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JANUARY 23, 2025

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VOL. 16, NO. 23

Gratitude Extended at Council Meeting

By Julie BUTCHER

"I want to thank the residents, businesses and staff of the city for their unwavering cooperation and unity during the emergency," Mayor Elen Asatryan said at the beginning of Tuesday night's meeting of the Glendale City Council. "Every single staff member, from leadership to our first responders, the collaboration among departments and the around-the-clock communications were unprecedented. Last year when I was talking about the need for multi-lingual communications I heard the pushback and saw the smirks, the ridicule; I hope this would be a lesson for all as to how much it is needed in a diverse city like Glendale, particularly during emergency situations."

Councilmember Dan Brotman shared his support for the city's emergency response and raised concerns about the mistaken emergency warnings residents received.

Councilmember Vartan Gharpetian questioned the 2014 water infrastructure bond.

"It was \$7.6 billion. I'm hoping we can come together to get answers to our questions about budget cuts to fire departments, staffing cuts because they were unvaccinated, no water in the hydrants [and] dry reservoirs. We need to make sure our neighbors are doing the right job [in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles] in La Crescenta and Sunland-Tujunga so it won't trickle down to Glendale – or if it does that we are ready to face it."

Councilmember Ara Najarian suggested the council adjourn with the Altadena and Pacific Palisades fire victims in mind.

Councilmembers then congratulated the country's new President.

see GCC on page 18

No Matter the Skill Set – All Students of Music are Welcomed at VYMA

By Mikaela STONE

VYMA fosters a love of music in its diverse student population.

What happens when an orchestra combines a nurturing, non-competitive environment with one-on-one coaching by talented industry professionals? The Verdugo Young Musicians Association (VYMA) worked the last 24 years endeavoring to provide this. The results are devoted staff, volunteers and students who focus on building skill and fostering a lifelong love of music.

VYMA director and La Crescenta resident Samvel Chilingarian's extensive credits include teaching and directing violin and viola at Whittier College and East Los Angeles College and playing with his own chamber music band, the Elixir Piano Trio. Under his direction, VYMA grew from one orchestra to three, each serving students with different skill levels.



Judy & Me Photography

Photo provided by VYMA.org
 VYMA provides instruction for three skill levels in music (including advanced chamber orchestra) to accommodate all students.

No students are turned away due to skill level and instead placed in the orchestra where they will be comfortable but challenged. Chilingarian described this "rewarding and challenging process" as only being possible because of the great musicians and pedagogues he surrounds himself with – he believes the extra layers of mentorship VYMA provides, including both one-on-one coaching and sectionals, is the reason for the

program's success.

Chilingarian is inspired by the Venezuelan teaching style of El Sistema, a community-based approach that focuses on the whole child.

"Every student is a whole world," explained Chilingarian. "They communicate differently, they respond differently."

When teaching, he endeavors to understand the obstacles students are coping with – whether

their struggles with music come from a mental block, coordination struggles or lack of clear instructions – all of which require approaching lessons differently. Chilingarian believes that as long as he is learning while he teaches, he is doing well. While this approach benefits all students, children with autism or ADHD especially flourish with personalized guidance.

