

CRESCENTA VALLEY WEEKLY

THE FOOTHILLS' COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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JANUARY 16, 2025

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Assemblymember Harabedian Introduces Wildfire Relief Package

Recently elected Assemblymember John Harabedian introduced a package of bills to provide essential financial relief to victims of the Los Angeles County wildfires and expedite impacted communities' rebuilding efforts.

"My neighbors are still paying mortgages on houses that have been burned to the ground, all while trying to rebuild their lives and find a place to stay. These proposals will deliver essential financial relief to those affected by the wildfires and establish a framework to swiftly rebuild our communities," said Assemblymember Harabedian. "The Mortgage Deferment Act will offer Californians vital financial relief from shouldering payments for both temporary housing and mortgages at the same time. The Disaster Housing Task Force ensures housing reconstruction and recovery is both swift, effective, and community-centered between all impacted agencies. In combination, these bills will give our neighbors essential financial reprieve and help us rebuild and recover from this disaster."

In short, the bills do the following:

- **AB 238, Mortgage Deferment Act:** Under the Mortgage Deferment Act, borrowers are entitled to request an initial forbearance of their monthly mortgage payments for up to 180 days, and may request up to an additional 180 days. This bill is inspired by the CARES Act, which provided mortgage payment forbearance to those experiencing financial hardship during the COVID-19 national emergency.
- **AB 239, State-Led Disaster Housing Task Force:** Establishes the State-Led Disaster Housing Task Force (SLDHTF) to operate throughout the long-term recovery period following the recent wildfires. Its primary purpose is to assist with coordination between the federal government, state agencies and departments and local municipalities. see HARABEDIAN on page 19

Briefings Continue as Fires Burn

By Mary O'KEEFE

The Red Flag Warning ended yesterday and it looks like there may be at least four days without Santa Ana winds, which will hopefully help with fire containment.

Each morning there is a press conference called "LA County/City One Voice" when representatives speak from fire agencies, law enforcement and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Also making presentations are LA County District Attorney Nathan Hochman and the LA County board of supervisors led by Kathryn Barger.

On Wednesday the press conference started with a breakdown of the Eaton Fire by LA County Fire Dept. Fire Chief Anthony Marrone.

"The Eaton Fire remains estimated at 14,117 acres with 45% containment. We know that over 7,000 structures are damaged or destroyed and we have 3,392 firefighting personnel assigned to the incident," he said.

He added that 45% of the damage inspections for the Eaton Fire had been completed, and residents impacted by the fire were told to visit recovery.lacounty.gov to view maps showing dam-



Photo by Justin HAGER
 Though much of Altadena looks like a war zone due to the Eaton Fire, criminals are still trying to get in to commit burglary and other crimes.

age assessments. These maps are updated daily.

Montrose Search and Rescue and Sierra Madre Mountain Search and Rescue are joined by other search and rescue agencies to follow up on reports of missing persons.

"[Tuesday] was a better day. We were able to find some reported missing at their homes [safe] and others were found in other areas safe," said Sgt. John Gilbert, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. - Crescenta Valley Station.

He added in days prior that

was not the case; many times search and rescue found those who were reported missing were fatalities.

At present Gilbert said no reports have been received of any missing hikers in the area; however, after searches are done at houses hiking the trails will be done.

If anyone feels their loved one or friend is missing and lived or was in the area of the Eaton Fire or any other fires, law enforcement in their area needs to be contacted and a missing persons

report filed. Law enforcement throughout the area has lists and shares with other agencies as they search for victims, Gilbert said.

Unfortunately, the fires have brought out the worst of the worst humans who are creating scams. They may ask for funds for fire victims but these are not legitimate requests; others price gouge, including landlords and companies that have raised their rents well over 100% in some cases.

see FIRES on page 4

Food Loss Due to Power Outages – 'When In Doubt, Throw It Out'

By Mary O'Keefe

For many Southern California Edison (SCE) customers, power outages have been common lately. The power outages are due, according to SCE, to high wildfire risk in the area. During the recent extraordinary wind event power was out for most customers for about three days; for some people in the mountain areas like Acton they have been without power for six days.

As it is understood, power outages are necessary to keep the region safe especially during high wind events and all are relieved when power is restored. But it is important for people to know what to do after power is turned back on.

It is suggested that once power is restored to wait a few minutes before plugging everything back in that was unplugged before because there is a chance of power surges. People should then go to electrical appliances and make certain they are in working order. Some things may have to be



Photo by Mary O'KEEFE

Food loss was commonplace due to power outages resulting from the high wind events.

turned off, then back on in order to reset.

The most important thing to do is to go through the food that

was in the refrigerator for the hours/days the power was off.

FoodSafety.gov suggests certain foods be thrown out that

were exposed to temperatures of 40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for more than two hours.

see FOOD LOSS on page 8



» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

A Community Lost

This has been a tough week. Most of us know someone who lost their home. Stories abound that no water was available to fight the Eaton Fire hence the huge property loss. My husband has been either on the ground with members of Montrose Search & Rescue or working the command post.

I'm writing this on Tuesday night when more Santa Ana winds are due to come in. It terrifies me to think that I might be the victim of another power outage. I lost power a week ago on Tuesday night and was without it until Friday. It was restored then went out again. Thankfully I had gas and water so I was able to boil water then tote it upstairs to put in my bathtub. With only a couple of inches of water in the tub those were quick baths, let me tell you!

No power meant no heat, either. And I'm sure you remember how cold it has been. I bundled up to keep warm and it seemed to work (I'm still here).

I was at a Kiwanis meeting on Friday and was complaining about having no power, no internet, no heat. Then I learned that one of my fellow Kiwanians lost her house in the Eaton Fire. She thought she was way too low for the fire to reach her (she lived not too far from Lake Avenue) and even though she evacuated she thought it was just a precaution. She was wrong. Her house was among the hundreds – the thousands – that were lost.

I was talking to another woman whose house was destroyed in the Eaton Fire. I was chagrined when I complained about my inconveniences – because that's what they were. Inconveniences. I still have a house and all the memories that are tied up in it.

One thing my friend said that struck me was how concerned she is about the Altadena community. She feels the same way about Altadena that I feel about the Crescenta Valley. Altadena has a rich history. Among the things that make it special is that it wasn't a Sundown Town; unlike many areas that practiced "redlining," Black people could buy land. If you have ever driven through Altadena, you saw run-down apartment buildings and high-end private residences. The town was as diverse in its architecture as it was in its residents. Now it's like a hand swept it all away.

My friend is afraid that developers will come in to buy up the land then build – or over-build – it. That, she said, will change the specialness of the community.

She also said how heart-warming it was to see the outreach of so many people.

You can learn more about those efforts on page 8 of this week's paper.

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

» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

A disaster like the fires in Southern California can bring out the best – and worst – in humanity. The best, which is something I think we should be focusing on, includes all of those who have donated time, effort and supplies to help the victims. There are centers that have been so overwhelmed by donations they had to ask people to stop bringing in items while they sift through what has already been brought in and get those to people in need.

It was amazing to see how many people opened their homes to those who were displaced. A friend of ours, Justin Hager, who is now a reporter with the Las Vegas Weekly, traveled from Las Vegas to help his friend who lost his home in Altadena. The friend was out of the area when the fire began; luckily he was able to call someone who went to his home and rescued his cats. Then the fire hit his neighborhood and he lost everything.

The friend has such an amazing attitude. He lost everything and yet he said he felt lucky someone was able to get his cats out. He also said it was "maybe a good thing" that he wasn't home and couldn't pack a to go bag because he didn't have to decide to rescue his grandma's china or his other grandma's jewelry. He just lost everything.

I am hearing this more and more from those who have been displaced and either lost everything or are in limbo as to what to do to rebuild what is left of their house. They speak of being grateful that they, and their loved ones, are safe. They know their journey ahead is difficult but seem to have this amazing inner strength they are drawing from.

There are so many people who are ready to volunteer and to help. Firefighters from around the nation and beyond have come to help. Everyone is working together to help fight the fires; search and rescue teams along with other law enforcement are working to find those who have been reported missing; and so many organizations are working to help those

who need support.

And then there are those on social media who just can't stop throwing shade and are so cruel to anyone who chose to live in California. There have been posts that have said "Let California burn;" there are posts that blame everyone from elected officials – spin the wheel, everyone has been criticized – to fire engines not being able to enter the state due to emission standards.

One of the claims on social media is that Gov. Newsom refused to sign the water restoration declaration that would have made millions of gallons of water available. This is not true. Firefighters did have some problems with water supply but not because of the absence of water reserves in the state.

Erik Scott, public information officer of the Los Angeles Fire Dept., answered the misinformation on X:

"Due to multiple questions on the topic ... We did experience some challenges with water pressure while battling the Pacific Palisades Fire. LADWP proactively filled all available water storage tanks, including three one-million gallon tanks located in the Palisades area. However, water availability was impacted at higher elevations, which affected some fire hydrants due to limited replenishment of water tanks in those areas. The extreme demand caused a slower refill rate for these tanks, which created a challenge for our firefighting effort."

And then there were the posts that state Oregon fire engines were turned away because of emissions regulations. This too is false. The trucks did go through routine safety checks.

According to Cal Fire, "No vehicles from out of state have been turned around or refused." Cal Fire continues to explain these trucks were subject to routine inspection.

Oregon State Fire Marshal also addressed this misinformation.

"We want to clear up confusion about our Oregon firefighters and equipment sent to California to help with wildfires.

see WEATHER on page 8

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

CVTC AGENDA

The general meeting of the Crescenta Valley Town Council will be tonight, Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the community room of the La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd. On the agenda is the swearing in of council members by Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

POWER PROBLEMS PERSIST

Power is sporadic in parts of the area. Please be aware that some areas may still have line damage. People can check which zone they live in by visiting protect.genasys.com.

Further information can be found at lacounty.gov/emergency.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING AND COLLECTION

Residents with the City of Glendale can recycle their Christmas trees now through April 1. Those living in a single-family or multi-family household (2-4 units) can recycle trees by placing them curbside on regular collection day. Please remember to remove all ornaments, decorations, bags, stands, bars, nail and tinsel/s (flocked trees and fire-retardant trees are okay). Trees must be cut in half if taller than 8 feet.

Those with questions should call the City of Glendale Public Works at (818) 548-3916.

Burrtec customers in the unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County - Montrose/La Crescenta can also put their tree curbside on collection day through the end of January. Customers need to make sure there are no ornaments, decorations, bags, stands, bars, nail and tinsel/s (flocked trees and fire-retardant trees are okay). Trees must be cut in half if taller than 6 feet.

Customers with questions can call Burrtec.

