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Budgetary Issues on Council Agenda

By Julie BUTCHER

At the beginning of the last meeting of the Glendale City Council in 2024 on Tuesday night, a proclamation was adopted designating December as Family Celebration and Appreciation Month.

Local resident Allan Durham then urged the Council to fill vacancies on the city's boards and commissions and to take the past attendance of potential candidates for those seats into consideration.

Shu-Jun Li, assistant director of Finance, presented this year's annual financial report, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. According to the auditors, the city's budgeting processes received the highest rating, an "unmodified opinion" with "no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies." The report shows the city's assets at \$3.176 billion with anticipated liabilities of \$1.463 billion for a net as of June 30, 2024 of \$1.855 billion, \$2.4 million more in projected income than anticipated, with a reserve of 40% expected by fiscal year end. The Council's reserve policy is to maintain a floor of 25% with a target of 35%.

The entire report is available as Item 8.a. <https://glendaleca.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=38023>.

While the next two budget years are balanced, years beyond those are more fiscally challenging.

"Looking at these trends, how does the city avoid depleting revenue reserves in the out years and maintain maximum fiscal stability?" Asked Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian.

Councilmember Ara Najarian echoed the somber look at the city's future finances.

"I hope everyone in the community can take the time to look at this chart; it's not extremely complicated but it clearly shows that our expenditures are outpacing our revenues at least as projected for the next five years," he said. "I think as we go further out it becomes ever more severe. We have to – as a Council and as a city – very carefully scrutinize every project, program [and] proposal that is going to increase anything charged to our general fund because we're basically heading towards that fiscal cliff."

see GCC on page 8

Donations Needed This Season

By Mary O'KEEFE

"Life's persistent and most urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'"
 ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Historically, this time of year has been a time for giving. Although many people need support during the entire year, the holidays are a time that seems to highlight not just the increasing number of people in need but the number of those who show their support.

Despite the lateness of the year, there are several ways for local residents, and businesses, to still help those in need. And help is needed; many organizations are reporting receiving fewer donations than they have in years past.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Station has been collecting donations of toys and food for several weeks now but to date has received two thirds fewer toys than in previous years. It has also had fewer non-perishable food items donated. The CV Station has received about 75 usable cans of food; it received 23 cans of food that expired two to three years ago.

"We have been collecting for over 30 years at our station. We collect once a year and any toys left over get packed for use next year," said Lisa Dutton, CV Station volunteer. "Usually there are only a few leftover boxes. The food ... we give it all away."



Photo by Robin GOLDSWORTHY
 There have been varied responses to the pleas for help ranging from empty barrels to full ones, like at the Glendale Area Schools Credit Union (pictured). According to CEO Doria Hilleary, the credit union this year has seen an uptick in donations.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) is also collecting donations as part of its CHiPs for Kids program. It is collecting toys until Friday, Dec. 20.

"The toys are going to non-profit organizations, such as churches and schools, that are requesting toys for their Christmas events. The Altadena station has received requests for toys from 21 different organizations," said Officer Shanelle Phillips, CHP public information office.

CHiPs for Kids is a 35-year-old program and it only collects during the holiday season, which began just after Thanksgiving.

The Bailey Human Care Center food bank, a mission of the Tujunga Methodist Church, supports those in need throughout the year but is especially busy during the holidays.

The Center needs donations including cereal, water, pasta and spaghetti sauce. It also needs help from volunteers on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help unload the donations it receives from local stores.

According to the Center spokeswoman, it serves about 200 families every week, which equals about 600 individuals.

Los Angeles County Fire Dept. is also collecting toys through its Spark of Love program. This is a joint effort with ABC 7, Toys for Tots and Southern California firefighters.

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

Below is information on how to donate for each program:

LASD/CV Sheriff Toy and Food Drive: New unwrapped toys and non-perishable food can be donated at the CV Sheriff's Station, 4554 Briggs Ave. any time, or at the Fire House youth center, 2563 Foothill Blvd. Contact Mary at (818) 535-5962.

CHiPs: New unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Altadena CHP office, 2130 N. Windsor Ave. in Altadena or at most Walgreens.

Bailey Center: Donations of non-perishable foods can be dropped off at the Center on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at 9901 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. in Tujunga. For information, contact Connie Wright at (818) 726-3371 or email jaxcon@earthlink.net.

see DONATIONS on page 8

Pursuit that Starts in La Cañada Flintridge Ends in Northridge

By Mary O'KEEFE

Deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Station are asking for the public's help in finding two students who were at Ramsdell Avenue and Foothill Boulevard shortly after 3 p.m. on Monday when a vehicle, described as a black Ford Taurus, almost struck them.

The vehicle was part of a pursuit that began in La Cañada Flintridge and ended in North Hollywood leaving numerous damaged vehicles in its wake.

The pursuit started at about 2:49 p.m. when the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station received a call concerning the driver of a vehicle who "appeared" to be driving while intoxicated.



Photo courtesy of KTLA
 LASD deputies surround the vehicle of a DUI suspect who on Monday led authorities on a chase through the foothills and the San Fernando Valley.

see PURSUIT on page 8



» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Getting My Therapy On

On Sunday night, Steve and I headed over to Therapy at the Roar Room, an intimate bar and music joint in the 3600 block of Foothill Boulevard. We were there after learning that David Blasucci of the Mary Dyer Band would be performing a rock & roll Christmas with MoonDrop and Friends.

Steve and I love the music of Dave Blasucci and Mandy Williams – and of course the rest of the band. We have often gone to performances (I call them “concrete concerts”) at the intersection of Mary and Dyer (hence the name of the band) ever since they started having free public performances during COVID. They cover classic rock, pop and country music. We’ve traveled to hear them play at the now closed The Crow’s Nest in Tujunga and Santa Clarita and Westlake Village. We recently learned they have a standing gig on Thursday nights at Therapy at the Roar Room in La Crescenta so we’ll probably be heading over there on a regular basis.

Sunday night was a lot of fun. The evening was a benefit for The Elizabeth House, a non-profit in Pasadena. At Therapy at the Roar Room we saw many familiar faces and were entertained not only by MoonDrop but by an (albeit abbreviated) reading by Dallas Raines and his wife Dannie of “A Visit from St. Nicholas” (aka “’Twas The Night Before Christmas”). A highlight of the night was a performance by guitarist Laurence Juber.

Laurence Juber was a guitarist for Paul McCartney and Wings and his talent on Sunday was apparent.

Among the songs he played were “My Love,” “Strawberry Fields” and “While My Guitar Gently Weeps.” The house really got rocking, though, when Laurence joined MoonDrop. Audience members jumped out of their seats and danced to the rock music, which included “Roll Over Beethoven.” Wow – what a night! I’m really glad we got ourselves out of our comfortable recliners and made our way over.

This will be the last paper before Christmas and I think it’s important to give a shout out to the “reason for the season:” Jesus!

I’ll be honest – I haven’t been in church (though have watched services online) since COVID. Well, to be 100% accurate, I did go to church once for Maundy Thursday services. But I just haven’t made the effort to make my way to the sanctuary every Sunday. I know why – my comfortable recliner and furry slippers keep me at home.

But I believe in the power that is found in joining like-minded people – whether in worship, to fight alcohol or to be held accountable for food intake. There is a strength in leaning on each other that I need to take advantage of.

Could there be a new resolution on the horizon...?

Merry Christmas!

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

Anyone who lives in Los Angeles County for any length of time is familiar with the sounds of our tropical parrots. These flocks of green parrots are heard from Temple City to La Crescenta ... and beyond. To be honest, they are loud – and at times loud really early in the morning – but for me their conversations are comforting. It is nice to hear nature loud and unafraid and I love it when my grandson says, “The parrots are here!”

But there are some who do not enjoy these wild parrots and in recent months someone, or more than one person, began shooting these birds. Some birds were wounded, many died.

I first heard about this on a great Instagram/podcast “LA In A Minute.” Let me just plug this podcast.

There is a lot of negative stuff said about LA. I am always surprised at what a love/hate relationship those in LA have about their city. Granted, we live in the suburb of LA or the balcony of LA as some would say, but to be honest most of us use “LA” as a shortcut when telling people where we live.