see VYMA on page 8

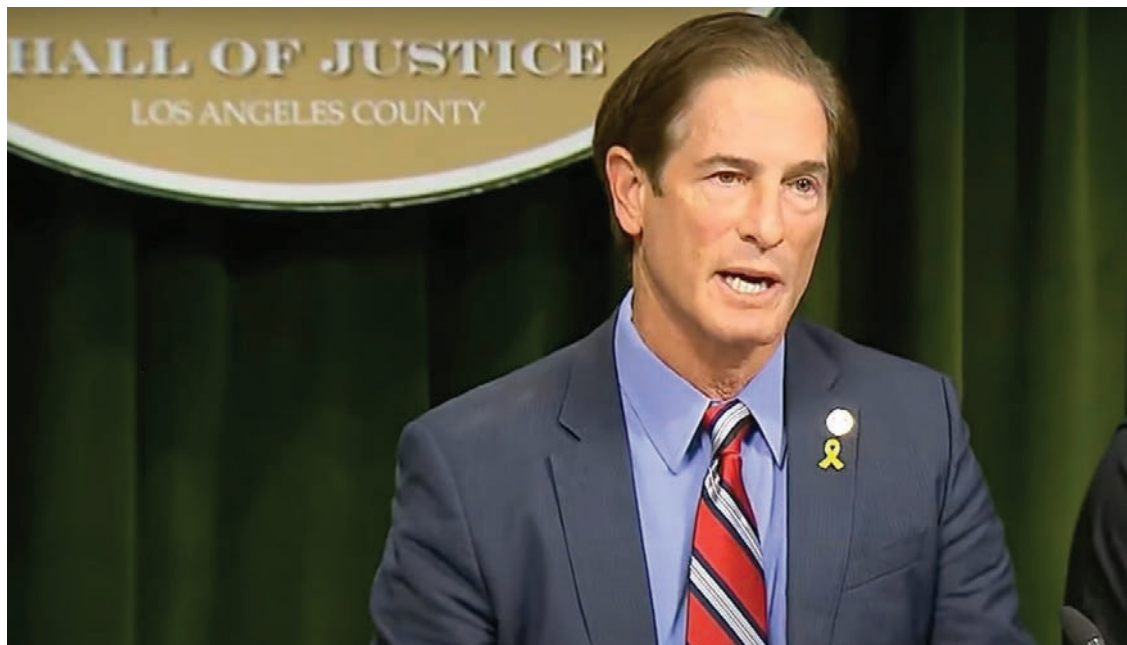
New DA Takes Tough Stand on Criminal Behavior

By Mary O'KEEFE

At a press conference on Wednesday, Jan. 15, newly-elected Los Angeles District Attorney Nathan Hochman began speaking by praising firefighters, law enforcement and residents who had cooperated by evacuating the area of the fires. He then turned attention to those who would, and have, come into the fire areas to commit crimes and those who would additionally take advantage of fire victims through price gouging.

"Yet there are people out there who have decided that they are going to take advantage of this tragedy. They're going to exploit this crisis for their own personal benefit."

see HOCHMAN on page 8



Newly elected DA Nathan Hochman recently addressed the press announcing charges against looters amid wildfires.

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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Sharing Some Like-Community Information

I had the chance to recently have dinner with a woman who lost her home in the Eaton Fire. I shared a little with you last week about her attitude toward her community. She seemed more concerned about the loss of the community than the loss of her house.

I understand that. I love the Crescenta Valley and many people here are like family. I found that out when our offices here at the newspaper were burglarized and people were eager to help, mainly by donating money so we could quickly and easily get back on our feet.

To think that in a matter of days our area could be wiped out – wow! Truly unbelievable.

I'm so pleased (but not really surprised) to discover the number of people and organizations that have stepped up to help our neighbors to the east. For example, at LA County Parks, including CV Park, a Care Camp was established through Jan. 31. It 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. 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 lost their home or has been displaced during the fire. They can pick up basic needed items. The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge (CCLCF) opened its door for distribution of donations to those affected by the recent fires. Our reporter Ruth Sowby stopped over there and got some firsthand stories of those impacted by the Eaton Fire and also some great photos. (You can read her story in our Between Friends section of the paper.)

You can also read Mary O'Keefe's story of the unique ways that the La Crescenta Woman's Club and Angel Flight came together to open the historic clubhouse to those in need. Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy also held a donation drive from Jan. 15 through Jan. 17 asking for donations of uniforms, gift cards, school supplied and bedding.

see ROBIN on page 19

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

Even though President Donald Trump included in his inauguration speech the promise to “drill, baby, drill,” and he immediately withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, we are not sure what his climate plan will be ... exactly. There is a lot of speculation based on historical evidence of what the President said during his campaign and what he did the last time he held office; however, again, there may be some hope.