CVCA TO MEET

The Crescenta Valley Community Association will have its first meeting of the year on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.. This will be a live, in-person meeting in the La Crescenta library community room. Just prior to the CVCA meeting, the Crescenta Highlands Neighborhood Association will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is for residents who live in the Glendale portion of La Crescenta between Lowell and Pennsylvania avenues, but all are welcome to attend. Both meetings will include topics important to the greater Crescenta Valley.

The La Crescenta library is located at 2809 Foothill Blvd. Contact the CVCA at crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com with any questions or to be added to the meetings notification list.

PERFORMANCE SERIES APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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

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

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

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

Pasadena Humane Gets Loving Attention from Eaton Fire Affected Communities

By Mikaela STONE

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, a line of hundreds of exhausted people stood outside the Pasadena Humane Society with pet carriers, surrendering cats and dogs not welcome in their evacuation centers or hotels. When staff member Kevin McManus arrived on Thursday to the sight of an even longer line, he feared the Eaton Fire had claimed even more homes. To his surprise, volunteers and donors carrying pet supplies lined up around the block to help the hundreds of animals affected by the Eaton Fire. By the end of the day, the shelter's parking lot was so full of animal food, cat litter, food bowls and other necessities it was unrecognizable as a parking lot.

By the weekend, the Pasadena Humane Society had received 10,000 pet fostering applications and 7,000 volunteer applications from local and not-so-local animal lovers. Volunteers from Maui's Humane Society arrived to give aid, repaying Pasadena's shelter staff for its service during the Maui fires. Among the donors were a vet who came from Arizona, a volunteer from Long Beach who drove from Long Beach three times, and a woman from Irvine who had a truckload of animal supplies.

Those who have been evacuated who need animal supplies can pick them up at the shelter.

This outpouring of support is not only for the animals, but also for the people. One teacher from Eagle Rock arrived, offering to translate Spanish so everyone could receive the best care for their pets. A brewery from Beaumont, The Craft Lounge Taproom and Bottle Shop, dropped off cases of water for volunteers. Even a local book club, Girls Who Read, is helping the shelter with social media updates to the public.

The Pasadena Humane Society will hold surrendered animals for 21 days before moving them into temporary foster homes – the goal is having people reclaim their pets once they are back on their feet.

"We don't want people to lose their family members as well as their homes," McManus said.

To help the animals adjust while they wait, long-term volunteers come to the shelter daily or weekly to offer walks, pets and snuggles. They hope that if the pets do not see them as strangers, they will be more comfortable. To further their comfort level dogs who come from the same household are



Photo by Mikaela STONE
Staff member Alyssa (left) and Ocho.

kept together.

Though Pasadena Humane has responded to previous fires, it has never experienced a fire of this level or duration. With rescued animals coming in by the dozens, surrounding shelters such as the Santa Barbara Humane Animal Shelter, the San Diego Humane Society, the Los Angeles Best Friends Pet Adoption Center, and the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have absorbed the animals in need of housing that were previously living in the shelter's kennels.

Currently, the majority of Pasadena Humane's domesticated tenants are cats and dogs, but horses, a herd of goats and a pig also wait for their owners' safe return. One volunteer estimated that 90% of the animals now living in Pasadena Humane are surrendered pets. Pets lost by evacuees will have 21 days to be claimed. Animals found in fire zones will be treated for smoke inhalation and burns using the monetary contributions of well-wishers.

For the shelter's wilder charges, Pasadena Humane's onsite Wildlife Rehab Center provides injury care with minimal human contact. To date, it has treated peacocks, smaller birds and an orphaned baby raccoon. The center usually deals in unlucky encounters between wildlife and

humans, such as vehicle strikes. Pasadena Humane staff predicts it will be able to release these critters back into the wilderness when they are fully healed.

The Eaton Fire's rapid spread meant that many homeowners returned to find barricades blocking their way home with their pets on the other side and unattainable. In such situations, the Pasadena Humane Society works alongside the Red Cross and with animal control officers specifically trained for fire zones. If containment of the fire continues to increase, these organizations will soon

begin going door-to-door looking for animals. The Pasadena Humane Society encourages anyone separated from their pet due to the fires to contact it immediately.

The Pasadena Humane Society will keep the public up-to-date as the situation evolves. For now, the community can rest assured their pets are cared for by passionate, animal loving volunteers, and those volunteers are cared for by communities near and far.

Monetary donations can be made at <https://pasadenahumane.org/give/donate/?campaign=431108>.

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FIRES from COVER

“I have heard that there are organizations asking for donations for my LA County firefighters. Please be advised that LA County Fire Dept. does not yet have a mechanism to accept donations. We have staff working on a process to accept donations over the Internet for our LA County Fire Dept. I am asking those wanting to donate to hold off until we have a process established that will guarantee the funds benefit personnel,” Marrone said. “We will release a press briefing when we have that system up and running; please do not let these despicable scammers take advantage of your generosity.”

Cal Fire deputy Incident Commander Gerry Magaña reported that from Tuesday to Wednesday there was little to no growth of either the Eaton or Palisades fires.

LA City Fire Chief Kristin Crowley gave an update on an additional brush fire that broke out in Lake View Terrace.

“Firefighters responded and aggressively attacked this fire. I am pleased to report that within approximately 34 minutes all

forward progress was stopped with no damage to any structures,” she said.

Crowley has faced some tough questions about her handling of the Palisades Fire. One question asked during Wednesday’s press conference was why the chief wanted to put out a call for “all hands on deck” for an additional 1,000 firefighters who were standing by. Crowley explained the LA City Fire Dept. follows a “system,” which was followed on the night the Palisades Fire began.

“We are very system- and process-oriented,” she said. “We pre-deployed the necessary resources knowing that, or not knowing, where the fire might break out in the city. I think it’s also very important that media knows, as well as the communities know, that we are here to protect them and that we do have that capability to surge.”

She emphasized the wind-driven fire was “incredible. We have never seen anything like it.” She went on to defend her department.

“I can tell you ... we did everything in our [capacity] to search where we could. We had the

flexibility built into the system,” she said. “We got the resources where we needed to, to do the greatest good at the time.”

As the firefighters continue to work to contain the fires, law enforcement is working to stop criminals from coming into evacuated areas to burglarize. A curfew is in place for most of the affected areas that extends from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said that many of his personnel are working on 12-hour shifts, many without days off. He also thanked California Highway Patrol for adding more officers to help, along with Drug Enforcement Administration special agents.

“We are now well over 900 California National Guards [who] are assisting both LA County Sheriff’s Dept. and LA Police Dept., and other law enforcement agencies here in California,” he said. “Curfews are still in effect from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. I just want to make sure everybody understands that the rules haven’t changed. If you don’t belong there – you don’t live there – stay out of there.”

see FIRES on page 6



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NOTES & NODS

LCIF WELCOMES COMMUNITY

Lutheran Church in the Foothills (LCIF) is finalizing preparations for its “In the Footsteps of Paul” pilgrimage to Greece. The journey, scheduled for May, will allow participants to walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, visiting significant historical and biblical sites. Final signups for the pilgrimage are being taken now.

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.

BUILDING A CHRIST-CENTERED MARRIAGE – FREE CLASS AT LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN

A free nine-week course at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church will focus on how to build a Christ-centered marriage rooted in faith, prayer and intentional choices.

The course, which will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. and began Jan. 15, will explore God’s design for marriage, the power of praying over your spouse and relationship, aligning

expectations, and navigating influences from family, culture and social media.

Jamie Given, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed professional clinical counselor, and owner and executive director of Given Guidance Family Counseling in La Crescenta, will facilitate the course.

The course is part of La Crescenta Presbyterian’s Praise and Education for Adults and Kids (PEAK) program, which also offers free child care for infants and toddlers; classes for children from pre-school to sixth grade; and Abide, a safe and welcoming environment for middle school and high school students.

All programs take place on the LCPC campus at 2902 Montrose Ave. in La Crescenta. Classes begin on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., but attendees are invited to come early for a nutritious and delicious meal for the whole family, from 5:30 to 6:10 p.m., at a cost of \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids.

For more information about the “Marriage Through Christ” course, email info@givenguidance.com. For more information

about La Crescenta Presbyterian’s PEAK programming, visit lcpc.net or call (818) 249-6137.

MT. OLIVE OFFERS A BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY & A COMMUNITY LUNCH

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

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

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

WALK AND WORD

Walk and Word participants will meet in the parking lot of Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale at 8 a.m. on Jan. 19 and 26. Participants will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

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

Those with questions can email Jeanne at jnlavieri@earthlink.net.

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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Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 PM
 Check out our Website!
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 Surrounding Areas

GUSD Board Approves Emergency Order

By Eliza PARTIKA

The Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) board of education held a special meeting on Jan. 13 to approve an emergency order. The order, which was unanimously approved by the board, will allow GUSD to move ahead with attending to emergency needs that would normally be slowed by a competitive bidding process. Companies engage in this competitive bidding to gain a contract with the district for projects like construction, obtaining supplies needed for changes to a school site or facility maintenance. Without this emergency order, construction or removal of debris could only happen with board approval.

Superintendent Dr. Darneika Watson said the order is necessary so schools can, in a timely manner, continue to clear debris and fix damages from last week's high winds.

"It will no longer allow us to delay processes that need to move forward faster," Watson said.

Per the board agenda, GUSD is required to report any actions taken under this emergency order at each meeting until the emergency order is lifted.

Interim Chief Business Officer Deborah Deal said the district will be reimbursed by the state for costs incurred during the emergency. There is no cap on the supplies schools can obtain under the order, she said.

Board member Ingrid Gunnell

suggested GUSD look into paying teachers and staff who were displaced and providing days off to employees who have evacuated or lost homes. She suggested GUSD could follow LAUSD's example by paying a stipend of \$500 and providing five days off.

Dr. Watson said employee assistance is already being looked into.

"[It's] important our employees feel they are taken care of," Gunnell said.

"Anything we can use we should utilize during this difficult time," added board member Telly Tse.

Dr. Watson gave a presentation outlining the damages at each school and the services being provided to school employees.

Eighty six families are on Student Wellness Services' list as displaced and needing resources. Of those on the list, 31 have confirmed they lost homes, and 35 confirmed displacement. According to Dr. Watson, 24 employees and 31 student families lost their homes in the Eaton Fire.

Student Wellness is creating a comprehensive assessment to further determine specific needs of the families who were displaced. Families have been provided with clothing, food and other resources by the district, including a pamphlet, "Rebuilding: A Guide for Families After Wildfire Loss." Digital copies of the pamphlet will soon be available on the district website.

Over the weekend the district provided donated food, clothing and essentials to families in need.

Rosemont Middle School closed and pivoted to online learning due to a ruptured water main caused by a large fallen tree. All other schools opened and were operational on Jan. 14. In the meeting, board members did not give an estimate as to when Rosemont will reopen.