To quote Randy Newman, “I Love LA.” I have lived in a variety of places – from Beverly Hills to Hollywood – and now in CV. I worked in downtown LA for years and yes there is a lot to be cautious about in the area but there is also a lot to really love about this city.

So back to “LA In A Minute.”

Host Evan Lovett brings to life the city’s history and unique qualities. He has a way of making everything sound like this great discovery – even when it’s not so flattering to LA. If you haven’t heard his podcast it’s worth a listen.

Lovett spoke about the parrots

being injured and killed. I then called Pasadena Humane Society and the people there were well aware of the issue but had only had one parrot brought to them; unfortunately, it did not survive the shooting. They had heard about more being shot. I asked if the shooting appeared to be from a BB gun and Kevin McManus, PHS spokesman, said the wound he saw appeared to be made by something larger than a BB.

According to reports, including “LA in A Minute,” several of the parrots were taken to Cleo Watts at Cleo’s Critter Care/Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation in Pasadena. In fact 16 parrots were brought to the rehab facility; of those, only two survived. (I attempted to contact Watts but she did not respond.)

The wounded birds have been found in Temple City, South Pasadena and Pasadena. Their wounds include multiple shots, broken legs, missing wings and head trauma.

McManus said it appears the shootings have stopped; however, there is no information as to who was doing this.

I have stated before I am from the midwest and from a family of hunters. I understand hunting but that is not what this is – this is just cruelty, plain and simple. These shootings are being done by a person (or people) who has no respect for life. The fact that these birds make noise is part of what makes LA so different than other cities; we coexist with wildlife. When I lived in Hollywood we had raccoons and opossums in our garage and every bird imaginable in our backyard garden. It goes against everything people think of

see WEATHER on page 18

Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays!

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

CVCA Dark in December

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

Items of interest include: Chamlian Armenian School - Conditional Use Permit/Variance Appeal; "A Christmas Carol" - now through Dec. 15 at

Highlands Church, 4441 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta; Los Angeles Regional Fire Safe Council, Virtual Town Hall Meeting - Thursday, Dec. 19 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Los Angeles County Outdoor Dining Ordinance - The Outdoor Dining Ordinance is now available for review. This Ordinance proposes amendments to Los Angeles County Code Title 22 - Planning and Zoning that enhance outdoor dining experiences while prioritizing safety and minimizing impacts on neighborhoods. More info at

<https://pw.lacounty.gov/core-service-areas/municipal-services/dine-out/>.

Ukrainian Exhibition on View

"Between War and Nostalgia: A Ukrainian Trajectory" is a group exhibition that considers and reflects on Ukraine's recent history and its emergence as a post-Soviet nation while grappling with invasion and war. The artists in the exhibit stare directly at Russia's assaults on their homeland and the ravages it has wreaked on their communities, psyche and property while articulating their relationship to their homeland through memory, family and return. Collectively, the artists construct a vision of Ukrainian resilience and defiance.

"Between War and Nostalgia: A Ukrainian Trajectory" will be on view from Dec. 21 through March 9, 2025 at ReflectSpace Gallery, inside Glendale Central Library, 222 E. Harvard St. in Glendale. An artist reception will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

LCF Webpage Updates Community of Property Lawsuits

The City of La Cañada Flintridge launched a new webpage to provide updates regarding ongoing legal matters related to housing policy.

Since 2021, the City has been actively defending itself and the community in three lawsuits - none of which were initiated by the City - concerning housing policy and the property located at 600 Foothill Boulevard. The legal issues at play are complex, but at their root involve questions of land use control within City limits and the balance of authority between local jurisdictions and the State of California.

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to transparency, the webpage provides comprehensive updates aimed at keeping residents informed about these critical legal matters.

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Health Professionals Inspire CVHS Students

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Examples: Hospitals & Ambulatory Care Clinics (many specialties available)

Industry Pharmacy
Pharmacists work at pharmaceutical companies to develop new drugs, conduct clinical trials, educate/market to healthcare providers.
Examples: Bayer, Pfizer, etc.

Managed Care Pharmacy
Pharmacists work at health plan (insurance) companies to help make decisions that optimize patient care & costs to the patients, institution, & the health plan
Examples: UnitedHealthcare, CVS Caremark, Anthem Blue Cross, etc

Students in Crescenta Valley High School's Academy of Science and Medicine were able to attend a virtual health career night that featured presentations by 13 medical professionals including pharmacy professional Dia Cabrera.

By Eliza PARTIKA

Thirteen nurses, doctors, RNs, licensed psychologists and other health professionals presented to students in Crescenta Valley High School's Academy of Science and Medicine. The presentations were made on Dec. 6 with the goal of inspiring students' interest in a broad range of careers in health.

Catherine Ko, a registered nurse at St. Jude Medical Center, said the presentations were to give students an idea of what it was like being a medical professional.

"I wanted to share what my day in a life looks like and what to expect," she said. "[Health Career Night] was one of the first spaces [in which] I was introduced to specific health careers like physicians assistants and researchers, which allowed me to be curious about the jobs that I may have never had a chance to hear about," she said.

CVHS students told CV Weekly they were greatly inspired by the stories told and advice given.

Claire Oh, an 11th grader at CVHS who plans to go into medicine, said the presentations gave her a more realistic idea of what to expect with a career in medicine.

"[They allowed] me to view my career options from a more realistic perspective [salary for each occupation, years of schooling required, interactions with patients, student debt, etc.]," she said. "Hearing how enthusiastically the speakers presented made me realize

the importance of finding an occupation that genuinely brings you joy."

Dr. Marc Montecillo, a physician with Kaiser Permanente, spoke about how he was able to do research with world-leading oncologists and become a doctor though his path was not as "conventional" as others' as he was an immigrant and had to balance school with fatherhood. Oh said it was reassuring to hear someone as hard-working and well-accomplished as he admit how humbling medical school was and the journey to becoming who he is today.

"It was beyond inspiring to hear from people who graduated from the Academy of Science and Medicine and Crescenta Valley High School undergo over a decade of schooling, pass the MCAT, get into a residency/fellowship program, and talk about how they, too, were once in our shoes," she said.

CVHS junior Kalin Jabnian said the presentations inspired him to continue his journey into medicine and gave great insight into what it was like to be a medical professional.

"[Presenter Dr. Monte-cillo] was extremely informative and inspirational as he shared with us his journey to medicine. One key takeaway from his presentation was his advice on the importance

of avoiding distraction while one is pursuing the goal," Jabnian said.

Caden Park, a 10th grade student at CVHS, was also inspired by Montecillo's story and the advice of the other professionals.

"The presentations were very meaningful to me in terms of how these professionals worked with their patients and their impressive and productive work ethic and lifestyle," Park said. "The persevering drive and motivation of each and every speaker inspired me the most."

For Ko, it was important to share her journey for those students who may not have grown up with connections to the health profession.

"It's important for young people

to hear about different professions because their interests may lie in a role outside of a doctor. It empowers them to figure out what is important for them as they select their majors and find opportunities that may open new doors," she said.

She hopes students develop an interest in health care beyond expectations of salary and lifestyle, and beyond "being a doctor."

"These young people are interested in something they don't know everything about," Ko said. "I hope they can continue these events for students to see what responsibilities these jobs carry and how it affects life after work. I hope they learn there are so many ways to be part of the health care system."

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NOTES & NODS

LCIF Celebrates A New Sound This Holiday Season

This Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, Lutheran Church in the Foothills (LCIF) invites all to join in a joyful celebration of the birth of Christ. At 5:30 p.m., the congregation will gather for an outdoor Christmas Eve service at La Cañada's Memorial Park. The community service is organized by several local churches. All are welcome to join in this festive event where the spirit of the season will be brought to life under the open sky.

Following the outdoor service, attendees can move to the warmth and comfort of the LCIF sanctuary for the 7 p.m. service. Inside the church will be filled with candlelight and Christmas carols as Pastor Rick Hall leads the congregation in a celebration of the holiday's spiritual significance. One of the highlights of the evening will be the tradition of singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

The true meaning of Christmas, according to the Christian faith, lies in the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, a pivotal moment in history that brought God's love to the world in the form of a humble child. The nativity story reminds Christians of God's promise of salvation, bringing light into the darkness and offering the hope of eternal life. For believers, Christmas is not just a time of festive cheer but also a sacred occasion to remember the gift of Christ and the message of peace and love.