The President feels, according to his remarks at the Capital One Arena on Inauguration Day, the Paris climate accord is one-sided and unfair to the U.S.

Just to clarify, China is currently the largest global emitter of greenhouse gases and U.S. emissions have been decreasing since the mid-2000s; however, we are the largest historical contributor to total carbon dioxide emissions, according to an NPR article titled “Trump is withdrawing from the Paris Agreement (again), reversing U.S. climate policy.”

Elon Musk seems to agree there is climate change caused by humans, but takes a more middle-of-the-road position when it comes to the oil and gas industry stating we should not “vilify” those industries. He also stated that the economy “would collapse” if we force oil and gas firms to shut down.

All of this is true and even with the sales of electric bikes and cars, we can not wipe out overnight greenhouse gases due to fossil fuel emissions.

The vehicle, as we know it – with a combustion engine – was introduced in the early-to-mid 1800s – first in Europe then in the U.S. – but it was not like people saw cars and everyone ran out to buy. There were several people who were afraid, some who

objected to the noise and dust vehicles caused and others who just didn't think we needed this form of transportation ... we had horses and the steam engine.

But the new “horseless carriages” took off and soon there were new jobs to build the vehicles and maintain them, roads had to be built and many more jobs were created just because of the “new” technology.

In 1900 there were 8,000 passenger cars in the U.S.; in 1947 there were 30,849 passenger cars and 6,992 commercial vehicles; in 1977, there were 112,300 passenger vehicles and 29,800 commercial vehicles; as of 1987 there were 137,300 passenger vehicles and 41,700 commercial vehicles. And as of 2022 there were 283,400.99 motor vehicle registered in the U.S., according to statista.com.

So even if you don't believe that there is a climate crisis, thinking logically: with each vehicle there are fossil fuel emissions. When thousands of vehicles are added there are more fossil fuels released ... and this is just considering vehicles not emissions from factories and other industries.

When gasoline and diesel fuels are released they emit harmful byproducts like nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, benzene, formaldehyde and carbon dioxide. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a typical passenger vehicle emits about 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, assuming the average gas vehicle has a fuel economy of about 22.2 miles per gallon and the average number of miles driven per year are 11,500.

“Carbon dioxide (CO2), after it is emitted into the atmosphere, is firstly rapidly distributed between atmosphere, the upper ocean and vegetation.

see WEATHER on page 19

INSIDE	NEWS.....	3	LEISURE.....	14
	HEALTHY LIVING 2025.....	7	JUST FOR FUN	15
	VIEWPOINTS.....	10	RELIGION.....	4
	BETWEEN FRIENDS.....	12	CLASSIFIEDS	18



BEFORE

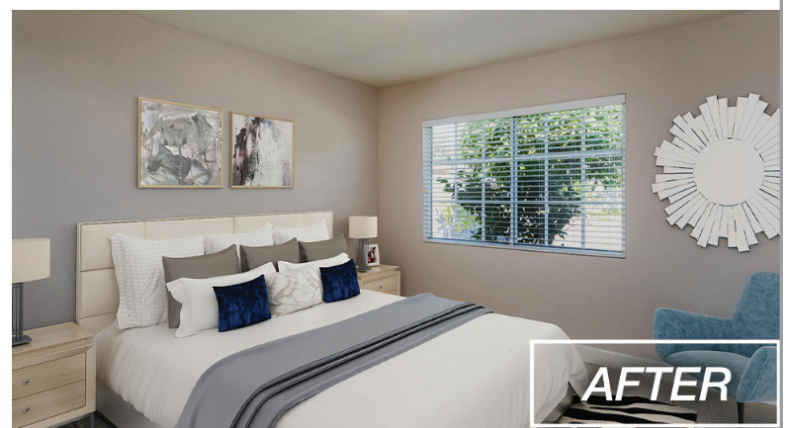


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Don't Miss Next Week's Q&A – Phyllis discusses “Listing A Home That Needs Updating”

NEWS

IN BRIEF

CVCA TO MEET TONIGHT

The Crescenta Valley Community Association will have its first meeting of the year tonight, 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 such as Canyon Hills, Verdugo Wash and Rockhaven.