Two thousand air filters are currently in use at the affected schools. Eighty four requests were made for additional filters and 51 filters were distributed and successfully tested on the 14th, according to Watson.

Modified lunch schedules have been put in place as schools work to replenish food that was spoiled during evacuation orders and power outages.

Gunnell said the district requested 71 substitutes to cover anticipated teacher absences.

Board President Shant Sahakian raised concerns about preparedness for the huge winds expected throughout this week. Watson said there would be a school safety assessment done for each school site. As of now, facilities management is still cleaning up debris and attending to damages incurred during last week's high winds.

Board members Neda Farid and Kathleen Cross thanked facilities and nutrition staff for their hard work repairing

school sites.

"I appreciate how much staff care. These people are juggling so many things. We are all deeply affected by what happened and what can happen. You don't ever think you are going to lose your home," Farid said.

Board members urged the district to take lessons from this emergency and figure out how to prepare for this type of disaster in the future, and debated what they might do to assist neighboring districts like Pasadena Unified.

"We want everyone to be successful. To the communities impacted, let us know if there is anything we can do on a human level," noted Gunnell.



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The total number of arrests made by LASD regarding the fires are 44 as of Wednesday, which includes 36 arrests in the area of the Eaton Fire and eight in the Palisades incident. Luna said about 14 people were arrested for burglary and there were other arrests including violating curfew, trespassing and possession of drugs and/or guns.

"[Tuesday] night I do want to bring to your attention that in our Palisades incident we did arrest another individual for impersonating a firefighter," Luna said.

There had been a previous arrest of a firefighter impersonator in the area.

LA Police Dept. (LAPD) officers remain on "tactical alert" and are patrolling the fire areas around the clock.

In addition to the National Guard, LA Airport Police and Port Police, volunteers at various checkpoints from Team Rubicon are on hand to assist the public.

LAPD arrests remain at 14 but LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell wanted to point out some "notable"

arrests made on Jan. 14 just outside the fire zone.

"At approximately 5:15 p.m. officers responded to a radio call near the intersection of Glenoaks and Van Nuys boulevards where a citizen had detained a possible arson suspect. Upon arrival, officers took the suspect into custody. The citizen had already extinguished a nearby fire in a tree. During the investigation the suspect admitted to starting the fire because he liked the smell of burning leaves," McDonnell said.

The suspect was arrested for arson. Another arrest was in the area of Santa Monica and Vermont avenues. Fire personnel responded to reports of a suspect setting on fire piles of trash. Firefighters extinguished the fires and officers took the suspect into custody. It was discovered the female suspect had set multiple fires that day.

"[She] stated she enjoyed causing chaos and destruction," McDonnell said.

He reminded people to stay vigilant and to report suspicious behavior.

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Arrests Climb as Fires Continue

Authorities said nearly 100 fire-related arrests have been made – including two additional arson arrests – since the start of the wildfires in the Los Angeles area on Jan. 7.

According to Fox 11 News, two more people were behind bars Wednesday for allegedly setting small fires in Los Angeles amid high fire-danger conditions. Since last week, an estimated 97 suspects have been arrested in fire zones for charges including burglary, looting, and vandalism. LA County DA Nathan Hochman said

his office is actively investigating cases of looting and price-gouging. The 97 arrests include charges of burglary, looting, vandalism, and curfew violations in the Palisades and Eaton fire zones.

According to the Santa Monica Police Dept., 40 suspects have been arrested while the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. is reporting 39 arrests. The Los Angeles Police Dept. has made 14 arrests, officials said during a press conference on Wednesday.

In addition to people accused of burglary and looting, there

have been arrests due to people impersonating firefighters by dressing in those uniforms.

"I got to give a lot of credit to our deputies for being proactive, stopping him, and arresting him," said Sheriff Robert Luna of the recent arrest of a person impersonating a firefighter.

Looting and burglary are not the only crimes law enforcement is responding to.

Los Angeles Police Dept. Chief Jim McDonnell said officers responded at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday to Glenoaks and Van Nuys

boulevards where a resident had detained a suspect who allegedly set fire to a tree. The resident was able to douse the fire and call police. When officers arrived, the suspect admitted setting the fire, saying "he liked the smell of burning leaves," McDonnell reported.

As reported by Fox 11 News, curfew continues to be in effect nightly from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. in the mandatory evacuation zones of both fires. Only firefighters, utility workers and law enforcement personnel are allowed in those areas.

CRIME BLOTTER

JAN. 10
 2200 block of Montrose Avenue in Montrose, the resident reported that he witnessed via the his surveillance camera an

unknown suspect attempting to open his garage door. When he saw this he called 9-1-1 and made his way back to his home where he found his master bedroom had been ransacked and a safe was stolen. The safe contained several guns, jewelry and personal information.

It appeared the suspect made entrance into the home via a living room window at 6 p.m.

JAN. 9
 400 Georgian Road in La Cañada Flintridge, a gardener reported noticing broken glass on the house's French door. The gardener contacted the owner of the home who contacted the sheriff's station. The glass in the back door was broken and numerous rooms in the home had been ransacked. The owner stated he and his family had been evacuated due to the Eaton Fire. He got his mail on Jan. 9 and checked the inside of his home; there was no evidence of a crime at that time. A witness reported seeing a suspicious vehicle parked in front of the home. She approached the driver and told him he was not supposed to be there due to mandatory evacuation orders.

He said he "worked around the corner" and drove away. The driver was described as either White or a light-skinned Hispanic male of medium height with dark hair, dark clothes and in his early 20s. The vehicle was described as a black BMW with tinted windows.

The burglary occurred between 2 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 4 p.m. on Jan. 10.

JAN. 8
 1000 block of Salisbury Court in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident told deputies she had been evacuated from her home on Jan. 8 due to the Eaton Fire. When she returned she found the rear sliding glass door of her home had been pried open. She found several rooms had been ransacked; nothing was reported missing at the time. The power had been out at the home, which affected the surveillance footage.

The burglary occurred between Jan. 8-11.

1900 La Barranca Road in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident who had been evacuated due to the Eaton Fire found her home had been burglarized.

The rear wooden door that led to the garage had been pried open by an unknown suspect. The power was out at the time and no surveillance footage was available. Personal items were reported stolen.


The burglary occurred between Jan. 8 and Jan. 12.

4800 block of Vineta Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident who was evacuated due to the Eaton Fire reported returning home to find the back door had been forced open. The locked door to the master bedroom was also forced open and the room had been ransacked. Multiple jewelry boxes were emptied. Due to the disorder of the rooms, the resident was unable to give an accurate accounting of items missing at the time.

The burglary occurred between Jan. 8-11.

4800 block of Vineta Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge, the resident, who was evacuated due to the Eaton Fire, returned home to find the rear sliding glass door had been pried open.

Several rooms had been ransacked and numerous items were stolen between Jan. 8-11.



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Here are a few outreaches offered:

- GUSD Nutrition Services will distribute meals for Rosemont students through Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Crescenta Valley High School.

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CV Park, 3901 Dunsmore Ave., is offering a Care Camp through Jan. 31 that provides youth and teens with a supportive space for fun and recreation. Care Camps are for those under mandatory evacuation or significantly impacted by the fires. YOUTH CAMPS (age 5-12) are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and TEEN CAMPS (age 13-17) are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/55sgfped>. Breakfast, snacks and lunch will be provided daily; teens will also get supper.

The local YMCAs – Crescenta–Cañada, Crescenta Valley and Verdugo Hills – are accepting cash and gift card donations that will be distributed via its FOOTHILLS STRONG emergency assistance fund. A drop-in center has been established at the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA at 6840 Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga for anyone who has lost their home or has been displaced during the fire. They can pick-up basic needed items. In the coming days, a pick-up center at the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA will be opened to do the same.

While short-term assistance is well underway, the Y is also coordinating a long-term response and encouraging community members who can donate a monetary gift to do so to the 2025 FOOTHILLS STRONG: Eaton Fire Emergency Fund.

Damian Kevitt, founder of Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE), has added to his community service committed to create – Let's Clean Up LA. The group has often cleaned up bike paths in areas throughout LA County but since the heavy winds Kevitt and his volunteers wanted to do something for all of LA. This Saturday, Jan. 18, they have several clean up areas planned but are still looking for locations that need a good cleaning. If anyone, or any organization, would like to host the clean up they can sign up online at the website <https://www.lets-clean-la.org/>.

“From Ash to Awesome” is their motto and the plan is to continue cleanup efforts for the next few weekends.

“We are asking for ‘partners in grime,’” Kevitt said.

Jan. 20 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which is a day that focuses on service to others, so Kevitt said this is perfect time to help LA.

Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge is hosting a Distribution Center for community members displaced by the fires. The hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., for distribution of goods. This is a distribution location only; it will not be accepting donations.

Senator Adam Schiff has set up an informational page for those affected by the wildfires. The page has information covering several areas including FEMA, Disaster Loans from the Small Business Administration, access to California Recovery

and CalFresh. To access this information visit <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wildfire-resources/>.

Anyone who is looking for volunteers please contact, call or text, Molly Shelton at (818) 238-7248.

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We will **NOT** be taking donations at this location. Please stay tuned for updates.

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Donation DRIVE

We will be hosting a donation drive to support our current FSHA families who have been impacted by the fires.

Administration Building Lounge
Wednesday, January 15th, through Friday, January 17th, 9AM to 4PM

We kindly ask for donations of the following items: uniforms, gift cards, school supplies, and bedding.

In these difficult times, we are so grateful to our wonderful community.

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Group For Teens (14+)
Saturday 1/18/25 11:00am-12:30pm
This is a space for teenagers to process their emotions, share experiences, and find support among peers in a nurturing environment.

Group For Adults:
Saturday 1/18/25 1:00pm-2:30pm
This is a space to explore emotions, gain coping tools, and connect with others who understand the challenges you're facing.

January 18th at
2600 Foothill Blvd. Unit 203
La Crescenta, CA

Please Call or Text (818) 446-7488 to RSVP
Drop-ins are also welcome

Teen Group facilitated by Amanda Burch, Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist #149706 and Nathan Holladay, Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist #131618

Adult Group facilitated by Lauren Tomincac, Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist #141468 and Ghadir Saad, Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist #148712

All AMFTs are supervised by Nicole Pierce, LMFT



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FOOD LOSS from Cover

These items include: raw or leftover cooked meat, poultry, fish, seafood or soy meat substitutes; thawing meat or poultry, salads with meat, tuna, shrimp, chicken or egg salad, gravy, stuffing and broth. Discard all lunchmeat including hot dogs, bacon, sausage and dried beef, pizza with any topping, canned hams labeled “keep refrigerated,” any opened canned meats and fish and casseroles, soups and stews.