For more information on LCIF's Christmas celebrations, or general information about the church, visit lcifoothills.org or call (818) 790-1951. The church is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever' at Glendale First United Methodist

The Glendale First United Methodist Church Children's Ministry hosts "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" stage play. The play, based on the

children's book written by Barbara Robinson, depicts the story of six siblings known as The Herdmans who have a reputation for being the worst kids in the world. However, when they take over the local church pageant, they teach a shocked community about the true meaning of Christmas.

Tickets for the family production, will take place in the Carlson Fellowship Center at Glendale First United Methodist Church, 134 N. Kenwood St. in Glendale on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., may be purchased at the church office.

Following the play there will be an outside nativity scene that will include live animals, Santa, snow, hot chocolate and the opportunity to take pictures with the cast. Tickets are \$5 for adults; children are free.

For more information, please contact the church at (818) 243-2105.

Christmas Eve Services at La Crescenta Presbyterian

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church will celebrate Christmas Eve with two family-friendly candlelight services along with a petting zoo that recalls the rustic surroundings of Jesus' birth.

The community is invited on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. for a contemporary worship service featuring LCPC's pastor the Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef who will deliver the message, "The Word Became Flesh!" At the 7 p.m. worship service (featuring classic hymns), Pastor Mouris' message will be "The People Who Missed Christmas!"

Bring the entire family and enjoy the live menagerie in front of the church from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

Christmas Eve Services at Center for Spiritual Living

CSL-La Crescenta is having an

early Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. (4845 Dunsmore Ave. at Santa Carlotta).

All are invited.

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

Mt. Olive invites the Crescenta Valley community to its monthly breakfast Bible study at Panera Bread Restaurant, 990 Town Center Drive, Suite A in La Cañada on the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. They are currently in the Book of Second Corinthians. Also, a weekly Bible study is held at the church on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Walk and Word

Walk and Word participants will meet in the parking lot of Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale at 8 a.m. on Dec. 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.

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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Changes Seen in Montrose

By Mary O'KEEFE

There are some potential changes to local Montrose businesses. Montrose Bike Shop at 2501 Honolulu Ave. has a "going out of business" sign on its front window as the building is being sold.

"After nearly 70 years, we've made the tough decision to close our doors because our lease is up. While this chapter is ending, we're so grateful for your support over the years," according to the shop's website.

The owner of the property had passed away and the estate is apparently selling the building.

The property is being offered by the Brandon Michaels Group, whose website states, "2501 Honolulu Avenue is currently occupied by the Montrose Bike Shop on a month-to-month basis. This creates a unique opportunity for a value-add investor to reposition the property with a market rate tenant or an owner-user to occupy the building for their own business use."

The building went up for sale in mid-October.

"It is a great building across from Trader Joe's," said Brandon Michaels. He added the current business at the location is on a month-to-month occupancy and not a lease, and offers various purchase options. Michaels also pointed out that buildings in the Montrose area rarely come to market so this does offer a unique opportunity to a buyer.

But for those in Montrose seeing another business close is always a sad turn of events. And there is sadness surrounding the closure of Alissa's Ocean View at 3826 Ocean View Blvd.



Photo by Robin GOLDSWORTHY
A hand written sign on the entrance to Alissa's Ocean View from owners Eric and Alissa Hwang bids the community goodbye.

in Montrose.

After seven years, the local restaurant closed its doors.

"It was very emotional," said Eric Hwang who with his wife co-owned Alissa's. He said that most of Thursday, Dec. 12 was spent saying goodbye to friends of the restaurant and staff members.

"There were a lot of goodbyes," he said. "You don't really know how to close the 'right' way. It was definitely awkward."

He added that they didn't plan to close as suddenly as they did but the amount of money it takes to keep everything going is "gargantuan."

"It's a real rough time," he

said, "just before Christmas."

He also noted that they "took it as far as it could go."

"We were trying to meet everyone's needs - the community's, our employees' - and it's sometimes tough taking care of ourselves," he said. "I know we're going to miss everyone."

Right now he and Alissa will strategize and reassess their position for the future - but the future is uncertain.

"This was the first business that we owned," Hwang said. "It meant a lot to us." Robin Goldsworthy contributed to this story

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Please submit 325-350 words plus a photo (preferred photo size is 200 dpi, 4x6 inches) to robin@cvweekly.com

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SOLUTION for page 16

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GTA Members Approve Tentative Agreement

By Mary O'KEEFE

The voting has been tallied and it appears Glendale Teachers Association (GTA) members overwhelmingly approved the tentative agreement between GTA and Glendale Unified School District for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.

The proposed agreement was announced in November and voting occurred from Dec. 2 to Dec. 6. Out of 1,245 eligible electors 902 voted; 843 (93.5% of members) voted to approve the contract and 59 (6.5% of members) voted not to approve, according to a statement on the GTA website.

The proposed agreement

includes an ongoing 4% wage increase retroactive to July 1, 2023 and an additional 2%, one-time payment for the 2024-25 school year. It also includes updated standards for evaluations for certificated employees and an early notification incentive for employees planning to retire or resign at the end of the 2024-25

school year, according to a GUSD release in November.

The tentative agreement also includes no changes to the current Blue Shield employee healthcare plans or the District's contribution to plans for the 2024-25 school year. According to information from GTA, this agreement also includes a commitment that

future savings on health and welfare benefits that may result from the work of the 2024-25 Employment Benefits Committee will be subject to negotiations, according to that same release.

It now falls to the GUSD board to approve, or reject, the contract when the board next meets on Jan. 21.

Arrest in La Cañada Flintridge

By Mary O'KEEFE

Early Tuesday morning a sergeant with the Los Angeles


County Sheriff's Dept.- Commonwealth Avenue and Crescenta Valley Station observed a man urinating in public in the area near

Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge. The sergeant approached the man, who was

later identified as a 42-year-old transient, and found he had a warrant for a felony robbery case out of Orange County.

He was arrested.

The transient appeared to be new in the area.



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CRIME BLOTTER

DEC. 13

2200 block of Montrose Avenue in Montrose, a resident returned home to find the floor mat that was outside the door of his home was inside instead, the front door was unlocked and the security panel was ripped off the wall along with the thermostat. He also found the kitchen door and window was open. Several rooms were ransacked and items, including a floor safe, were stolen between Dec. 13-15.

DEC. 13

2200 block of Montrose Avenue in Montrose, a resident was upstairs in her home when she heard her dog begin to bark. When he continued to bark she went downstairs to investigate and found a sliding glass door leading to her home was slightly ajar and a 6" hole was at the base of the non-sliding glass panel.

The door had been taken off its track. She called LASD and deputies found the door damaged, including pry marks, the screen of a kitchen window had been removed and the lounge chair and flower pots had been moved away from the broken door.

Security footage revealed two male adults in hooded jackets and wearing gloves enter the area via a pedestrian gate. The two men walked around the location and spoke in "what sounded like" Armenian or Russian. As the men were walking around the door, a small two-door hatchback vehicle backed into the security frame along the front of the area. Another camera showed the two suspects walking around the apartment complex apparently "casing" residences. They jumped, or climbed, a short wall dividing two apartments in an apparent attempt to find more

residences to burglarize.

The attempted burglary occurred at 6:30 p.m.

DEC. 12

4400 block of Rockland Place in Montrose, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle overnight.

1800 block of Fairmount Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge, garden equipment was stolen from a truck parked at the area. Security footage revealed a suspect who was described as a male Hispanic about 5'9" tall and weighing from 190 to 200 lbs. with a bald head and wearing a gray shirt, black shorts and brown work boots. He was seen walking to the passenger side of the truck and taking three chainsaws from behind the rear passenger door, then walking away. He walked out of the frame, then came back,

walked back to the vehicle and took more equipment from the truck then walked away at 12:23 p.m.


DEC. 10

2400 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Crescenta, two suspects entered the location and stole a 2023 Mercedes G-Wagon. Security footage showed two suspects enter the location. Suspect No. 2 is seen running to the gate to open it and then the G-Wagon is seen reversing with Suspect No. 1 driving the vehicle. Suspect No. 1 is described as a male adult wearing a dark-colored hoodie, light-colored pants and blue shoes.