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.

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.

PERFORMANCE SERIES APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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

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

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

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

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Community Comes Together to Help Those Affected by the Wildfires

By Mary O'KEEFE

There are several misperceptions about the Los Angeles area, including one that everyone lives in the City of Los Angeles. Another is that residents do not know their neighbors. However, many people know they live in LA County but not in LA City and that LA County is a patchwork of small neighborhood or small town communities. That has never been more evident than in the aftermath of the Eaton and Palisades fires when all communities joined together to help their neighbors including those who had lost their homes and businesses in the fires.

Girl Scouts has always been a community-centric organization whose members volunteer at numerous events. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Girl Scout Service Unit 407 of the La Crescenta-Montrose area hosted a donation drive to support children and families affected by the wildfires.

They were able to offer families books, backpacks, games and toys along with art supplies for kids. Their event was held at the Girl Scout House in Montrose.

It was very successful and the Girl Scouts plan on having another event in the future.

Another outreach to support those affected by wildfires was started by a group that works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The members decided to start a drop-in center.

"It started as a group of JPLers who wanted to help their friends impacted by the wildfires," said Molly Shelton, organizer of the drop-in center in La Crescenta and a JPLer.

They focused their efforts on some specific areas including collection of donations, preparing support bags for kids and creating drop-in centers.

Shelton approached several organizations in the area including the La Crescenta Woman's Club, American Legion Post 288 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1614, the Fire House youth center, St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church and Prom Plus.

On Jan. 13 the La Crescenta Woman's Club opened its doors to provide a comfortable and safe place for the drop-in Shelton was spearheading.

The idea was to give those affected by wildfires a place to go where there was Internet access and a place where parents could try to organize while someone watched their kid/s.

For many, a place was needed where people could sit with other family members to discuss future plans and get online to fill out forms while their children were entertained so they could do what needed to be done in order for them to move forward.

Many JPL workers lost their homes in Altadena and some in



Photo by Molly SHELTON
TOP: Volunteers from Jet Propulsion Laboratory help create support bags for those affected by the Eaton and Palisades wildfires.

Photo by Jackie BODNAR
ABOVE: At the Montrose Program Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Day Girl Scout volunteers prepared backpacks with books (for both adults and kids) games & toys and art supplies for distribution to those affected by the wildfires.

Pacific Palisades. The drop-in centers are designed to help them. Shelton is in charge of the Crescenta Valley drop-in center.

"We are looking to help the community and to coordinate volunteers in direct ways," Shelton said.

When those affected by the wildfires enter the La Crescenta Woman's Club they find a lot of comfortable and fun inflatable furniture, a workspace and lots of toys and art supplies to keep kids busy. There are also support bags for kids to take with them.

On Sunday the drop-in location was moved to the Verdugo Hills Memorial Hall [American Legion Hall] where therapist Jamie Given led a workshop where parents, and grandparents, were given tools to help talk to children about the fires. These conversations might not be just for those who lost their homes but provide information on how to talk to kids who were away from the fire danger but still have concerns.

Given, LMFT, LPCC from Given Guidance Family Counseling in La Crescenta, shared that many of the comments kids make about being frightened or sad are normal reactions. She spoke to children from age 3 to teenagers. For the younger kids she suggested having them draw a picture of a firefighter or police officer

to instill hope and provide a sense of security. For older kids she suggested have them create a "gratitude tree" to write things they are grateful for and/or host a family discussion when teens feel comfortable talking about their concerns.

The bottom line was for parents and loved ones to remind their children that they are there for them and they will support them.

As the days move forward from the initial fires, Shelton said the group will continue to evolve to fit

the needs of those who were affected. This is not going to be a quick fix and support will be needed for a while.

Shelton added more discussions are planned that include experts to discuss issues faced by those affected by the wildfires.

