be able to help you out of any financial jams that crop up in the meantime. Rest assured that you'll be cared for.

LIBRA *Sept. 23 - Oct. 22*
 For you, this week is about supportive aspects affecting your house of relationships and marriage. You're likely to find that others are on board with your varied financial schemes. Just don't be surprised if one or more of them wants to proofread your business plan for any flaws or double-check your math. Don't be offended. This is their way of helping you. Be thankful.

SCORPIO *Oct. 23 - Nov. 21*
 A lot is going on in your work sector. No doubt your work has recently come to the attention of your superiors. If not, take some strong but subtle steps to make sure that what you do is taken into account. You may want to keep a record of your accomplishments. It could come in handy the next time performance reviews roll around. You need to build a case for a raise.

SAGITTARIUS *Nov. 22 - Dec. 21*
 Thanks to harmonious aspects, you feel especially supported by the Universe. All that energy hits you in your house of kids, family, romance, and fun, making it an excellent time to sit down with your partner and plan your shared future. From college savings accounts to retirement, you'll each have a different idea on how to proceed. But you have so much creativity and goodwill that it will be hard to argue.

CAPRICORN *Dec. 22 - Jan. 19*
 For you, this week is about the energy gathered in your home sector, which has you thinking along completely different lines. More life in this area means you may be entertaining clients in your home office or doing tons of new business from that space. Similarly, your creativity is on the rise. If you're so inclined, a business involving the home, such as decorating or building, could be of great benefit.

AQUARIUS *Jan. 20 - Feb. 18*
 You're feeling a lot more talkative than usual this week. You usually can't wait to get stories from others, but this week you're happy to share your experiences, too. As all this communication happens around you, make sure to spend some time and money on yourself. Extreme self-care may seem overly luxurious now, but it's a great investment in your long-term future. Rest, rejuvenate, and say what's on your mind.

PISCES *Feb. 19 - March 20*
 You're heading into an interesting time, thanks to aspects in your house of cash and values. Not only does this give rise to lots of new ways to bring in money (woohoo!) but it also forces you to think about your money life going forward. How does your way of earning a living reflect on who you are or on your most closely held values? You may be surprised by what you find.

ACROSS

- 1) Bag with plenty of room
- 5) Gloomy atmospheres
- 10) Sealing material
- 14) Purposefully overlook
- 15) Freeze over, as a windshield
- 16) Yemen neighbor
- 17) Small fractional unit
- 20) "Gandhi" role
- 21) Kind of rug
- 22) Stunning aquarium fish
- 25) With cunning
- 26) Handled clumsily
- 30) As yet
- 33) Shah of Iran, once
- 34) Samovar's cousin
- 35) Socrates' T
- 38) Fruits and vegetables, e.g.
- 42) 157.5 degrees from N
- 43) Utilizing a liner
- 44) Bert's Muppet pal
- 45) Film-script instruction
- 47) Hatchlings' homes
- 48) V-8 you cannot drink
- 51) It has a wide spine
- 53) Of a reproductive organ
- 56) Respond to the alarm
- 60) Bad thing to make a mistake with
- 64) Scot's tongue
- 65) Geek
- 66) Leafy green
- 67) Follow a cookbook directive
- 68) Memo taker of old
- 69) "Mr. Roboto" rockers

DOWN

- 1) Zenith
- 2) Writing on the wall
- 3) Firestone item
- 4) Delineate
- 5) Cheesecake picture
- 6) It may be hard to follow
- 7) Meadow
- 8) Carries a heavy load
- 9) On ___ (without a guaranteed sale)
- 10) Play a piccolo
- 11) "Jaws" resort
- 12) Game show group
- 13) Webster's listing
- 18) Creates naturally, as a gorge
- 19) "Present" and "future" partner
- 23) "Relax, soldier!"
- 24) Nevertheless, archaically
- 26) ___ up (invigorates)
- 27) Gives the heave-ho
- 28) Send money, in a way
- 29) Yale student
- 31) FDR's middle name
- 32) "___ you out of your mind?"
- 35) A heck of a lot
- 36) Mine opening
- 37) Finds a purpose for
- 39) Used to own
- 40) Biological subdivisions
- 41) Metallic rock
- 45) Previous
- 46) Showstopper for a diva
- 48) Broods
- 49) In plain sight
- 50) Bones below the tibia
- 52) Certain ballroom dance
- 54) Common connections
- 55) Salamander family member
- 57) Ruffles one's feathers
- 58) Card game for three
- 59) Slithery and slimy
- 61) Society column word
- 62) Perfect score, sometimes
- 63) "Oedipus ___"

12.5.24

ON WHOSE WORD?

By Timothy E. Parker

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| 67 | | | | | | | 68 | | | | 69 | | |

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. On Friday, Dec. 6, GPD Historian Teal Metts will give a presentation.