Suspect No. 2 is described as a male adult, wearing a white facemask, black sweater, black pants and black-and-white shoes.

The vehicle theft occurred at 3:19 a.m.

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Before the Parade Passed By



By Mary O'KEEFE

Once again, the Montrose Christmas Parade brought that old town feel to the community. Scouts, kids' dance groups and school bands marched down Honolulu Avenue to the cheers of parade viewers.

As everyone was enjoying the parade, hundreds of volunteers were making sure everything ran smoothly.

"It takes over 200 volunteers to put on the parade, including the gap team, VIP vehicle coordination, VIP reception team, ham radio operators, rovers, banner carriers, staging & lineup team, participant & vehicle check-in, and the various marshals and volunteers all over the route and on the back side of the parade," said Cheryl Davis, parade coordinator.

The Montrose Christmas Parade Association is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that exists solely to put on this annual event for the community, she added.

"The parade marshals and board members have been doing this longer than I have so they are a well-oiled machine. We're able to start planning in September and put on the parade with only two marshals' meeting and one volunteer meeting," Davis said.

Parade watchers saw a total of 115 entries comprised of 73 vehicles, 20 horses and dogs and 3,651 youth, student and adults marching along Honolulu Avenue on Dec. 7.

The parade, which is always held the evening of the first Saturday in December, begins with the traditional helicopter fly over by Santa, who welcomes everyone to the parade – thanks to the support of the Glendale Police Dept.

Glendale police were boots on the ground at the parade to make sure everyone was safe while attending. The parade association could not put the parade on without its sponsors (a full list is available at <https://montrosechristmasparade.com>).

Photos by Leonard COUTIN and Sean DOORLY
LEFT: The crowd was excited to greet Santa as he brought the parade to a close.

TOP RIGHT: Rick Dinger and Jane Kane have been announcing the parade for several years.

RIGHT: GPD Community Service Officer Amy Tate and comfort dog Brisket were popular at the parade.

"Thank you to the participants – incredible student, Scout and adult volunteers – and our generous sponsors who make this parade possible every year. People in the community say, 'You're either in the parade or watching the parade,' but I'd like to mention the third dimension, which is 'Or you're volunteering to help with the parade,'" Davis said.

Davis added a thank you to Glendale TV that taped and edited the parade for a video that will soon be available on-demand from the MyGlendale YouTube channel, (<https://www.youtube.com/myglendale>) and will replay on Glendale TV throughout December. The schedule of viewing can be found at <https://www.glendaleca.gov/glendaletv>.



see PARADE on page 19

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DONATIONS from Cover

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Anyone with questions can email Fire-Sparkoflove@fire.lacounty.gov or call (323) 881-2472.

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.” ~ Robert Louis Stevenson

PURSUIT from Cover

Deputies responded and found the vehicle on Foothill Boulevard; however, when one of the deputies activated the patrol unit’s lights and attempted to pull the vehicle over the driver “failed to yield” and drove away, which is when the pursuit began.

“It is the policy of the LASD that pursuits are permitted only when the necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the degree of danger created by the pursuit and only when in compliance with our policy and applicable state laws,” according to LASD.

The driver continued to drive westbound on Foothill Boulevard.

“In front of Ross Dress for Less (in the 2100 block of Foothill Boulevard) the driver rear-ended an SUV,” said Sgt. John Gilbert of the CV Sheriff’s Station.

Some deputies responded to those in the SUV and got them out of harm’s way and others ordered the driver to get out of his vehicle. At this point deputies had their guns drawn. “He did not cooperate and then [the driver] put his vehicle in reverse and rammed into the patrol unit,” Gilbert said.

The pursuit was off and driving again. At one point two teens in the crosswalk at Ramsdell Avenue and Foothill Boulevard had to jump out of

the way as the driver sped by. By this time the driver had struck several vehicles during the pursuit. He continued along Foothill westbound then entered the 210 Freeway the wrong way using the Sunland Boulevard offramp. At one point he turned around and headed back onto Sunland Boulevard. He ended up on Lankershim Boulevard, continuing onto Vineland Avenue and Hortense Street. The vehicle slammed into a curb and stopped. A standoff then began.

The pursuit lasted about 20 minutes and the standoff lasted about 70 minutes before it ended. LASD deputies had its crisis negotiation team and

called in Special Enforcement Bureau.

In the end the driver, a 31-year-old man, got in and out of his vehicle several times until finally he was tackled by deputies and arrested. He has been charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon. The investigation is ongoing.

CV Sheriff’s deputies are asking for any witnesses, specifically those two young students who were almost struck by the driver, to contact CV Sheriff’s at (818) 248-3464.

Anyone whose vehicle may have been damaged by this driver are asked to report it to their local law enforcement agency.

GCC from Cover

Mayor Elen Asatryan wants items that Council has expressed interest in funding, such as a park in south Glendale, new affordable housing, “anything we want to do that requires funding,”

be reviewed in conjunction with potential revenue streams.

Councilmember Dan Brotman reviewed the budget schedule noting that study sessions would take place in March and April for

the adoption of a new budget by the end of June. He noted that this year and the next are “probably comfortable” but that after that there would be the need to dip into reserves “because our expenditures will exceed our revenues.”

“We keep pulling from this 115 trust [money set aside to pay for pension liabilities],” Brotman said noting there is a need for an “honest conversation” about new revenues or service cuts, adding that 63% of the city’s budget goes to public safety and that most of those costs are the costs of personnel.

The Council delayed action until next year on realigning and reclassifying 38 city positions.

Police Chief Manny Cid presented plans to add 52 police officers to the Glendale Police Dept. in three phases – “Project 300” – to maintain the city’s designation as one of the nation’s safest cities. Currently there are 248 officers and the department is fully staffed; 37 new officers have been hired in the past 18 months. Glendale currently fields 1.2 officers per 1000 residents, compared to the national average of similarly sized cities of 1.6, and with Burbank at 1.5 officers per 1000 residents, Pasadena at 1.7; Santa Monica at 2.5; and Los Angeles at 2.3. Chief Cid quoted more demographic statistics: 250,000 people visit the

city each day and between 500,000 and 1,000,000 cars pass through daily. Adopting all three phases of Project 300 would bring the ratio up to 1.5 and cost \$15.8 million over three years.

Phase 1 of the plan was adopted unanimously.

The Council authorized Glendale Water and Power (GWP) to increase the subsidy for low-income electricity customers from \$23.50 to \$35 per month, effective Jan. 1, 2025. GWP reports that of approximately 89,000 customer households, 11,314 currently take advantage of the discounted program.



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WEATHER from page 2

There are all kinds of myths as to why the parrots are here from pet stores that burned down to the closing of Busch Gardens.

The National Geographic wrote an article titled, “How these parrots went from the tropical jungle to the concrete jungle” published on Dec. 13, 2023.

“Like most good Hollywood stories, the origin of Los Angeles’ thriving wild parrot population is debated and shrouded in myth. Some trace

it back to the closure of Busch Gardens Van Nuys in the 1970s, which could have resulted in the release of captive birds into the city environment. There are also unconfirmed stories of mass parrot releases during the 1992 riots, as well as tales of parrots being freed during a fire at a pet store in Pasadena in the 1990s,” according to the National Geographic.

Jaimie Gilardi, executive director of “World Parrot Trust,” was quoted in the article as saying, “My guess is there’s probably a kernel of truth in most of those stories.”

One thing is for certain: the parrots did not fly here on their own. No extant species of parrot has lived in the continental U.S. since the native Carolina Parakeet went extinct over 100 years ago. The pet trade in one form or another brought the birds to LA, according to the article.

These parrots are not native

and are not considered invasive by the state.

I understand these parrots are a bit loud but it is so amazing to see their beautiful green wings fly toward the trees. They seem so happy to be with each other ... and they do love LA.

“They are raucous,” McManus said, “but aren’t we blessed to live in a world with this population of really cool parrots?”

Anyone who may have found an injured parrot should report it to the Pasadena Humane Society, (626) 792-7151. You can also take the parrot into the facility, which is located at 361 S. Raymond Ave.