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City of Glendale Offers Clean-up Advice

Following the recent windstorm that left an unprecedented amount of green waste and debris across the city, the Glendale Public Works Dept. has initiated comprehensive clean-up efforts to restore the community. Public Works crews are systematically working block-by-block to clear fallen limbs, brush and other debris from streets. Here's how to help with clean-up efforts:

To expedite the process, Glendale residents are encouraged to follow these guidelines:

- **Use Green Waste Containers:** Place yard waste, such as branches, bushes, leaves, and grass clippings, in the green yard waste container. Cut larger brush into smaller, manageable pieces to maximize container space.
- **Palm Fronds Are Trash:** Dispose of palm fronds in the black trash container.
- **No Mixed Waste:** Only yard waste and bagged food scraps should go in the green waste container. Do not use plastic bags for yard waste.
- **Avoid Obstructions:** Ensure debris does not block driveways or access to neighboring properties.
- **Manage Piles Responsibly:** Limit the width of green waste piles in the street to the width of a parked car, and do not leave yard waste in alleys.

Important Note:

Due to the substantial volume of debris, residents should anticipate delays in the clean-up process. The estimated timeline for citywide debris removal is six to eight weeks. To maintain regular citywide waste collection services, additional collection routes cannot be added.

Residents are advised to:

- Stage extra green waste for subsequent weekly collections if containers are full.
- Consider hiring private waste haulers at personal expense for excessive debris removal.

Storm Debris Beyond Green Waste:

- For items such as broken swing sets, fences, gates, or lawn furniture:

Single-family households (one-four units): Submit a bulky item pickup request at GlendaleCA.gov/BulkyItem.

Multi-Family households (5+ units) and commercial properties:

- Property owners or management companies should contact their Glendale-approved franchised hauler to schedule a pickup. To find your hauler, visit GlendaleCA.gov/WhoIsMyHauler.



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Coming Together to Clean LA

By Mary O'KEEFE

Damian Kevitt, founder of SAFE (Streets Are For Everyone), saw the devastation that communities were facing after the fires and strong wind events. He wanted to do something to help.

"These fires, which have tragically claimed over 24 lives and displaced thousands, remind us of the power of resilience and the importance of coming together," Kevitt stated.

He, along with other volunteer members of SAFE, launched an "entirely volunteer-fueled" movement – Let's Clean LA – an action to clean LA after the recent windstorms and fires.

"At StreetsAreForEveryone, we believe in the power of community action and this initiative invites every Angeleno to join in making our streets and neighborhoods

shine again," Kevitt added.

So last weekend volunteers gathered and cleaned up areas in LA County including Wilmington, Balboa Park and Venice Boulevard. They had about 50 volunteers, which included members of LA Walks, BMX Goonies, Bicycle Transit Systems and Bikerowave. The groups collected a total of 77 bags of trash and cleaned up an estimated 3,000 lbs. They ended the cleaning up of the five areas on Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The items collected included a lot of branches and green waste; however, each place was different, Kevitt said.

"There was a lot of paper, plastic and glass trash picked up in Wilmington, Lincoln Heights and Balboa Park. There was more green waste in Venice and also a lot of green waste along the bike

path in Balboa Park," Kevitt said.

Kevitt said the group plans on continuing its cleanup efforts in the future and invites anyone who is interested in volunteering, or those who have an area they would like to see cleaned, to join in their efforts.

To get more information, including how to volunteer or identifying an area that needs to be cleaned, go to LetsCleanLA.org or email volunteer@StreetsAreForEveryone.org. People can partner with the LetsCleanLA or find other ways to support.

Kevitt added that he received good feedback from those who volunteered.

"[The volunteers] were really excited to get out and clean up LA. We have a beautiful city. Between the fires, the wind and people just not caring and littering all over

the place, [areas] have been badly trashed," Kevitt said. "It felt good to get out and do something to make things better instead of

trying to ignore it. A number of the [volunteers] asked at the end [of the event] when the next [cleanup] would be."