Soft cheeses, including blue/bleu, Roquefort, brie, Camembert, cottage cheese, mozzarella, Monterey Jack, queso fresco and queso blanco, all need to be thrown out. Hard cheeses, including cheddar, Swiss and parmesan, can be kept along with processed cheese. Shredded cheeses and low-fat cheeses should be thrown out.

All dairy, including milk, cream, sour cream, yogurt and soy milk, should be thrown out as well as all refrigerated baby formula. Butter and margarine should be okay to keep.

All eggs and egg dishes need to be thrown out along with custards and

puddings.

Fresh fruit that is cut needs to be thrown out; however, fresh uncut fruit, opened fruit juices and canned fruits can be kept.

These are suggested rules; however, it is best for people to trust their instinct, and their nose, and “when in doubt, throw it out.”

The freezer contents will need to be reviewed as well. Again, the most important factor is if the food was exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees F almost all foods in the freezer need to be discarded.

A full freezer will hold a safe temperature for about 48 hours, 24 hours if it is half full and the door remains closed. Food may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is below 40 degrees F.

“Never taste food to determine it is safe,” FoodSafety.gov states.

According to FoodSafety.gov, if the freezer remained below 40 degrees then meat, poultry and seafood that contains ice crystals and feels cold as if

refrigerated can be refrozen.

All ice cream and frozen yogurt should be tossed.

For a full list of what to keep and what to throw out visit <https://tinyurl.com/3t7cnp7w>.

CVW has reached out to SCE to get information concerning reimbursement for lost food but SCE did not respond as of press time.

According to the SCE website, “most claims” will be responded to within 30 days of receipt of the application.

“Generally, we are responsible for losses that occur due to our negligence. However, in many instances, we are not responsible for power outages, voltage fluctuations, food loss, or property damage that occur due to forces outside our control, such as earthquakes and weather-related conditions including wind, rain, fog, lightning or extreme heat,” according to its website.

Filing a claim though is the best way to find if SCE will cover the costs of food loss. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/68pyt867>.

HARABEDIAN from Cover

The bill is modeled after FEMA guidance that each state establish a SLDHTF.

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousands Oaks) is a joint author on both measures. Principal co-authors include Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan (D-Culver City), Jessica Caloza (D-Los Angeles), Mike Fong (D-Monterey Park), Mark Gonzalez (D-Los Angeles), Celeste Rodriguez (D-Arleta), Pilar Schiavo (D-Santa Clarita Valley), Nick Shultz (D-Burbank) and Rick Zbur (D-Los Angeles).

The bills will be heard in Assembly policy committees during the spring.

Assemblymember John Harabedian represents the 41st District that includes the cities of La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena and Altadena, among others.

WEATHER from page 2

There is misinformation spreading on social media and from some news outlets claiming our equipment had to pass emissions tests and our equipment and firefighters were turned away or delayed. To be clear: This is false.”

The statement goes on to explain that the trucks went through a routine safety check with Cal Fire to make sure the engines were mechanically sound. This was done because the engines do not normally travel hundreds of miles at a time.

“No engine was turned away. They all completed the safety check and all 15 strike teams arrived in Southern California ...”

It is absolutely insane that firefighter representatives must now take time to deal with a constant barrage of lies being spread about them as they try to save lives and property.

I have read and studied WWII and know that misinformation was used as a weapon against the American people ... and in some cases it worked – and that was well before social media became a thing. Misinformation, scare tactics, getting people angry, pushing emotional buttons are weapons that are more deadly than anything else. Keeping people angry, keeping people scared – that is the goal of those who promote misinformation.

Please verify with a trusted source anything you see online. One really good reliable source is Watch Duty. It is a service, not an app, and is powered by over 150 volunteers, firefighters, dispatchers and first responders who diligently monitor 24 hours a day radio scanners and other official sources, according to watchduty.org.

There will be questions in the future on how the fires were fought, what precautions could have been made and how elected officials responded but those will be investigated with evidence presented and discussed.

For our weather, first off there is no prediction of rain in the near future though there are more winds expected.

Friday through Saturday we will be seeing some recovery humidity, which means the humidity levels will rise ... a little. We should not see any winds until Monday and Tuesday of next week. There is a 50% to 60% chance of seeing moderate Santa Ana winds, and 10% of strong winds. There is also a 70% chance that Monday and Tuesday will have a Red Flag Warning issued throughout “wind prone” areas, according to NOAA.

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

A Cold-blooded Killer Who Was Just A Child

Happy New Year! Let's start the new year right with perhaps the most horrifying murder in the history of the valley. The premeditated killing was carried out by a 14-year-old kid right here in La Crescenta. I've covered this story before but it's been many years, and the chilling tale is worth a retell.

The Jensen family lived on a quiet street in La Crescenta in the 1930s. Their son Richard was called "Red" because of his bright red curly hair. Red was in constant trouble with the law, stealing anything he could get his hands on. The problem was so constant that by 1939 Red had spent nine of his 14 years in reform schools. One of the school psychiatrists said Red "seems to have a peculiar aptitude for calculating and planning his misdeeds in a cold and criminal manner." His cold planning took

a darker turn on Aug. 22, 1939.

Red was just two months out of his latest stint in a juvenile correctional facility. He was back at his parents' house and rekindling friendships with the neighborhood kids. Billy Williams, a 13-year-old living next door, had the bad judgement to jokingly call Red an "ex-con." The obvious solution to the insult in Red's mind was to kill Billy Williams.

Red dug a grave in his backyard, then invited Billy over to his house to play. The two boys retreated to a basement room below Red's house. There Red locked the door and coldly choked Billy with a wire, stabbed him twice in the chest and crushed his skull with a hammer.

Red's mom was upstairs, heard the commotion and wanted to come down to investigate. Encountering the locked door

she demanded Red open up. Red opened the door just a crack, peered out with his blood-covered face and calmly told his mom, "I just killed Billy Williams." Mom started screaming and Red decided it was time to go. He pushed past her and took off on his bicycle. Police caught up with him the next day. He was unconcerned about his crime.

"Naw, I ain't sorry," he told the police. "I just pegged him when he called me an ex-con. He got what was coming to him."

The trial made national news. He was calmly unrepentant, obviously a psychopath. He played solitaire during the court hearings. He was deemed insane and so would not be tried for murder.

In case you think "soft on crime" is a new thing he was committed for only 12 years. Despite being deemed a troublemaker and

achieving three escapes, the doctors decided he was sane enough to be released.

"The boy at the present time is not a menace," they declared. But they were wrong.

Almost immediately, Red acquired a car and rigged it as a murder machine. He set up a forward-facing rifle in the back seat, and hooked a wire to the trigger. With a pull of the end of the wire under the front seat, the rifle would fire a bullet into anyone sitting in the passenger seat.

He went out cruising for hitchhikers. He picked up a 16-year-old boy and killed him with his rigged-up gun. He dumped the body where no one would find it. The boy was listed as missing.

His next hitchhiking victim was a Marine sergeant who proved to be tougher than the

16-year-old. Red pulled the trigger of the gun but the bullet hit a spring in the seat, only stunning the Marine. Red pulled him out of the car, beat his head with a hammer, shot him in the chest with a shotgun and left him for dead. But the Marine was not dead. When he came to, he crawled a mile to a motel. He was able to describe Red to the police and they soon picked him up. He freely admitted his crime and even showed police how the gun worked.

This time the insanity plea didn't work. La Crescenta's Red Jensen was convicted and given the death penalty. He died in San Quentin's gas chamber in February 1955.

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

NEWS FROM SACRAMENTO » ASSEMBLY MEMBER NICK SCHULTZ

Meet Assembly Member Nick Schultz

Happy New Year! My name is Nick Schultz. As of Dec. 2, 2024, I am honored to represent you in the California State Assembly's 44th District, which includes the cities of Burbank and Glendale, alongside the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Sunland Tujunga, North Hollywood, Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Valley Village.

As I embark on this new journey, I simply want to extend my gratitude to serve the hard working and resilient people of our district. I also want to thank Congress member Laura Friedman for her eight years of service to the residents of the 44th District. I look forward to working closely with her at the federal level.

One of our first tasks will be

rebuilding and repairing the damage from these devastating wildfires that have impacted countless residents across Los Angeles. It will take some time for investigators to fully uncover what worked and what didn't with regard to our response, as well as the origin and cause of each fire. But one thing is certain: We owe a debt of gratitude to our brave first responders who are still battling the fires and working to keep all of us safe.

With recovery efforts already underway to support communities impacted by the Los Angeles firestorm, Gov. Gavin Newsom has expanded the special session of the California Legislature that he convened in November to

further boost response and initial recovery efforts for Los Angeles. Specifically, Gov. Newsom is proposing California provide at least \$2.5 billion in additional funding for ongoing emergency response efforts and to jumpstart recovery efforts for Los Angeles. The funding will support recovery and cleanup, additional wildfire preparedness and reopening schools shuttered by the fires.

In the coming weeks, I will work closely on the Assembly Budget Committee to ensure that we augment the state emergency response funding available to promptly fund the emergency response, cleanup and recovery efforts in areas affected by the January 2025 emergency conditions in the

Los Angeles area. We will also endeavor to provide funding for technical assistance to local agencies to rebuild and repair schools. Lastly, we will accelerate the availability of funding for greater preparedness against the threats of firestorms, windstorms and other natural disasters.

In the meantime, our district office is up and running. We are available to help with any needs related to wildfire recovery or otherwise. Our office is located at 300 E. Magnolia Blvd., Suite 504, in Burbank. You can contact us during regular business hours by emailing Assemblymember.Schultz@assembly.ca.gov or by calling (818) 558-3043. We have also created a wildfire recovery resource page available at

<https://a44.asmdc.org/eaton-fire-information-and-resources>.

It's an honor and privilege to serve you. While the devastation caused by the Los Angeles wildfires is incalculable, we are beginning the long and winding road towards recovery. My heart goes out to all of those impacted by the fires. You have my full commitment to working collaboratively together to rebuild Los Angeles.

Nick Schultz represents 44th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Los Angeles, as well as the communities of La Crescenta, Lake View Terrace, Montrose, North Hollywood, Shadow Hills, Sherman Oaks, Sunland-Tujunga, Studio City, Toluca Lake, and Valley Village.

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Coping With Wildfire Stress



By Mary O'KEEFE

astating tragedy that will take a long time to recover from – mentally, physically and emotionally. People have had a range of experiences with these fires including people who have completely lost their homes and personal belongings to experiencing the trauma of seeing your community burn down to watching from the sidelines and hoping your home will make it,” said Annie Varvayan, Psy. D.,

It’s important now, more than ever, to focus on what is within your control instead of anticipating scenarios that may or may not happen. Focus on how you can keep yourself safe and support others during this tremendous time of need for our LA community.”