We are looking at picture-perfect weather for the coming week. Today will see highs in the upper 70s, then mid-to-low 70s for the next few days. By Tuesday there is a chance of rain – 30% – and we will be a little cooler with a high of 68 degrees, according to NOAA.

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

The Stone Barn and the Local History of Winemaking

Deukmejian Wilderness Park near the top of New York Avenue, besides having miles of hiking trails, is a treasure trove of local history. It's located in Dunsmore Canyon, a deep ravine in the

San Gabriel Mountains. The centerpiece of the park is the Le Mesnager Stone Barn, a magnificent two-story building made of native stone that is over 100 years old. And in front of

the stone barn is a big vineyard, a nod to the Crescenta Valley's grape-growing past. Here's a brief history.

George Le Mesnager was a Frenchman living in Los Angeles

in the late 1800s. In 1885, he and a partner purchased hundreds of acres in the Crescenta Valley, some in the Verdugo Canyon where the Oakmont Golf Course is today and some in Dunsmore Canyon. They planted thousands of grapevines. At that time the wine industry was booming in Los Angeles and Le Mesnager had a big winery north of the downtown area, next to the Los Angeles River. The grapes from the Le Mesnager vineyard in the Crescenta Valley were harvested and brought by wagon to the winery. George Le Mesnager, despite being a leader in the robust French community that existed in LA at that time, had a hard time staying out of trouble. His winery was raided by the law on a couple of occasions and he was in civil court for various lawsuits.

Around 1910, George Le Mesnager's son Louis began building the stone barn. It was used for storage and livestock on the ground floor, and as living quarters on a second floor mezzanine. At the outbreak of WWI, George went back to France to fight for his native country. He was 64 years old and overweight, but he enlisted as a private. He fought valiantly and

finished the war with several battle wounds and medals for valor.

Prohibition was enacted in 1920, forbidding the production and consumption of alcohol except for home winemaking. Commercial wineries closed but grape growing for home winemaking boomed. The Le Mesnager vineyards and other local vineyards thrived throughout the Prohibition era.

In 1933 the stone barn was leased to a group of WWI veterans hoping to make a killing in wine sales when Prohibition ended in December of that year. Sadly in November a wildfire burned the barn and the vats of nearly ready wine. The vats burst and 25,000 gallons of wine poured out the front door of the barn.

Since the barn was stone only the roof needed to be replaced and the Le Mesnager family continued to live on the mezzanine in the barn. In the late '50s, the family decided to move on. They offered the land first to Glendale and the state, both of which turned it down. Instead it was sold in 1960 to a developer who intended to build hundreds of hillside homes.

After a long grass roots battle against development by local residents, Glendale purchased the land. Some of the money came from then-California Gov. George Deukmejian, who was honored as the namesake of the new park. The stone barn was upgraded and turned into a nature center. A demonstration vineyard was planted with Red Flame, Alicante Bouchet, and Early Burgundy grapevines. Management of the vines was ceded to The Stone Barn Vineyard Conservancy.

The Conservancy has enlarged the vineyard with grapes that are historic to our area. Three varieties are newly represented: Mission, Burger and Zinfandel. Mission grapes were brought to America from Spain in the 16th century and spread to the California Missions in the late 1700s. The Burger grapes have an interesting story. The descendants of the Le Mesnagers said George Le Mesnager planted high up in the canyon his favorite grapes he brought from France, but those vines are gone now. But after the Station Fire of 2009, a hiker near the top of the canyon noticed a grapevine growing up through the ashes. This survivor was from the legendary early Le Mesnager favorite vines for indeed Burger is a French grape. The Zinfandel vines were taken from a vine growing wild near Foothill Boulevard. It is a remnant of the vineyards that once covered our valley.

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

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4007 Willalee Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	off Honolulu Avenue
3552 Prospect Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
4012 New York Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	The Backyard Ballerdazzle Musical Light and Snow Show
3425 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3437 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3440 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3452 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3239 Los Olivos Ln.	La Crescenta	91214	
113 Pontaic St.	La Crescenta	91214	
3014 Paraiso Way	La Crescenta	91214	
2653 Orange Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
4723 Sunset Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	off Kemper
1200-1400 Oak Circle Dr.	Sparr Heights	91208	
2200-2400 Honolulu Ave.	Montrose	91020	Montrose Shopping Park
3528 Sierra Vista Ave.	Sparr Heights	91208	
1968 Waltonia Dr.	Montrose	91020	
2229 Crescent Ave.	Montrose	91020	
3117 Sparr Blvd.	Glendale	91208	
2211 Sherwood Pl.	Glendale	91206	

CRESCENTA VALLEY WEEKLY PRESENTS

The 2024 Merry & Bright Holiday Light and Display Tour!

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

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

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

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

JUDGING CATEGORIES

1. Christmas Story Award

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

2. Clark Griswold Award

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

3. Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree Award

(best use of music and technology)

4. Santas Coming to Town Award

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

5. Most Original Award

(not your usual every-day holiday decor)

6. Best In Show Award

(ya blew the judges minds)

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!



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YMCA OF THE FOOTHILLS



Kathryn BARGER
5th District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles

RHODES SCHOOL
of MUSIC



Jodi Deranja, Realtor
COMPASS



BETWEEN FRIENDS

DAR, Scouts Participate in Wreaths Across

Members of the local Daughters of the American Revolution, Don Jose Verdugo and Martin Severance Chapters, along with the La Cañada Singers and Scouts from JPL's troop 509, volunteered at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena this past weekend to participate in Wreaths Across America.

DAR volunteers joined tens of thousands across the nation in placing wreaths on the markers of local fallen heroes. As each wreath was placed, volunteers said the name of the deceased to ensure the legacy is never forgotten of duty, service and sacrifice of each veteran. Families and volunteers of all ages to came and shared in this patriotic experience.

Members of the Don Jose Chapter purchased over 200



wreaths to be placed on the graves of the veterans. The ceremony not only remembered the fallen it also honored those who served and their families, and taught the next generation the value of freedom.

LCWC Brings Holiday Joy



Photo courtesy of Debra LANDAU
Co-president Mary Nolte (left) with Deputy Philip Demerjian and philanthropy co-chair Danette Erickson.

The La Crescenta Woman's Club, for another year, supported local sheriff volunteers with almost a thousand dollars in cash, gift cards, toys and food at its Dec. 11 Christmas luncheon.

Deputy Philip Demerjian left with a full car loaded with gifts for local families. The Woman's Club extends happy holiday wishes to everyone.

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis! Completing Disclosures On A Long-Term Rental

Dear Phyllis,
My cousins and I own an Orange County home that we inherited from our grandparents. One of the cousins has passed and this cousin was the one in charge of the renting and maintenance. The current tenant, who my deceased cousin placed, moved out, and we intend to sell the home "as is." My cousin and I had never lived in the home, and until the other cousin's passing last year, she had managed all the details. My surviving cousin and I only met the most recent tenant when she handed over the keys when moving out. Our Realtor gave us lengthy disclosures, telling us that since we are on title, we need to complete them. I don't believe we should take on the liability of answering all these questions as we know very little about the

home. Is it necessary for us to complete the Real Estate Transfer Disclosure and the four-page Seller Property Questionnaire? It seems ridiculous; we know nothing about the maintenance records of the home, if anyone smoked, if there were pets, etc. How can we complete disclosures on a long-term rental when we don't have the information? We urgently need guidance on this matter. Looking for help

you and your cousin have never lived in the property, which has been a rental for thirty years. Also, note that you met the last tenant just once when she handed over the keys upon moving. Your Realtor may suggest having a pre-inspection or termite inspection, which I often recommend and that can be included with your disclosures to clear up any confusion.

I suggest you meet with your Realtor in person, or at the very least have a phone appointment, and you can complete the disclosures together. With your Realtor's guidance, this won't be so overwhelming. Remember, your Realtor is there to support you and ensure the process goes smoothly.

Best of luck with the sale,
Phyllis

Dear Looking,
I understand your dismay and concern. These disclosures can be overwhelming, but remember, you are not expected to know the answer to every question. If you don't know the answer, write unknown. Add a disclaimer or addendum to the Transfer Disclosure Statement stating that

Ovations Arts Ministry | La Cañada PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Ovations Art Series 2024-2025

"I will sing and make music to the Lord, for he is highly exalted." - Exodus 15:1

Christmas Concert: A World of Joy!