Courtesy of SAFE

TOP: Volunteers sweep up one of the areas in Balboa Park. ABOVE: About 50 volunteers, which included members of LA Walks, BMX Goonies, Bicycle Transit Systems and Bikerowave, participated in the cleanup. BELOW: The groups collected a total of 77 bags of trash.



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City of LCF Announces CAAP Goals

On Jan. 20, the City of La Cañada Flintridge announced the approval of its comprehensive 2024 Climate Action Plan & Adaptation Plan (CAAP), marking a crucial step in its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions community-wide and in municipal operations. The plan includes a vision to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 with interim goals of reducing

emissions by 40% by 2030 and 58% by 2035. Key strategies include transitioning to 100% renewable energy, increasing electric vehicle infrastructure and promoting building electrification.

“The updated CAAP was built on a detailed vulnerability assessment evaluating the City’s readiness in the face of climate threats including extreme heat, wildfires and

pressure on resources such as water and energy,” said Mayor Michael Davitt. “We combined these findings with community workshops to create a solid plan for integrating climate action into all levels of City governance, setting a precedent for future policies and investments for years to come.”

With a focus on sustainable practices, the CAAP emphasizes energy efficiency, the reduction

of fossil fuel reliance and adaptation measures to safeguard the community against climate impacts. The City’s efforts also involve close collaboration with residents and local organizations to drive meaningful change. By 2040, the plan seeks to reduce vehicle miles traveled through the adoption of electric vehicles to reduce combustion engine VMT by 25%, further enhancing

the community’s resilience to environmental challenges.

The City will continue working with stakeholders, leveraging public-private partnerships and championing initiatives to support the community’s overall environmental health.

For more information on the 2024 Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and ways to get involved, visit [LCF.ca.gov/climateaction](https://www.lcf.ca.gov/climateaction).

Updates on Eaton and Palisades Fire and Wednesday’s Hughes Fire

By Mary O’KEEFE

On 8 a.m. on Wednesday, local officials provided an update on the Eaton and Palisades fires.

A new website has been set up specifically for wildfire relief questions. It can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yc67jnus>.

The number of acres burned in the Eaton Fire was reported at 14,201, and 9,418 structures have been destroyed (although that number is expected to grow as crews are still evaluating the area). It is 91% contained.

The number of acres burned in the Palisades Fire was reported at 23,448, and 6,662 structures were destroyed (this number can change as the investigation continues).

There were 17 people reported to have died in the Eaton Fire

and 11 people are confirmed dead due to the Palisades Fire.

At around 11 a.m. on Wednesday a fast-moving wildfire began in the Lake Hughes area. As of press time, 8,096 acres had burned and numerous evacuation orders had been issued. The fire was reported at Lake Hughes Road, north of Castaic Reservoir. California Highway Patrol had issued several road closures including some exits along the Golden State (5) Freeway. The Red Flag Warning had been extended to Friday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m.

There are several areas of support for those affected by the Eaton and Palisades fires that include help with medications.

“The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and

Response (ASPR), an agency within the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, activated the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) for California to aid uninsured residents in replacing prescription medicines or certain medical equipment lost or damaged in the ongoing wildfires in Los Angeles County,” according to a statement.

Uninsured residents affected by the wildfires can request a free 30-day supply of certain prescription medications and any EPAP participating pharmacy.

Those who qualify must have resided in Los Angeles County. Other requirements and more information can be found at <https://aspr.hhs.gov/EPAP/Pages/California->

[Wildfires-2025.aspx](https://www.aspr.hhs.gov/EPAP/Pages/California-Wildfires-2025.aspx).

Survivors who are not sure if they are eligible for this program should call the EPAP Hotline at (855) 793-7470 to find out if they are eligible and to register with EPAP.

LA County also launched a “one-stop” funding and relief portal.

The recent wildfires have devastated communities, displaced thousands of residents and brought unimaginable grief, suffering and loss to friends, families, neighbors and co-workers. At the same time, this tragedy has also spurred an outpouring of generosity and desire to help those in need – along with questions about where best to direct donations, according to a statement from LA County Coordinated Joint Information Center.