One of the questions facing many people is how to discuss the fires with children. Kids in CV and the surrounding areas will know a teacher, a principal, a friend ... someone who has lost their home or has had to evacuate. Evacuating is stressful even if you have been preparing for it and have your “to go bag” at the ready. Actually packing it into the car is a surreal moment. Kids understand this all too well, no matter the age.

“Even a 4-year-old is exposed to information. [They] will hear something is going on,” said Jaimie Given, LMFT & LPCC, founder and executive director, Given Guidance Family Counseling in La Crescenta.

Talk to your child about preparing a to go bag. Let them share in the process and see that they can only take a certain number of items and you can only take that same number of items, Given said.

She added that sometimes the frantic nature of having to get ready to evacuate can cause children to appear angry.

“It is [important] to validate those feelings. Say ‘I know you want to take all your things with you but Mommy can only take two [or however many] things as well,’” she added.

Explain what you are packing and why. This is why it is important to talk to your family about evacuation preparedness prior to having to be evacuated.

with Couch Conversations in Montrose.

“While some people are trying to navigate the basics of finding food, water and shelter, others are worried about what could be happening to their own homes and safety. All of these reactions are okay and to be expected. Worrying that something similar can happen to you or your loved ones is a typical reaction during times of distress as with the LA fires.

“What we want to keep in mind, though, is the emotion of guilt, which is something we feel when we’ve done something wrong. Someone who is worried about losing their home is not doing anything wrong; they are experiencing the human emotion of worry. However, feeling guilty is a stuck emotion; at the end of the day, it’s going to prevent people from doing what’s within their control.

It is almost impossible to find someone in the area who does not know someone who has lost a home from the recent wildfires or worse – lost a loved one. Although the wildfires skirted the Crescenta Valley and areas to the west and south it does not mean that residents have not been affected, especially as the winds continue and the threats of damage and/or wildfire is still high.

For some it is difficult to know how to feel; some have a sense of “survivor guilt” while others feel helpless in their support of others.

CVW spoke to two local psychologists to ask them how to navigate this time of anxiety and stress, and how best to help ourselves so we can help others.

“The recent Los Angeles fires have turned into a dev-

continued on page 18

Grappling with the Holiday Blues



By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

Though claims that from Thanksgiving through New Year’s it’s the “most wonderful time of the year,” for many people that’s not the case. According to NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, sadness can be especially challenging to cope with especially when messages proclaim it’s time to be happy.

How does a person handle so many movies and ads broadcasting family and togetherness if a loved one recently died or a person feels all alone, asks NAMI. Contrary to everything being “merry and bright” for some it can quite literally be cold and dark?

People may also fall into a dark period following the “cheery” holiday season. For some, it can be exhilarating to experience the excitement the holidays may bring but

may be followed with a sense of sadness and disappointment.

NAMI offers some advice for those grappling with the blues, whether it’s during the holidays or not:

1. *Accept Your Feelings.* The holidays can bring up a range of emotions for people. Sometimes you can even experience seemingly contradictory emotions all at once. Try your best to acknowledge and accept your emotions rather than place judgment on them. It’s OK to feel happy; it’s OK to feel sad; it’s even OK to feel both happy and sad. Give yourself compassion and allow yourself to sit with whatever you’re feeling.

2. *Maintain Healthy Habits.* For many people, the holidays lead to a massive disruption in your day-to-day routine. But maintaining healthy habits like going to therapy, getting enough sleep and exercising are critical to keeping your mental health on track.

3. *Set Boundaries.* People like to be generous, especially during the holidays, but that generosity doesn’t have to come at the expense of having healthy boundaries. If hosting an event or buying an expensive gift is too stressful, it’s okay to say no. It’s also okay to limit the time you spend with family that you may have a complicated dynamic with.

4. *Make Time to Connect.* Connection and meaning are critical to mental health. Make time for important relationships and practice self-care.

Information also provided by NAMI.org

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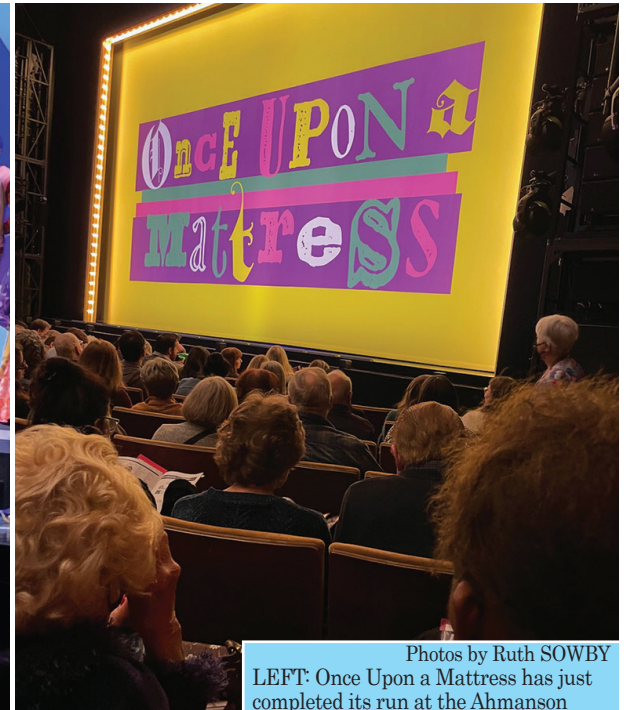
Carol Burnett Upstages Ahmanson Theatre Production Of 'Once Upon A Mattress'

By Ruth SOWBY

It was 65 years ago that Carol Burnett made her Broadway debut starring as Princess Winnifred in the musical "Once Upon a Mattress." On Saturday, she dropped in on the matinee of the same show at the Music Center in downtown LA.

Burnett slipped into the theatre under heavy cover just after intermission. Although the comedienne probably didn't want to take the limelight away from Sutton Foster, playing the same role as Burnett did, she was recognized just the same. As word quickly went around, every member of the audience stood up trying to see Burnett. The sighting ended a minute or two later as the lights lowered and the second act began.

At the end of story, after the Princess was able to feel a pea placed under 20 mattresses, she was dubbed genuine royalty and



Photos by Ruth SOWBY

LEFT: Once Upon a Mattress has just completed its run at the Ahmanson Theatre but not before Carol Burnett had a chance to see Sutton Foster in the role the comedienne starred in on Broadway 65 years ago.

RIGHT: Sutton Foster as Princess Winnifred has a bad night as she feels a pea placed under 20 mattresses. She is now eligible to marry the Prince (left).

worthy to marry the Prince. A standing ovation accompanied the curtain call. All cast members tugged at their ears. The older members of the audience may have recognized the same sign

Burnett gave at the end of her CBS-TV variety show of many seasons. She has said that her "grandmother wanted me to say hello to her when I was on television."

When the house lights came up, Burnett was quickly ushered into the Green Room at orchestra level. The firm message from Burnett's handlers —no autographs nor photos allowed.

Rehman-Dittu Named New PSHA Chair

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts has named Marybeth Rehman-Dittu as the Benefit chair for the 60th Pasadena Showcase House of Design, one of the nation's oldest, largest, and most successful home and garden tours in the country. Rehman-Dittu said she was thrilled to be taking on such a significant role this year.

"The 60th anniversary

marks such a special milestone for this organization and I want this year to be an extraordinary experience for our visitors, our members and the entire community," she said.

Bringing a unique blend of enthusiasm, energy and creativity to the role, Rehman-Dittu has hit the ground running.

"Our first order of business

was to find a house that meets all of our requirements which is sometimes a daunting task." Choosing the house, she said, was pure kismet. "It's all about relationships and with this house we sort of found each other."

Rehman-Dittu said she feels fortunate to be able to present Bauer Estate & Gardens to the public for the very first time. Featuring more than 15,000

square feet and set on five acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, the distinct home is one of the largest Showcase Houses to date and has all the grandeur befitting of a 60th anniversary. Designed by famed Pasadena architect Reginald D. Johnson, the 1928 Monterey Colonial was built by Peter Hall of Gamble House fame.

see SHOWCASE on page 14



» TASTY TREATS

Crispy Accordion Cut Tofu

The other day I talked with my friend, Lol, and told him about a new recipe for grilled tofu.

"How do you grill tofu?" he asked. "Doesn't it slip through the grill onto the flames?"

"Ah," I replied. "I have a secret to grilling tofu."

"Do tell," he said.

"The secret is to use organic firm tofu. It has a meaty texture and doesn't disintegrate on the grill. I make cuts that crisscross the tofu and brush a sauce of tamari, rice vinegar, Sriracha, garlic and ginger into the cuts before grilling. I'll make it sometime for you and Linda. I think you'll like it!"

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:

6 tablespoons Tamari
4 tablespoons rice vinegar
4 tablespoons Sriracha Chili Sauce
1 tablespoon vegan fish sauce
3 large garlic cloves (peeled and minced)
1 tablespoon grated ginger
1 block organic firm tofu (drained and pressed dry)

8 bamboo skewers (soak in water for at least ten minutes)
3 tablespoons vegetable oil (for frying)
Salt and ground white pepper to taste
Cooked Basmati rice for serving

Garnish:

½ cup jalapeños (remove seeds and veins and chop fine)
½ cup green onions (sliced)
½ cup cilantro (chopped)
¼ cup toasted sesame seeds

Directions:

Combine the first seven ingredients (syrup through ginger) in a medium mixing bowl and whisk. Set aside.

Remove the tofu from the package and rinse under cool water. Cut it into two horizontal slices about ¾-inch thick. Lay the slices on four paper towels and cover them with another four towels. Press down to absorb as much liquid as possible. (I put a cutting board on top of the towels then a weight on top of that, and let it sit for about 15 minutes.)

Use chopsticks to make the accordion cut. Lay a tofu slice on a cutting board and place the chopsticks on either side. Cut on a diagonal every ¼-inch until your knife stops on the chopsticks. Thread four skewers through each of the two tofu slices.

Heat a grill on medium-high heat. Add oil, then add the tofu — season with salt and pepper to taste. Sear for four minutes. Flip the tofu and pour half the sauce over the top to coat each slab thoroughly. Sear for another four minutes. Turn the tofu over and glaze with the balance of the sauce, then sear until crisp. Remove the tofu from the grill and cut each slice into two separate slices. You will have four rectangular slices of tofu.

Place a cup of cooked rice on each of the four plates and place one of the grilled tofu rectangles on top of the rice. Remove skewers and garnish with jalapeño, green onions, cilantro and sesame seeds.



Chef Randy Graham, the healthy chef. Providing consistently good vegetarian comfort food recipes. See his cookbooks at Amazon.