Chancel Choir & LCPC Orchestra

JOY

Sunday, December 22 at 2 p.m.
Pre-concert lecture at 1:30 p.m.
Free admission

In-person and broadcast live at live.lacanadapc.org
Activities for children in adjacent Worship Arts Center

La Cañada Presbyterian Church
626 Foothill Boulevard, La Cañada, CA 91011
ovations@lacanadapc.org • 818-790-6708 x251



Phyllis Harb

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

The Queen Mary's 12 Days of Christmas: A Festive Sail – with Some Caveats

Photos by Charly SHELTON
 LEFT: The lighting of the smoke stacks on the Queen Mary is a festive kickoff to the season.
 RIGHT: Mrs. Claus story time is a highlight of a visit to the Queen Mary's "12 Days of Christmas" event.



By Charly SHELTON

There's something undeniably enchanting about the idea of celebrating the holidays aboard a historic ocean liner and the Queen Mary's "12 Days of Christmas" event promises just that – a festive escape set against the backdrop of one of Long Beach's most iconic landmarks. When I heard about the holiday offerings, I was eager to experience the magic firsthand. So I packed up the family and braved the trek from the Crescenta Valley down to the coast, visions of twinkling lights

and holiday cheer guiding the way. Stepping aboard, the ship didn't disappoint in terms of atmosphere. The historic decks were festooned with holiday decorations and the grandeur of the Queen Mary lent an air of old-world charm to the occasion. The "12 Days of Christmas" activities included gingerbread house workshops, Mrs. Claus story time, carolers strolling the corridors, some holiday vendors and even a visit from Santa Claus himself, all capped off with the first lighting of the smoke stacks for the season. However, as we made our way

through the event it became apparent that there wasn't a whole lot to do beyond that. The activities, while delightful, were somewhat limited in scope. For families with young children or content creators looking for new reels, this might be enough to fill an evening. But for those expecting a full-scale holiday extravaganza akin to what you'd find at a dedicated holiday fair, or even like what the Queen Mary used to offer at its CHILL event in years past, it might fall a bit short. That said, the charm of the Queen Mary extends far beyond any seasonal event.

After exploring the holiday activities, we decided to have a full night aboard ship – visiting the Observation Bar for a sunset cocktail, exploring the historic walkways and decks of the ship, and dinner at The Chelsea Chowder House. In the end, the "12 Days of Christmas" served as a festive garnish to an already rich Queen Mary experience. If you're planning to visit the ship and incorporate all it has to offer – the history tours, the dining, the ambiance – then the holiday event is a lovely addition that enhances the overall visit. However, if you're considering making the drive solely for the

holiday activities, especially from areas as far as the Crescenta Valley, you might find yourself wanting more. The Queen Mary is a destination that thrives on its historical significance and unique setting. The holiday event adds a sprinkle of seasonal cheer, but it's the ship itself that remains the star of the show. So, if you're up for a nautical adventure steeped in history with a side of holiday spirit, it's worth the voyage. Just be sure to set sail with the right expectations and you might find that the journey – and the destination – hold their own special kind of magic.

CHRISTMAS

AT LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CONTEMPORARY CANDELIGHT SERVICE AT 5PM
 TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 7PM
 SERMONS BY PASTOR MOURIS YOUSEF

CHRISTMAS PETTING ZOO FROM 4-8PM

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 2902 MONTROSE AVE. LA CRESCENTA, CA, 91214

» TRAVELS WITH GREG

Family Fun and Savory Delights at the Luxurious Hyatt Regency Irvine



Photos by Greg ARAGON
 LEFT: The 516-room Hyatt recently completed a \$55 million renovation.
 RIGHT: The Bunk Bed Suite is fun for kids and perfect for families.

By Greg ARAGON

It's always exciting to discover a new hotel destination especially when it is full of pleasant surprises and is an easy drive from Los Angeles. Such is the case with the Hyatt Regency Irvine, a newly-remodeled luxury hotel with great

location, modern rooms, a gourmet restaurant, an incredible pool area and much, much more.

My getaway to the Hyatt Regency Irvine (www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/snari-hyatt-regency-irvine) began when the family and I checked into a luxurious and fun Bunk Bed Suite on the 14th floor,

overlooking the expansive hotel property and the Irvine skyline.

Perfect for families, the approximately 850-square-foot suite featured a bedroom for the kids with a bunk bed, including a queen mattress and a full mattress. The room also offered a sleeper sofa, large TV, mini-fridge, bathroom and views of the pool. Needless to say the kids loved this room – it was their own little hideaway.

The front room of the suite boasted a big king bed for the grown-ups, a comfortable seating area, large TV, fridge, coffee maker, another full bathroom and a huge balcony with dining table and seating overlooking the city. Needless to say we adults loved this area, especially when the kids were in their room playing.

Beyond the suite, we found happiness at the pool area, where a giant LED TV screen, two twisting water slides, a Jacuzzi, an outdoor

pool bar with a full menu and cabanas surround an oasis in the sun. This was our favorite spot to relax, play and watch a colorful loop of landscape videos on the mammoth TV screen. We also liked that the pool area had a gentle beach-like slope to enter, making it perfect for toddlers and their parents.

During our stay we rented a poolside cabana for the day that came with a fridge, TV, couches and lots of shade and privacy. The cabana was so comfy we had lunch inside it. We went to the hotel's Market cafe and brought back delicious spicy Korean BBQ beef tacos with cabbage slaw, sesame seed, cilantro and salsa; and a chicken pesto panini with sun-dried tomato, pesto mayo and provolone cheese. The kids had chicken tenders and hamburger sliders.

After lunch we took a short drive to Irvine's Great Park (www.cityofirvine.org/great-park),

a massive, 1,300-acre park with a big orange hot air balloon hovering 400 feet above the city, and a bunch of cool free things to do. Located on the former site of the El Toro Marine Base, the Great Park is said to be the first great metropolitan park of the 21st century and measures nearly twice the size of New York's Central Park.

The park has play areas for kids with lots of things to climb and hide around as well as sports fields, walking paths, art galleries, an air museum, a visitor's center, and a unique Farm + Food Lab that features a hands-on outdoor agricultural classroom. The park also features an old-fashioned horse carousel and the aforementioned balloon that are both ready to ride each weekend.


Back at the Hyatt Hotel, we prepared for a magical dinner at Warehouse 72 (www.irvine.warehouse72.com), the hotel's signature dining spot.

Created by Orange County-based restaurateur Doug Pak and led by Executive Chef Jaime Salazar, the restaurant is a feast for the eyes and palate. Upon entering, diners are treated to high-definition, moving pictures covering entire walls. Video scenes range from serene boats in harbors to sunsets over the ocean to Roman statues and swirling color. The images are breathtaking ... but the food is even better.

Led by Executive Chef Salazar and operated by industry veteran Brendan McManus, the restaurant encourages guests to savor the "essence of Orange County through a food and cocktail menu that harmonizes innovation with traditional favorites."

Our meal at Warehouse 72 began with a fresh salad with red and golden beets, whipped goat cheese, arugula, walnuts, balsamic reduction and charred Spanish octopus with crispy marble potatoes, chorizo and salsa verde.

For the main course we devoured pork belly kimchi fried rice with crispy pork belly, fried rice, kimchi, gochujang and green onions. This was the best kimchi rice I've ever had. With the rice we split a large, delicious rib eye steak with tiny potatoes.



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COMMUNITY**

*Interfaith
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service*

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
5:30 P.M.**

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OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, LCF

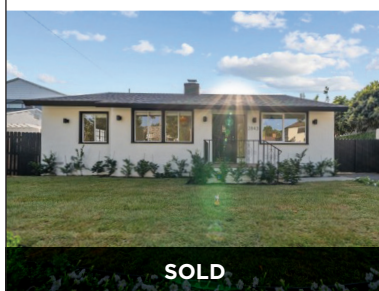




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Fantasy Holiday Lights Carnival ‘Imaginarium’ Returns to SoCal at Fairplex

The area’s largest holiday and fantasy light show, Imaginarium “Holiday Magic,” returns to Pomona for another holiday season now through Sunday, Jan. 5. The mesmerizing light festival, located at Fairplex, features wondrous displays, interactive exhibits and a nightly Santa visit, all designed to bring holiday cheer to visitors of all ages.