In response to this overwhelming show of support, and to help guide people with questions about how to help, Los Angeles County has launched a one-stop portal to connect the public with trusted organizations that are providing crucial relief and support in affected communities.

The LA County Relief Funding & Resource Portal

provides a range of funds dedicated to supporting first responders, offering housing assistance, providing relief for small businesses and workers, and removing barriers for students and communities. For more information visit lacounty.gov/relief.



Photo by Sabrina SHELTON

Smoke billows acrossing the sky as the Hughes Fire rips through the Castaic area.



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CHP Arrests Over 100 Suspects During Holiday Retail Theft Blitz

In the final days of the holiday season, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the California Highway Patrol (CHP), in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, successfully conducted a statewide enforcement operation targeting organized retail crime.

On Dec. 20 CHP and local police departments carried out Operation Holiday Watch in communities throughout California resulting in 117 arrests, the recovery of over \$38,000 in stolen merchandise, the seizure of two illegal firearms and the recovery of three stolen vehicles. Expected charges range from petty theft and grand theft to organized retail crime.

Key Results of the Operation

- 117 arrests made for organized retail theft and related offenses.
- Recovery of 767 stolen items, valued at more than \$38,000 including

clothing, shoes and fragrances.

- Enhanced collaboration among 10 California law enforcement agencies and 56 different retail partners to improve in-store security and reporting.
- Increased law enforcement visibility in high-traffic shopping areas, deterring additional crimes.

“Through proactive enforcement operations and strong partnerships with local law enforcement and retailers, we were able to protect the state’s businesses and consumers during one of the busiest times of the year,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “Our efforts send a clear message that retail theft in California will not be tolerated.”

The daylong operation was conducted in collaboration with the Hemet Police Dept., Los Angeles Sheriff’s Dept., Los Angeles Police

Dept., Glendale Police Dept., Bakersfield Police Dept., Woodland Police Dept., Walnut Creek Police Dept., Livermore Police Dept. and San Ramon Police Dept.

Since the Organized Retail Crime Task Force’s inception in 2019, the CHP has been involved in over 3,200 investigations, leading to the arrest of more than 3,500 suspects and the recovery of nearly 1.3 million stolen goods valued at \$51.3 million.

Governor Newsom this past summer signed into law the most significant bipartisan legislation to crack down on property crime in modern California history. Building on the state’s laws and record public safety funding, these bipartisan bills establish new penalties for repeat offenders, provide additional tools for felony prosecutions and crack down on serial shoplifters, retail thieves and auto burglars.

Obituary Pati (McArdle) Potter



Sept. 20, 1950 - Nov. 20, 2024

Pati (McArdle) Potter lived her entire life in Sunland-Tujunga as a dedicated member of the community. Pati was deeply committed to preserving and improving the neighborhood she loved so dearly.

Pati was a steadfast supporter of her community, nurturing lifelong friendships and serving for many years on the Our Lady of Lourdes and VHHS 1968 Reunion Committees. In her later years, Pati brought the same dedication and heart to the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge. Her sense of connection to others and her love of community gatherings embodied her warm and caring spirit.

Pati’s most significant contributions were through her service on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council where she held the roles of treasurer and region representative. Her true passion, however, was the Land Use Committee where she worked with unwavering dedication to ensure that new developments maintained the character, integrity and livability of the community.

Pati was truly one of a kind – an irreplaceable advocate, friend and neighbor whose warmth, tenacity and selfless spirit will be deeply missed.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Jack (aka “Punky”) and is survived by her devoted daughter Tracy Kirchner, son-in-law Dean Kirchner and brothers Chris and Joe McArdle.

Community Action Fair

The public is invited to Sadler Hall at St. Luke’s of the Mountains Episcopal Church on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a Community Action Fair.

Several local clubs, organizations, local community resources and fire support relief will be represented at the event.

There will also be a bake sale at

the event. The event is located at 2563 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta. Parking lot is off Cross Street, east of Rosemont Avenue.