FOOTHILLS STRONG Initiative Launches to Support Eaton Fire Relief at the YMCA of the Foothills

As the YMCA of the Foothills continues to monitor the effects of the Eaton Fire on the community, it has launched an emergency response initiative, FOOTHILLS STRONG, to help provide basic needs and emergency assistance to those affected by the fire. This past weekend, the Y held a donation drive where countless volunteers, supporters and staff donated needed items such as blankets, clothes, shoes, infant/toddler supplies, pet food, non-perishable items and water. The Y reached full capacity for donations by 1 p.m. and has pivoted its response efforts to the long-term needs of the community, which will be gift card donations in any amount and contributions to its FOOTHILLS STRONG emergency assistance fund.

“What is front of mind for us is the reality that 196 of our Y members and five of our staff members who live in Altadena have been greatly impacted by the Eaton Fire; some have lost everything,” said Vince Iuculano, CEO of the YMCA of the Foothills. “As our Y community begins the process of recovering from this disaster, we at the Y remain committed to our support

of our members, staff, and volunteers by providing access to basic need services, comfort and community.”

A drop-in center has been established at the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA at 6840 Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga for anyone who has lost their home or has been displaced during the fire. The drop-in center is a place for people to pick-up basic, needed items. In the coming days, a pick-up center at the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA will be opened to do the same. Contact Chelsea Lawrence at clawrence@ymcafoothills.org for more information or for those affected by the fires who want to submit a “wish list” of wanted items or those who are interested in volunteering to help with sorting the donations and distributing them.

While short-term assistance is underway, the Y is also coordinating a long-term response and encouraging community members who can donate a monetary gift to do so to the 2025 FOOTHILLS STRONG: Eaton Fire Emergency Fund. Donations to the fund are available through ymcafoothills.org/donate-now, clicking the “donate now” button and



Photo provided by the YMCA. Volunteers amid the clothing donations the Y has received.

choosing the 2025 Foothills Strong: Eaton Fire Emergency Fund campaign. All contributions will directly support Y staff and members affected by the Eaton Fire. To learn more and to donate, visit ymcafoothills.org/foothillsstrong.

California Credit Union Foundation Offering Scholarships to LA Students

California Credit Union Foundation is encouraging college-bound students across Southern California to apply for its 2025 Student Scholarship Program. Through the program, the Foundation provides \$20,000 in scholarships annually to recognize local students who are motivated in their academic studies and active in their schools and communities.

“We’re committed to helping our next generation of leaders pursue their educational dreams and encourage local students to apply for one of our scholarships,” said California Credit Union Foundation President Marvel Ford. “We know that affording the cost of higher education can be difficult, and we hope our scholarships make the path to college a little easier.”

California Credit Union Foundation scholarships are available to college-bound high school seniors and community college students transferring to a four-year university who reside in Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino and Orange counties. Scholarships are also available to California Credit Union members or their dependents residing in any geographic area. Students

must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 to be eligible to participate. Selection criteria include academic performance, school or community involvement, a letter of recommendation and an essay submission.

Interested students can find more information and apply online at ccu.com/studentscholarship. Online applications will be accepted through Friday, March

7. Recipients will be announced in early April 2025.

The Foundation’s Annual Student Scholarship program was created by the credit union in 2005 to recognize outstanding students within its local communities. Since the creation of the program, more than \$425,000 in scholarships have been awarded to students across Southern California.

People Making News

Gabrielle Xena Stanton of Sunland, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, was named a presidential scholar for the fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York is a proven leader in technological education, research, innovation and sustainable economic development. With its main campus in Potsdam and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, Clarkson faculty has a direct impact on more than 7,800 students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business, science and health professions; executive education, industry-relevant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries

among the top 2% in the nation: one in five already leads in the c-suite.

To learn more go to www.clarkson.edu.

Thea Stefan from La Cañada Flintridge was named to the Miami University fall 2024 President’s List.

Miami University students ranked in the top 3% of undergraduate students within each division for the fall 2024 semester have been named to the President’s List recognizing academic excellence.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of over 22,600 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

For more information, visit MiamiOH.edu.

Christian Cabello of La Cañada Flintridge was named to the Dean’s List at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2024. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.92 or higher.

Cabello is majoring in mathematics and minoring in Hispanic studies at Bates.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion or national origin.

Lin Lee of Glendale has been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2024 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Lee is pursuing a non-degree program in biomedical sciences.

To make the Dean’s List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2024 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college – for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean’s List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws over 8,000 undergraduate

and 3,700 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized academic programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at marquette.edu.

Matthew Kaufmann of La Crescenta and Ryan Campbell of Sunland have been named to the fall 2024 Dean’s List of Southern New Hampshire University. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

How Important are Interior Photos?

Dear Phyllis,
My mother is in rehab, and when she recovers, we are going to move her to an assisted living facility closer to my family. We will then be selling her home in Torrance. Unfortunately, her house is extremely run down. It will be a lot of work relocating her, and we want to sell the house without making any repairs. There are holes in the walls from past plumbing leaks, and one of the bathrooms has been gutted. Although my mother has the money to make all of these repairs, she didn't do them and chose to live this way. I am embarrassed for the neighbors to see how my mom lived, so I don't want interior photos or open houses. The Realtor I met with insists on them. He says both are critical

in marketing the home. How important do you think interior photos are? I am interested in your point of view.

Thank you,

Jan

Dear Jan,
Thank you for your question. I understand your situation, and the Realtor you hire should respect your wishes and your mom's privacy. I can imagine how challenging it must be for you to manage all these aspects. Home buyers pay more attention when they are engaged. Although interior photos are important, they are not necessary. You might consider having some interior photos that the Realtor you hire can send to other Realtors if asked. They don't need to be added to the multiple listing

service (MLS). This is simply an option but your choice.

Open houses can be an excellent tool for getting a lot of buyers into the home. However, as your mother's house is vacant, showings will be simple to schedule. I suggest the Realtor you hire take exterior photos and perhaps a drone shot. In the MLS remarks your agent can indicate that the home is a fixer if you are "okay" with that. Something like: "This home offers the ideal opportunity to renovate to suit your taste." Yours is not an unusual situation. I have come across it before and always respect my client's wishes.

I wish your mom a speedy recovery.

Best of luck,

Phyllis

SHOWCASE from page 12

"This is a first time reveal of this magnificent estate and our visitors are going to love it," she said. "There are beautiful fountains, a guest house, pool, tennis courts, and several acres of gardens. It's just extraordinary."

Her mission, she said, is to make this more than just a house tour.

"It's an all-day adventure of exploring, eating, shopping and entertainment," she said. With an opening on Easter Sunday, she is planning to welcome children for the first time with one of the largest Easter egg hunts spread over the home's vast lawns and gardens. Accompanied by an adult, children can participate in the outdoor hunt and then stay for an Easter brunch. She also has various events in the works for Fridays ranging from high-end guest chef dining experiences to margaritas and mariachi bands.

"We have so many members that are still working and involved in their careers, yet they still extend themselves," she said of the coordinated effort of the organization's volunteers. "If you know a busy person, ask them to help because they will always get the job done."

Rehman-Dittu and her husband reside in La Cañada Flintridge where they have lived for 35 years. They share their home with a handsome German shepherd, Butch, and kitty Star. Their grown sons and granddaughters all live nearby.

The 60th Pasadena Showcase House of Design will be open April 20 – May 18, 2025. Golden tickets are on sale now and timed entry tickets go on sale in early February.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit pasadenashowcase.org or call (626) 606-1600.




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TRAVEL & LEISURE

The Caltech Jazz Band Presents the Annual Jazz Guest Artist Concert

The Caltech jazz band, under the direction of Barb Catlin, presents the annual Jazz Guest Artist Concert featuring the music of Patrick Williams with performers Peter Erskine, Chuck Berghofer, Wayne Bergeron, Kirsten Edkins, and Mike Dana on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for students, seniors, and faculty; \$15 for general admission and can be purchased by calling the Caltech ticket office at (626) 395-4652. Parking is free.

Oscar and Pulitzer-nominated composer Patrick Williams will be honored in a concert that features compositions from the Grammy-nominated albums *Sinatraland*, *Aurora*, *Home Suite Home*, as well as music from his acclaimed television and film scores (*Breaking Away*, *The Streets of San Francisco*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *The Bob Newhart Show*). Joining the Caltech jazz band will be musicians who recorded on many of Williams' projects.

Peter Erskine is regarded as one of today's top drummers. Erskine started his career with the Stan Kenton and Maynard Ferguson Orchestras and was a member of the critically acclaimed jazz fusion groups *Weather Report*, *Yellowjackets* and *Steps Ahead*. In addition to being featured on over 700 albums and film scores, Erskine is a Grammy-winning performer/producer, author, retired professor from USC, has been

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CHUCK BERGHOFFER



WAYNE BERGERON



KIRSTEN EDKINS



MIKE DANA

voted Best Drummer of the Year 10 times by *Modern Drummer*, and inducted into The Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame.

Bassist Chuck Berghofer has played on thousands of recordings as a member of the infamous *Wrecking Crew* (i.e., *These Boots are Made for Walkin'*) and has

performed on over 400 TV and film soundtracks.

Wayne Bergeron came to prominence playing lead trumpet for Maynard Ferguson. Bergeron has recorded over 500 TV and film soundtracks and was recently featured in Spielberg's *West Side Story*, *La La Land*, and *The*

Incredibles.

Saxophonist Kirsten Edkins has been a fixture in many Los Angeles bands, including those of John Daversa, Bill Holman, John Beasley and Johnny Mandel. Edkins' first album, *Art and Soul*, reached the top 15 on *Jazz Week's* radio play charts.

Guitarist Mike Dana is an emeritus professor of music at Fresno City College where he served as director of Jazz Studies. Dana, a notable composer, was awarded the California Jazz Educator of the Award and was recently inducted into the California Alliance Hall of Fame.

Sundays of Sound Performed at La Cres Pres

Canadian pianist and composer Matthew Krell will present *Sundays of Sound* beginning on Jan. 26 at 2:30 p.m. at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church, 2902 Montrose Ave. Internationally

acclaimed artists on strings and winds will join together at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church to present timeless and classical music alongside arrangements of movie themes, popular songs

and premieres of works by living composers.

The series will take place at 2:30 p.m. on the last Sundays in January, February, March and May.

On Jan. 26, violinist Liana

Branscome and pianist Matthew Krell will perform works ranging from Beethoven's "Violin Sonata No. 7 in C Minor" to the "Love Theme from *Cinema Paradiso*" and the West Coast premiere of

celebrated LA-based composer Nick Gianopoulos' "Introduction, Allegro & Grand Romance for Violin and Piano, Op. 13b" – and more!

Admission is by donation; no live stream will be available.