As holiday magic descends on Southern California, Imaginarium at Fairplex will set the scene with nightly synchronized music and light shows, a holiday wonderland, seasonal food and beverages, and 15 carnival rides for all ages. Visitors can meet Santa from 6 to 9 p.m. every night through Tuesday, Dec. 24.

This year’s installment will include the return of Imaginarium favorites such as the Rose Garden,

a luminescent field filled with more than 20,000 gorgeous LED roses in full bloom, the Enchanted Forest with larger-than-life creatures, immersive Activity Rooms and Endless Mirror Chambers, as well as an array of all new exclusive experiences and entertainment this year including:

- All-New Holiday Lights – Step into a world of holiday enchantment as themed lights transport guests into a realm of pure magic.
- Carnival Rides – Enjoy the thrill of 15 family-friendly carnival rides including the Berry Go Round, a carousel, Diamond Lil’s, Rockin’ Tug and the Super Slide. Wristbands required.
- BIG BEE – This transforming car is not just any ordinary vehicle, it is a cutting-edge creation that provides an out-of-this-world



experience. The LED light show that comes with this car is truly fantastic, illuminating the surroundings and creating a mesmerizing display of colors and patterns. But the real excitement happens when the car transforms into a 15’ action robot.

- Aqua Live Spectacular Circus –

The Christmas Circus, an outdoor holiday spectacular where the magic of the season meets the thrill of the circus. Under twinkling lights and a crisp winter sky, performers bring festive cheer with daring acrobatics and sensational performances. The Circus is free for all Imaginarium guests.

Imaginarium “Holiday Magic” is at Fairplex in Pomona through Sunday, Jan. 5, open Wednesday

through Sunday from 5 to 10 p.m. excluding holidays. General admission tickets are available now starting at \$27 per person. Discount ticket prices are available for children ages 2 to 12, seniors over 62, and military with valid ID. Children under 2 are free. Ride wristbands are available for \$35. Individual ride tickets can also be purchased. Parking is \$17. Additional information and tickets are available at imaginarium360.com and by calling (725) 272-2700.

THEN & NOW

Deukmejian Park Vineyard Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then: The Le Mesnager Family built this stone barn in 1910 to service its extensive vineyards here in the valley. The huge fires in November 1933 burned the barn and all the winery equipment inside, ending winemaking operations at this location. The dark stream issuing from the arched doorway is a river of wine – 25,000 gallons of it – that burst out as the wooden casks burned.



Now: The Le Mesnager family soon rebuilt the barn into a home for themselves and lived inside. The land was sold to a developer in 1960 with the intention of leveling the barn and building hundreds of homes. The City of Glendale saved the day and, with the help of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Governor George Deukmejian, the 700 acres were purchased as open space and named Deukmejian Wilderness Park. In the foreground are the grapevines planted as a tribute to the heritage of the park. The vines are maintained by volunteers from the Stone Barn Vineyard Conservancy.

Holiday Cheer Found Throughout Glendale



Those still looking for holiday cheer can look no further than the City of Glendale. Both the city and its residents have enthusiastically decorated streets and lawns with festive decorations.

Photos by Ruth SOWBY



JUST FOR FUN

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com December 9, 2024 - December 15, 2024

ARIES March 21 - April 19

Involve your partner in your daily exercise routine and dietary habits. Work together to achieve greater health and you'll soon discover what an asset you can be to one another. If your intentions are aligned, you can encourage each other to keep going if one falters. Eating the same healthy diet will result in greater success.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

The cosmos is pushing you to get a move on as far as your health is concerned. If you've been feeling unwell or know that you've ignored a health condition, take action. Symptoms may come to a head, or you may suddenly come to your senses and realize that you can't carry on this way.

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

The focus on your health now helps you see your situation from a new perspective. If you know what you should be doing, it may be time to step up and take responsibility for your well-being. If you need to get symptoms checked, do it. If you need a personal trainer, find one. Now is the time. Do it and reap the rewards!

CANCER June 21 - July 22

You need consistency in your daily life, especially where your health is concerned. This applies to that new diet as well as the latest sporting craze. If you can start to make it a habit to exercise regularly, it will encourage you to stick with a healthy diet, too. As your discipline grows stronger, you will flourish!

LEO July 23 - August 22

It's time to brainstorm ways to get more daily exercise. It may be a good idea to play a competitive sport that enables you to socialize as well as get fit. The cosmos is encouraging you to make changes at a basic level. How about buying a few simple pieces of exercise equipment?

VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

If you're struggling with your exercise routine, you may need a buddy to help you stay motivated. This period provides many opportunities to connect with others who are in your same boat. Team up and you can inspire one another to greatness. If you fall by the wayside, the others will help you. It will work wonders for you.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You're going to feel more empowered and motivated to get ahead now. In particular, your health and well-being will be a focus for some time to come. You must be willing to let go of old hurt and resentment. A regular exercise program will help you stay in shape and feel great.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Thoughts, ideas, feelings, and habitual ways of being all contribute to your health. Try to let go of anything that causes you torment and pain. Whatever you can do to release even a part of this will bring healing and more energy. If you have a problem with a particular person, forgive him or her. This, too, will heal you in many ways.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

If you value good health, you'll naturally move toward a daily routine that keeps you in top condition. If you value other things over your health, you'll lose your vitality. It helps to stay motivated to eat well and exercise regularly. If your life is busy, this is even more important. No one else can do it for you.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

The health of a friend may have an impact on you now. You may learn something about how to take better care of yourself. His or her condition may act as a warning to take nothing for granted, not even your health. It always pays to be on the safe side. Other friends may inspire you to join them in their health adventures.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Career issues may cause you to feel tense. If you act now to ease into a more relaxed state of mind, your body will follow suit. Being keyed up and physically tense isn't the best place from which to make important decisions or aim for success. Do whatever it takes to be at peace in your body.

PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

For your health to thrive now you need to listen to your self-talk and how it may contribute to or diminish your well-being. Replace negative thinking with a way of communicating with yourself that is much more positive. The more kindly you speak to yourself, the better your health will be.

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meetsonFridaysatnoon.OnFriday, Dec. 20, a representative from the Shadowland Foundation will be making a presentation (possibly with a wolf in attendance!).

The cost to attend Friday meetings, which includes lunch and program, is \$25. All are welcome.

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

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.

DANCING AS EXERCISE

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

There is live music every Friday (note new day) from 10 a.m. to noon in the Park's building at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. There are no events on Dec. 27 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

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

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

CCLCF CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

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

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. Spotighting each of the area's public schools, the exhibit features vintage yearbooks, textbooks, photographs and more. Bolton Hall Museum is open for visits on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. This exhibit runs through spring 2025.

see CALENDAR THIS on page 17

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

ACROSS

- 1) Concert take
- 5) "___ boy!" ("Nice going!")
- 9) Polliwog, for one
- 14) Rental car option
- 15) Thailand neighbor
- 16) Operating room substance, once
- 17) Good way to get one's point across
- 20) Baseball miscue
- 21) Wrangler alternative
- 22) Cleans one's plate
- 23) Crosshairs image
- 26) You can make light of it
- 28) List items
- 30) Falsifies a bit
- 34) Hockey's Bobby
- 37) South American empire of yore
- 39) Machine control system, for short
- 40) Sources of rowdy criticism
- 44) Barbershop quartet member
- 45) Bit of kelp, e.g.
- 46) Debate position
- 47) Arrows' mates
- 49) Italian fast food
- 52) Change directions suddenly
- 54) Martian moon
- 57) Remove, as a knot
- 60) Get ___ of (throw out)
- 62) To the manor born
- 64) Complexion description
- 68) Golden Horde member
- 69) Oft-scraped body part
- 70) Italian wine center
- 71) Unwritten tests
- 72) Respond to a bore
- 73) Nasty expression

DOWN

- 1) Be slack-jawed
- 2) Keep from happening
- 3) Beauty pageant accessory
- 4) Take to a dance
- 5) '80s sitcom about an alien
- 6) T-shaped cross
- 7) Bridge-crossing fee
- 8) Colorado ski spot
- 9) "Seinfeld" uncle
- 10) One caring for a patient
- 11) Three-toed bird of the pampas
- 12) It may be under a jacket
- 13) Word with "fine" or "visual"
- 18) By that reasoning
- 19) Boat bottom scraper
- 24) Work with a blue pencil
- 25) Island nation near Fiji
- 27) English river to the Trent
- 29) Hair holder
- 31) Get a handle on
- 32) "... lived happily ___ after"
- 33) Nothing special
- 34) Waffles no more
- 35) React to a haymaker
- 36) Asian princess
- 38) Chilly
- 41) Silent, as a mime
- 42) Basic impulse
- 43) Lounge around
- 48) All dried up
- 50) Its atomic number is 30
- 51) Not knowing right from wrong
- 53) Like some investments
- 55) More than heavy
- 56) Old school board
- 57) ___ no good
- 58) Getting warm, in a game
- 59) Computer fare
- 61) "Diff'rent Strokes" actress Plato
- 63) Kuwaiti leader
- 65) Many mins. equal them
- 66) "So, what else is ___?"
- 67) Foxy place?