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

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

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND MORE AT MCGROARTY

McGroarty Arts Center, 7570 McGroarty Arts Terrace in Tujunga, is having a crafts fair and chili bowl sale at the property on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A variety of vendors will have merchandise for sale in addition to ceramic offerings including bowls that can be filled with chili (for a nominal fee).

For more information visit www.mcgroartyartscenter.org.

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 Friday, Nov. 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday and on Dec. 27 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

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

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

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 8 is held by Our Lady of Lourdes' PTO. Attendees have breakfast, kids do crafts, decorate cookies and take photos with Santa. There are raffle prizes to win and a holiday craft fair with local crafters, artists and vendors.

The PTO of Our Lady of Lourdes provides resources to its students such as its performing arts and after-school programs, extracurricular activities, campus and community beautification.

Our Lady of Lourdes is located at 7355 Apperson St. in Tujunga. For ticket information, call (818) 353-1106 or email BWS@olltujunga.org.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

On Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Income Tax Store is offering complimentary food and beverages plus free document shredding service.

Family, friends and neighbors are invited! In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about new tax information in 2025.

For more information, call (818) 957-5356.

The Income Tax Store, 3795 La Crescenta Ave., Suite 100 in La Crescenta.

BURBANK SINGERS

The Burbank Singers will join with La Crescenta-based Monday@JoJo's for the second annual friends and

family concert on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. This fun-filled family-friendly show, titled "Holiday Blessings," will take place at Burbank Adult School, 3811 Allan Ave. in Burbank with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. Burbank Singers and Monday@JoJo's are members of the statewide non-profit California Women's Chorus, Inc.

Adults are \$10, children \$5. For ticket information for the Dec. 7 "Holiday Blessings" concert contact Denise Kress at dkress@charter.net.

Holiday baked goodies and beverages available for purchase.

FLOAT DECORATING OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer with the Kiwanis International Rose Float Project to decorate floats for the 2025 Tournament of Roses Parade! The float construction site is at Phoenix Decorating Company in Irwindale. This year, there will be a one-time \$5 registration fee for all volunteers, including Key Club advisors and chaperones.

New this year: All volunteers ... adults and teens ... will receive a Kiwanis Decorating Team shirt that must be worn while decorating. There is a limit of one free shirt per year, but additional shirts are available for a \$20 donation. A meal will be provided for each shift for everyone who signs up through the Kiwanis portal. Payments will be accepted online and in-person at the float site. Further details will be included in follow-up communications after sign up.

Please note: Decorating shifts begin at the time listed. Volunteers must arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of their shift in order to be checked in and ready to begin on time.

Visit the Sign Up Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/mu3ye4vu> for more info.

CCLCF HAVING HOLIDAY CERAMICS SALE

Lisa Phelan is the official photographer of the 2024 Thanksgiving Day Run.

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge will be closed Nov. 28 - 30 and from Dec. 24 - Jan. 1.

CCLCF is having its annual ceramics holiday sale on Dec. 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

CANASTA IS CALLING

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

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. Spotting each of the area's public schools, the exhibit features vintage yearbooks, textbooks, photographs and more.

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

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

They moved my wheelchair-accessible seats at a Springsteen concert. Can I get a refund?

Julie Stupsker buys two wheelchair-accessible seats for a Bruce Springsteen concert. But the venue moves her seats and now she can't see anything. Can she get a refund?

Q I paid \$3,000 for two wheelchair-accessible seats at a Bruce Springsteen concert recently. They were shown as seats 2 and 4 in the front row, next to the general admission pit.

On the interactive seating map, the pit was behind the accessible seats and to the left of the accessible seats. The seats I bought were in the front row directly in front of the stage. It was very important to me to

have an unobstructed view because I couldn't stand during the show and I wanted a clear view.

When I arrived, no one knew where the seats were. I explained, but an usher said the seats did not exist. I

was sent to seats behind the pit where I could not see the stage. Hundreds of people were standing in the pit between me and the stage.

I never would have bought tickets for the seats I ended up with. I wanted to see the show, but I could only hear it. I had no view of the stage or the performers from a seated position behind hundreds of standing people.

I want a full refund. How does this happen? And who is responsible for providing the seats that are sold? I felt cheated out of a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I did not enjoy the show. I was upset the entire time.

—Julie Stupsker, Sausalito, California

A: Wow, Ticketmaster really took a wrecking ball to your Springsteen concert experience. (Oh, and before I go on a quick note: I will be using a lot of Springsteen song titles in this story. Why? Because when it comes to writing this column, I am the Boss. Plus, it's fun.)

You did everything you could to ensure you had an unobstructed view from your wheelchair-accessible seats. I think if you had called the venue, you would have gotten the same answer about the location of the seats. No question about it – Ticketmaster left you in the darkness on the edge of town.

You should be able to rely on the interactive map and the venue should deliver what it promises instead of expecting people with disabilities to fade away.