THEN & NOW



Then: Alta Canyon Road was originally the driveway for the Barnum Ranch; the palm trees lining the drive were planted in 1891 by the Barnum family. This photo is taken in 1914 just a few steps above Foothill Boulevard, then known as Michigan Avenue. It shows young Willard Barnum posing in a horse and buggy rig, wearing his best clothes for the photo. Willard died during military service in WWI not too long after this photo was taken. The Barnum family continued to live on Fairview near the top of Alta Canyon until just a couple of decades ago.

Alta Canyon Road

Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Now: Alta Canyon Road has lost the eastern row of palms, perhaps to road widening or a utility project, but the western row remains. Replacing the horse and buggy is a preferred mode of transport for this era, a luxury sedan. We know that Willard Barnum died during WWI and we assumed he died in battle. But from records, it appears he died of pneumonia before he got to Europe. His name is on a plaque on the bandstand in La Cañada's Memorial Park.

JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. The guest speaker on Jan. 17 is Karine Grigoryan of Glendale Youth Alliance. The cost to attend Friday meetings, which includes lunch and program, is \$25. All are welcome.

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

DANCING AS EXERCISE

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

There is live music every Friday (note new day) from 10 a.m. to noon in the Park's building at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. Note that due to the wildfires dances are postponed until Friday.

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.

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.

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.

BURBANK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

The Burbank African Violet Society will be having its next club meeting today, Thursday morning, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. at The Little White Chapel Christian Church, 1711 N. Avon St. in Burbank.

see CALENDAR THIS on next page

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com

January 13, 2025 - January 19, 2025

ARIES March 21 - April 19

You may have a serious itch this week - to travel, learn something new, make a foreign friend, or speak a new language. Each of these has a unique benefit to your money life going forward, so it's best to check out whatever seems most interesting. You may not be able to resist anyway. Your personal life (and resulting spending) may slow down enough to let you do these things.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

This week you're being asked to put more focus into your career. You're usually pretty traditional and conservative by nature, but now you might speak out of turn - a little, at least. If you let others know what your goals are, including the position and salary you require, you may be surprised at how willing your employers are to meet them. Just be extremely clear. Don't beat around the bush.

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

You're almost like a screen on which others can project their hopes, fears, accomplishments and more. This allows you to become whoever you want to be this week as well. So, if you want a better job or a position up the food chain from where you are now, act as if it's already yours. Aspects will help you manifest the financial changes you want to see in your life and put something away for the future.

CANCER June 21 - July 22

You're incredibly psychic now. You may find that you can make some money through sheer intuition. Being at the right place at the right time to find out about an exciting new opportunity, getting a certain "feeling" about a particular stock, or dreaming about a new business idea all qualify. Your creativity is at all-time high. Just make sure any outstanding debts are taken care of first.

LEO July 23 - August 22

You're hyped up and ready to make some great new contacts. Whatever you do for a living, you'll find that it's a lot easier with friends. Asking for help from a trusted mentor or just introducing yourself to someone who's always been an inspiration to you is a great use of the current energy. Some of these mentors may even be found among your kids, family members and creative partners.

VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

You're getting ready to make some major changes to the way you do business. Perhaps you're thinking about moving to another home or job. Some mature, sensible energy infuses your job sector. The more you can learn to accept responsibility and prove others can count on you, the more they will reward you financially. Don't shrink away from what could potentially advance you.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

This week you may revolt against authority figures, at least in your mind. Aspects indicate that you'll need help keeping your cool. You're more communicative, for sure, but try not to be overly aggressive about what you want and need. Others need to be factored in as well. Restrictions and limitations may make it feel like everything's personal now, but chances are they're really not.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You can be a conformist at times, and this week you may have all you need to keep this going in your life. New energy infuses your house of cash and values, facilitating a kind of pause for you. In this quiet moment, you're thinking about what you are and are not willing to do for money, and how much time off you need to remain sane and productive. While you're doing this, you're becoming pretty darn healthy, too. Nice work!

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

This week you're facing a time of increased energy when it comes to self-expression. Someone you work with is jealous of you and may not be able to handle your powerhouse nature. Never mind. You're putting yourself out there in a new way now, which can only be positive. Speak your truth. It's bound to be deep, mature, and meaningful. Others need to hear it.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

It may seem like your money life is going backward instead of forward now. Influences seem to restrict and limit what's coming in, but that may only be an illusion. Become a bit more mature and responsible. This may mean determining once and for all what money means in your life. Are you comfortable now or do you need more cash to be truly happy? Your next move will be determined by your answer.

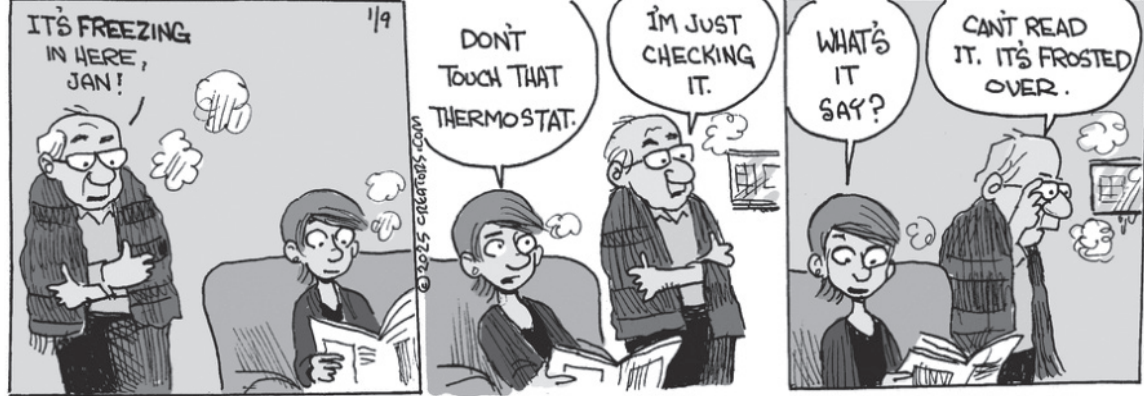
AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

For you, this week is about your social networks, which are becoming even more important than before. Your friends really miss you and want to hear all about your latest adventures. But you're doing a lot of changing, which may affect how you look and present yourself. Some of your pals may not be into this process. Be gentle with them. They don't yet understand where you're going and that they can come along, too.

PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

It's a busy time for you. So much is going on, what with your higher-ups wanting to promote you, wine you, dine you, and get your input, that you may find little time for yourself. It's only temporary. A harmonious aspect moves you into the position of authority you're meant to occupy. Enjoy it!

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



1.16.25

ACROSS

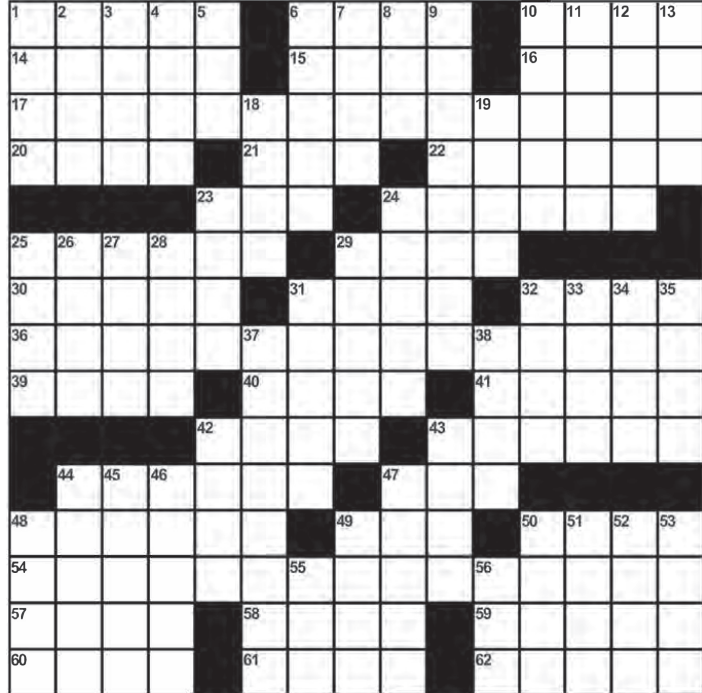
- 1) Biggest round trip in the world?
- 6) Blossom holder
- 10) Crave
- 14) Animal followed by a tickbird
- 15) "Les Miserables" novelist Victor ____
- 16) Miscellaneous mix
- 17) Balance point
- 20) Palm tree variety
- 21) Bran source
- 22) Coughs up
- 23) Where grapplers grapple
- 24) Outlaw hunter's reward
- 25) Carnivorous freshwater fish
- 29) Except for
- 30) They divide Europe and Asia
- 31) Dublin's isle
- 32) Pond coating
- 36) One way to attract attention
- 39) Quite a few
- 40) Possessive adjective
- 41) Unit of magnetic flux density
- 42) Moments, for short
- 43) Dinner-table accessory
- 44) Islamic spiritual leader
- 47) Check
- 48) Former Nicaraguan president Daniel
- 49) Yonder damsel
- 50) "It ____ what you think!"
- 54) Place for younger criminals
- 57) Beloved person
- 58) Apple-seed holder
- 59) Previously, previously
- 60) Quick-footed
- 61) Proceed with a game plan?
- 62) Behaving like a ruffian

DOWN

- 1) Mythical monsters
- 2) Actress Perlman
- 3) Perry on "Friends"
- 4) Obsessed with
- 5) Little piggie
- 6) Little hog
- 7) Cockatoo's crest
- 8) Bacon go-with
- 9) Additionally
- 10) Interlaced
- 11) Choice invitees
- 12) Gritty lead-in
- 13) Kiddie litter?
- 18) Kind of horse or leather
- 19) Chills, fever and sweating, together
- 23) "Other" category (Abbr.)
- 24) Less leafy, like a tree
- 25) "No ifs, ands, or ____"
- 26) Kind of communication
- 27) Become conscious
- 28) Went Southwest?
- 29) Original positions
- 31) Eldest son of Cain
- 32) Resign, with "down"
- 33) Winery container
- 34) "Unattractive" Jamaican fruit
- 35) Intend
- 37) Item for a pirate, stereotypically
- 38) Brief try
- 42) Make a contract official
- 43) Drug cop
- 44) Willies giver
- 45) Floral perfume
- 46) Uncasy
- 47) Believe it, coming or going
- 48) At ____ (disagreeing)
- 49) Feature of 14-Across
- 50) Insider dirt
- 51) Cram into the overhead
- 52) Role in many teen flicks
- 53) Deuce beater, barely
- 55) Bad bettor's letters
- 56) Word before drop or drum

MIDDLE GROUND?

By Luke Cayon



ANSWERS on page X

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Help! Amazon sent me the wrong water heater

Amazon sends Marshall Haney the wrong heater. After he returns it, the company won't refund his money. Where did he go wrong?