12.19.24

ANSWERS on page 5

VEGGIES FIRST

By Mary K. Hart

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17			18					19					
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57	58	59			60		61			62			63
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68							69				70		
71												73	

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PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Sears canceled the work order for my cooktop stove. Where's my refund?

After Sears cancels a work order for Gary Miertschin's cooktop stove, it promises him a refund. But the money never shows up in his account. What can he do?

Q A valve on my gas cooktop, which I bought through Sears, recently broke. A technician from Sears Home Repair showed up a few days later, diagnosed the problem, and placed an order for the parts.

Sears required me to pay upfront for the parts and the subsequent repair once the parts showed up. The total came to \$827.

Sears ordered four valves. Two showed up but the other two were backordered. The backordered parts never arrived and Sears unilaterally canceled the work order. I only found out about this when I called to follow up.

A representative told me at that time that I would receive a verification of the refund within seven business days and a full refund within 21 days after that. It never happened. I have called numerous times to ask about the refund. It is very difficult to talk to a live person and when I do they are only able to tell me that the refund is pending and I should hear something shortly. I'm hoping you will be able to help me get my refund.

— Gary Miertschin,
Houston, Texas

A: Sears should have fixed your gas cooktop quickly. But if it couldn't do the repair it had an obligation to refund you right away. The foot-dragging only made a bad situation worse.

I think Sears also had an obligation to tell you if it could make the repair. There must be a way for Sears' suppliers to notify it when they no longer support a product. Why

couldn't they tell Sears so that you could take your repair needs somewhere else? I have no idea.

But the real problem here is the refund. Sears, like most other large businesses, issues refunds to the original form of payment. If it goes back to your credit card there may be a delay of as many as two billing cycles, which means two months of waiting.

I've found this lag time is a license to delay refunds, even those that are legally required. Companies simply blame the credit card company for the delay even when it's clearly their fault.

It's impossible to know what was behind your delay. Was it your credit card or was it Sears? Either way it doesn't matter. If Sears promises a full refund within 21 days, you should get it – and by the time you contacted me, you had been waiting more than three months.

A brief, polite appeal to someone higher up at Sears might have helped. I list the names, numbers and email addresses of the Sears customer service managers on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. A succinct email to one of them might have pushed things along.

I contacted Sears on your behalf. A few days later you had a full refund. I guess they figured out how to solve that little problem of waiting two billing cycles.

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 elliottadvocacy.org/help/. © 2024 Christopher Elliott

CALENDAR THIS from previous page

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

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

CELEBRATE NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

Community members are invited to join the Glendale/La Crescenta Stamp Club, a community of stamp enthusiasts that meets regularly to share their passion for this timeless hobby.

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

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

ALL INVITED TO HANUKKAH IN THE FOOTHILLS

The ninth annual Hanukkah in the Foothills will take place on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 4:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 10137 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga. At sundown the menorah will be lit and the story of miracles will be shared. Come and enjoy music, potato latkes and donuts.

This is a free event for all ages and faiths to come together and celebrate the Festival of Lights.

PASADENA HERITAGE OFFERS WALKING TOURS

On Saturday, Dec. 28, Pasadena Heritage invites the community to take walking tours featuring some of Pasadena's unique architectural treasures. Attendees have the opportunity to participate in two different walking tours. Please note: walking tours will last at least two hours and will take place rain or shine!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/99aavmwa> for tickets and more information.

CHANUKAH FESTIVAL HOSTED BY CHABAD OF LA CANADA - LA CRESCENTA

The Chabad of La Cañada - La Crescenta is having a Chanukah Festival at Memorial Park on Sunday, Dec. 29 at 4 p.m. A special performance will be given by world renowned ventriloquist Chuck Field. This event promises to be fun for the whole family. In addition, the Festival will feature Chanukah crafts, a petting zoo, jelly donuts, latkes, chocolate gelt and more.

Free to attend. RSVP at <https://www.cvchabad.org>.

LEARN MODERN SQUARE DANCING

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

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

ACTIVITIES AT SUNLAND SENIOR CENTER

The Sunland Senior Center offers a selection of classes and activities daily. Whether seniors are looking to exercise or dance or are interested in art, theater, or knitting, the Center has something for everyone. Sunland also hosts bingo on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and a movie matinee on the big screen at 1 p.m. on Thursdays; on Mondays and Fridays there is country line dancing from noon-1:30 p.m. The Sunland Senior Center runs programming from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. with a donations-based lunch served daily from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

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In accordance with Sec. 106 of the Programmatic Agreement, AT&T plans an ANTENNA ARRAY ON EXISTING SCE TOWER at 7717 VERDUGO CRESTLINE DRIVE TUJUNGA, CA 91402. Please direct comments to Gavin L. at 818-391-0449 regarding the site CLL05422, CNS-3879080# Published by the Crescenta Valley Weekly, 12/19, 12/26/24.

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PARADE from page 7

"We're always looking for volunteers, so please feel free to contact us at info@montrosechristmasparade.com if you're interested in volunteering, participating or sponsoring the parade," Davis added. "Our parade marshals and board members follow Santa at the end of the parade and we're reminded of what the parade is about when the crowd claps and yells, 'Thank you' as we pass by."



Photos by Leonard COUTIN, Sean DOORLY and Alice PEREZ



LEFT: Crescenta Valley Weekly staff, with former Glendale mayor Paula Devine, made its way down Honolulu Avenue. RIGHT: Santa's helpers Trish McRae (left) and Alice Perez (right) greet former Glendale mayor Paula Devine and CV Weekly publisher Robin Goldsworthy.

REGENCY HYATT from page 14

The kids enjoyed chicken nuggets, fries and mac and cheese. For dessert, we split frozen s'mores, with graham cracker crust, chocolate ice cream and marshmallow that was torched table side, and Butterscotch Budino – butterscotch custard, caramel, dark chocolate pearls and crème Chantilly.

After dinner, the kids built a fort in their bunk bed room and we adults relaxed on the balcony of our 14th floor suite, admiring the beautiful lights of Irvine.

The next morning we had breakfast at the Market cafe and then I toured the property. Coming off a \$55 million property-wide transformation, Hyatt Regency Irvine is the largest full-service and ultra-refined hospitality experience in the Irvine area. The hotel's

516 newly renovated rooms and suites feature thoughtfully modern interior design, crafted furnishings and hardware, unique artwork and light fixtures, and curated layouts to fit various lifestyles.

Besides the pool and Market

cafe, the hotel boasts a state-of-the-art, 24-hour fitness center; 56,000 square feet of conference rooms and event spaces; and a great location. The hotel is just two miles from John Wayne Airport and a short drive from major attractions like

Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, South Coast Plaza and Southern California beaches.

After touring the hotel, we spent the rest of the day at the pool area where the kids made new friends and we all lounged in the water and Jacuzzi.

The Hyatt Regency Irvine is located at 17900 Jamboree Road in Irvine. For more information on staying at the hotel and to learn about current specials, call (949) 751-1234 or visit www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/snari-hyatt-regency-irvine.

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