It turns out that the wheelchair-accessible seats were relocated "to ensure safety," according to a Ticketmaster representative. But Ticketmaster gave you reason to believe your seats would be where it originally said they'd be.

"The seats were not relocated to behind the pit," she added. "They were shifted to the side of their original location, between the barricades where there was a comparable view of the stages."

But that's not the way you saw it. And I really think you could have pushed this issue in a brief, polite email to one of the Ticketmaster executives I list on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. No surrender!

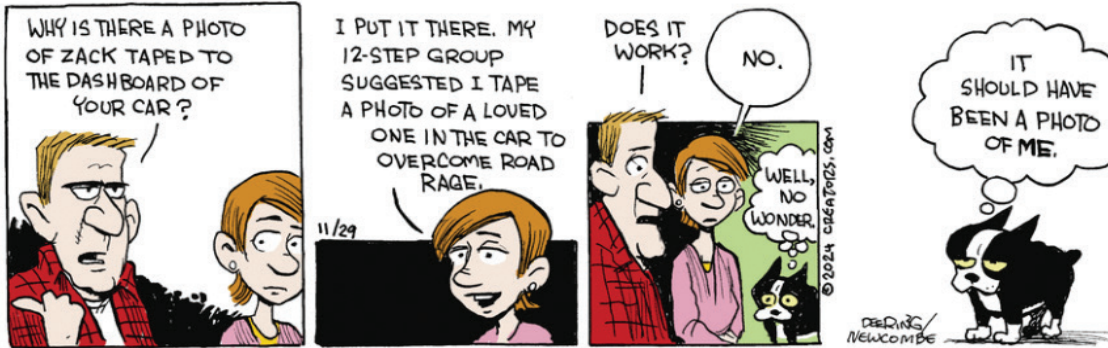
I contacted Ticketmaster on your behalf to tie up this loose end.

"As a one-time courtesy, our consumer support team has reached out to the fan and issued a refund, which should be processed within three to seven business days," a representative told me.

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

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WANTED/NEEDED

WANTED

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WANTED/NEEDED

WANTED

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Beyond the decorations, Super Nintendo World offers exclusive holiday-themed merchandise, which is more plentiful than the decorations. The merch features the Mario snowman from the entrance to the land (which can be found on everything from Spirit Jerseys to headbands to toddler pajamas). And the specialty treats that were promised for Toadstool Cafe hadn't arrived when I came out to the park, but I was told it would be a cake pop featuring the Mario snowman as well.

The Super Nintendo World holiday effort feels underwhelming and overall it makes little impact on the holiday celebration at Universal. But that's okay because the rest of the festivities are great, and year after year Universal gets even better with quality upgrades and better planning.

This year may be the best Grinchmas yet. The lines are out of the way and not blocking the festival area, the shows are enticing and the Who citizen walkaround characters are always a delight. And as a special treat, Pass Members can meet the Grinch in a special meet-and-greet area down on the Lower Lot above Jurassic World. This is a great addition that allows Pass Members to avoid the long lines of people meeting the Grinch up at Universal Plaza, which in turn takes some of the pressure off that line as well.

Overall, the holiday celebration at Universal Studios Hollywood is a hit as usual thanks to the Grinch who saved Christmas. But the celebration inside the park is not the only one to look out for.

Just a short stroll from the theme park entrance, Hilton Los

Angeles/Universal City presents Holidays on the Hill, a charming holiday event running from Nov. 30 to Jan. 5. From visits with Santa to après-ski food and drink, and ice skating on a rink under the ever-watchful eye of the giant Minion up at the theme park, this is a unique event that is both quintessential winter fun and also very LA.

We were invited out to opening night, which was a spectacle featuring performances by a cast member from "Wicked" and skaters from the Los Angeles Ice Theater, setting a festive tone for the season. And although that opening night performance was a one-off, guests can immerse themselves in the "Wicked" celebrations with themed ice skating nights. Starting Dec. 4, every Wednesday transforms into "Wicked Wednesdays" when the

rink glows with pink and green lighting and the soundtrack switches from "Jingle Bells" to songs from the "Wicked" original Broadway cast recording. The first 50 guests on those nights also receive special "Wicked"-themed gifts, which is going to be a must for any super fan.

Beyond theme nights, the event runs as a classic winter fun fair for the rest of the season with Santa's Workshop for Santa visit photos, a holiday pop-up bar – Jingle Bell Tavern – serving themed cocktails and a seafood buffet, which is the most LA version of après-ski I can think of.

Honestly, I wasn't expecting to enjoy this as much as I did. The food and cocktails were phenomenal, the atmosphere was perfectly wintery and despite the fact that apparently nobody in LA has ever ice skated before, it's nice

to watch everyone hold the wall and inch around the rink.

This holiday season, Universal Studios Hollywood and Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City offer a harmonious blend of entertainment, festivity and culinary delights. Whether exploring the immersive worlds within the park or enjoying the seasonal offerings atop the hill, the magic of the holidays is in full swing.

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