Question: I purchased a tankless hot water heater from Amazon a month ago. It sent the wrong hot water heater – propane instead of natural gas.

Amazon approved my return and I sent it back the next week. Amazon received the item but I haven't received a refund yet.

I contacted Amazon by chats several times, asking about my refund so I could order a replacement. I've talked to 12 different so-called customer service reps – some claimed to be supervisors – without a resolution from any.

When I check my account there is now no evidence that I have a return sent, received or having been or being processed. That information was taken off the site. The item was there before.

I can't afford to purchase another heater until I'm refunded for my original purchase. To

say the least, this situation is now and continues to be intolerable and its actions indicate it doesn't care. Please help me get my \$496 back.

– Marshall Haney, Lockport, New York

Answer: Amazon should have sent you the correct heater. But if it couldn't, it should have sent you an immediate refund after you returned the heater – along with its apologies. Instead it pretended you were never a customer. Come on.

Amazon's return process usually works well. I've heard from customers who get their refunds in hours instead of days, which is great. For you, the system didn't work as it should have. Amazon approved your return, acknowledged it, but then erased all records of your transaction from the system.

Remember how I like to talk about keeping a

paper trail? That also includes screenshots with acknowledgments of product returns. Why? Because this could happen to you. The company could simply delete all of its records, leaving you with no proof that you ever returned a product. Or even ordered a product.

Now, to be sure, you could have cobbled together some forensic evidence from your credit card bill and email correspondence. This shouldn't be necessary with a sophisticated company like Amazon.

Reviewing your correspondence, I see two issues. First, all of your messages were in all uppercase. When you're online, that's considered yelling. I would maybe ease up on that and disengage your caps lock. Also, it had only been a few weeks since your return and I think Amazon would have eventually resolved this problem.

Since chatting wasn't really helping, maybe

you could have sent a brief, polite email to one of the Amazon customer service executives whose names I publish on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org.

I contacted Amazon on your behalf. It investigated your return problem and sent you an update a few days later.

"We've received the item below and have issued your refund," it said. "Thank you for sending the item back. Your return is now complete."

Your \$496 has been refunded.

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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CALENDAR THIS from previous page

Club member Luis Pineda will present the learning lab on "Wick Watering Tray Style." Club member and secretary Pat Steen will present the program on "Winter Care for Your African Violets." Questions and answers will follow the program.

The meetings include a learning lab, show 'n' tell, questions and answers, raffle and silent auction tables. Refreshments are served and friendships are made.

Guests are always welcome to attend the meetings. For more information phone (661) 940-3990 or reference: www.burbankafrikanviolets.weebly.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CANCELS BINGO, PROVIDES BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus, Crescenta Valley Council, #3254, will reschedule its bingo game due to the recent wildfires and windstorms.

Instead it will have a free pancake breakfast for the community on the Sunday, Jan. 19. This will be at Healy Hall at the Holy Redeemer Church, 2361 Del Mar Road in Montrose.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 10 am. The menu will be pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, coffee and orange juice.

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

BENITA BIKE'S DANCEART

On Saturday, Jan. 25 and Sunday, Jan. 26 at 1 p.m., Benita Bike's DanceArt will perform at Discovery Cube Los Angeles, a STEM-based children's museum. This performance is one of a number of dance-related events that are part of Discovery Cube's Science of Dance Weekend. Discovery Cube Los Angeles is located at 11800 Foothill Blvd. in Los Angeles (Sylmar). Benita Bike's DanceArt will present excerpts from various dances interspersed with information about dance, Q&A and a special "try-out-the-moves" session with DanceArt's professional dancers. Museum visitors will learn how dances are made, how dancers prepare for performance, and why dancers dance!

A limited number of free tickets to this performance and the museum are available to those who pre-register by emailing benita@danceart.org with their name and the number of guests in their party. General admission tickets can also be purchased at www.discoverycube.org/los-angeles/. Admission to the dance performance will be also be included with general admission or a valid membership. This performance is supported, in part, by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Dept. and Los Angeles County Dept. of Arts and Culture/American Rescue Plan.

LCWC HOSTS BINGO

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

The cost is \$25 per person, which includes bingo sheets for 10 games (four cards per game). Enjoy an evening away from the current stresses and play bingo with friends and neighbors!

Sponsors are wanted.

Tickets are now on sale; visit <https://lacrescentawomansclub.org/> for more information.

Proceeds will benefit LCWC philanthropies and fire relief efforts.

The LCWC clubhouse is located at 4004 La Crescenta Ave.

ANNUAL JAZZ GUEST ARTIST CONCERT AT CALTECH

The Caltech Jazz Band, under the direction of Barb Catlin, presents the annual Jazz Guest Artist Concert featuring the music of Patrick Williams with performers Peter Erskine, Chuck Berghofer, Wayne Bergeron, Kirsten Edkins and Mike Dana on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for students, seniors and faculty; \$15 for general admission, and can be purchased by calling the Caltech ticket office at (626) 395-4652. Parking is free.

FRITZ COLEMAN'S SHOW EXTENDS AT THE EL PORTAL

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

Shows are on Sundays at 3 p.m. on Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 30 and April 27, 2025. Further 2025 dates to be announced.

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

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

ACTIVITIES AT SUNLAND SENIOR CENTER

The Sunland Senior Center offers a selection of classes and activities daily. Whether seniors are looking to exercise or dance or are interested in art, theater, or knitting, the Center has something for everyone. Sunland also hosts bingo on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and a movie matinee on the big

screen at 1 p.m. on Thursdays; on Mondays and Fridays there is country line dancing from noon-1:30 p.m. The Sunland Senior Center runs programming from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. with a donations-based lunch served daily from

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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



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ANSWERS for page 16



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LEGAL NOTICE

FREE QUONSET TYPE military/agricultural type storage building for removal and reuse as possible. Size is approximately 21' wide X 112' long X 12' high at top of arching roof. Older post war Quonset type bldg. with painted (lead paint) corrugated metal skin, metal interior supporting arches at approx. 10 ft. on centers, and 2 overhead loading doors, 1 at end & 1 at side. The location is at Oakmont Country Club, Glendale with good access for dismantling of this portable type building. The slab foundation can stay but bldg. must be removed between Jan 15, 2025 & March 1, 2025. Photos available upon request. Contact Kurt Desiderio at Oakmont Country Club for more information at kdesiderio@oakmontcc.com. Published in the Crescenta Valley Weekly December 26, 2024, January 2, 9, 16, 2025.

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FOR SALE

CV WEEKLY IS HIRING

Are you a night owl? If so, why not earn some money by delivering the community's favorite newspaper to businesses in Glendale & Toluca Lake early Thursday morning? Must have own transportation. Weekly rate of \$145.00 includes gas stipend. Call Rachele at (818) 248-2740 or email rachele@cvweekly.com.

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from WILDFIRE STRESS page 10

"For the teenager, a good component of their information comes from social media," she said.

Parents should try to keep their teenagers off social media sites during this time, especially with so much misinformation being circulated.

"There is a lot of fake CGI [computer generated imagery] on social media, stuff like a fire in downtown LA that was not real," Given said.

Recent fires were driven by an unprecedented wind event, with winds reaching 100-plus mph in some areas, and the Red Flag and wind warnings have been constant. The winds have caused anxiety for many people.

"As human beings, we feel anxious when something is unknown. The nature of these winds and fires have been unknown to all of us and feeling anxious is an expected response in this case. Anxiousness can be helpful at times because it keeps us vigilant and allows us to prepare

our bags, make a plan of action and feel a sense of urgency during a time of disaster. When that anxiousness becomes debilitating and we're unable to focus on other important parts of our lives, however, we can take that as a sign that we're worrying too much and are too deep into our unhelpful thought processes. The best thing to do is to focus on what you do know at this time. We can only make decisions based on the information we have at this moment, and trying to anticipate what will happen is not helpful since we cannot necessarily predict the future," Varvayan said.

Adults also deal with anxiety in different ways than teens.

"A 14- or 15-year-old may be in complete shock," Given said of the children who have lost their homes or see their parents upset about a friend's home.

"All they see is mom and dad crying. They may [appear] emotionless.

That is their way of coping. Allow them their time and space to have a conversation about what they are feeling," Given said.

She added it is important to remind them they are safe. Many teens feel alone, like they are the only ones who are having these concerns, these emotions.

"Let them know 'No matter what is going on with you I got you,'" she said.

She reminded that it is important to try to limit the amount of time adults, and kids, spend following the fires on media.

"As human beings, we are not built to consume massive amounts of traumatic content on a [constant] basis. This is a recipe for people burning out and not being able to show up for themselves or others during times of stress. There is a lot of pressure these days to stay informed about current events, and engage or participate in

some way. However, if there is not a strong foundation for both consuming and taking a break from the news, it will be difficult to sustain.

"In general, most people can benefit from setting limits to prevent themselves from engaging in too much content regardless of the source of news. Consider taking a break by putting on a timer (i.e., 60 minutes) and not checking the news during that time period. People can also ask a trusted friend or family member to fill [them] in on what is missed during the day. In addition, people can share helpful content and resources with others to stay engaged with others, instead of consuming content that is not then processed or discussed with others in some way," Varvayan said.

"Parents know their child," Given added. "They know if they are struggling." She reiterated it is important for parents to let their child/children

know they are there for them. Parents have their back and they are safe.

"Don't assume they know that," she said.

This road to recovery will be long. What CVW learned after the Station Fire in 2009 was the anxiety and fear continued for months and years after the fire was contained. Helping our neighbors in any way we can has been a priority for many and will continue as long as it takes.

"Many of us who live in Los Angeles love and adore our city and community. If you are able and willing, support your fellow community members at this time, reach out to people you know are hurting, and take care of yourself in the process. This is going to be a marathon run, not a sprint to the finish line. There are many parts of the repair process that have yet to begin, so focus on one moment at a time," Varvayan added.

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One community, together.

Like many of you, our employees and physicians have been directly impacted by the devastating wildfires. We are tremendously grateful for them and their unwavering commitment to our patients' and community's health and well-being as we continue to provide care to all who need it, even during this difficult time.

For up-to-date resources, helpful tips, information on how to get help after a disaster, and where to find care, visit:
huntingtonhealth.org/wildfires



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A Heartfelt Thank You to Our First Responders

In the wake of the devastating Eaton Fire, we extend our deepest gratitude to all the brave first responders who worked tirelessly to protect lives and properties. Your unwavering dedication, courage, and compassion have been a beacon of hope, and we are forever thankful for your selflessness and strength.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the neighborhoods, families, and communities who have lost their homes. We stand with you, and together, we will rebuild.

With sincere gratitude,

Mike and Sandy Kobeissi



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