GUSD Students to Hear from Holocaust Survivors

Glendale Unified middle and high school students will once again have an opportunity to hear directly from survivors of the Holocaust from Jan. 23-24. Holocaust survivor speakers will present their life stories to students via Google Meet. The presentations will also be recorded for future viewing.

One of the speakers, Joseph Alexander, 102, survived Auschwitz and 11 other concentration camps. Another speaker, Gabriela Karin, 94, has been invited to the International Ceremonies at Auschwitz,

Poland taking place on Jan. 27. She is the only survivor from Los Angeles who is able to attend.

These very special presentations coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On Jan. 27, 1945 (80 years ago), Soviet soldiers liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp. It is estimated that the Nazis deported over 1.3 million people to the Auschwitz complex between 1940 and 1945. Of these, they murdered 1.1 million people. On this annual day of

commemoration, GUSD joins nations all over the world in honoring the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and providing educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

Every year, the Glendale Unified Board of Education adopts a resolution in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The resolution includes a commitment that “our community work together to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.”

see GUSD on page 7

Obituary Samuel R. Nicholson



Jan. 30, 1929 – Nov. 17, 2024

Samuel R. Nicholson, beloved husband, dad and gramps, passed away at home after a short illness. He was born in New Jersey to Jessie and Sam Nicholson. He married Patricia Seeber in 1954 in Darmstadt, Germany while he was finishing his U.S. Army obligation. They honeymooned throughout Europe.

Sam and Pat spent most of their 64 years of marriage raising their four children in La Crescenta. Sam attended Toll Jr. H.S. and Hoover H.S. in Glendale. He earned a track and field scholarship to the University of Southern California where he was on three national championship teams. He earned his degree in education. He was a member of Kappa fraternity. Sam loved being an educator and coach. He coached track at Hoover H.S. and was a vice principal at Clark Jr. H.S. and Glendale H.S. before becoming a principal at Rosemont Jr. H.S. and Crescenta Valley H.S. He retired from Glendale Unified School District in 1988. It seemed no matter where Sam traveled, someone would come up to him and ask, “Mr. Nicholson, is that you?” because he touched so many lives during his career and life.

As a 60-plus year member of St. James the Less Catholic Church, Sam served on many of the parish

committees, as well as being a lector and member of the choir.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II honored Sam and Pat with the Benemerenti Medal for outstanding laity service to the Roman Catholic Church.

Sam attended most of the activities and games of his children and grandchildren throughout the years. He continued to attend CVHS games and meets during his retirement and loved keeping in touch with students past and present. Sam was past president of the Glendale YMCA Quarterback Club and his alter ego – Nick the Greek – entertained with his Pick a of the Week. Sam created, and he and Pat performed, the Old Time Radio Show and donated the money they raised to the CVHS student scholarship award. He was a member of the CVHS Athletic Hall of Fame committee and was inducted into it in 2022. Sam was a proud and loyal Trojan and past president of the Trojan

Force, which supports the USC Track & Field Program. He was honored with the Heritage Award in 2007.

Sam loved to travel and play golf well into his 80s. He was a well-known woodworker and made thousands of Sam’s Santas, which are prized by those who display them each holiday season. He loved his many friends and family and was always ready with a song, a funny story, joke and words of wisdom and support.

Sam lost his beloved wife of 64 years, Pat, in 2018. He is lovingly survived by sons Cameron (Mary) and Bob (Lori); daughters Kathy (Gary) Strangis and Karen (Tim) Bauer; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and brother-in-law George (Jerry) Seeber.

A memorial Mass will be held on Sam’s 96th birthday on Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. at St. James the Less Catholic Church, 4651 Dunsmore in La Crescenta.

» HEALTHY LIVING 2025

Eating Well May Be Key to Good Health, Life Longevity

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

Eating in a more healthful manner may be a common goal, especially at the new year, but figuring out how to do that might be more elusive than people think.

According to Kevin Park, registered dietician and nutritionist at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, people commonly set themselves up for failure.

“From my perspective, people set unrealistic goals,” he said.

“They need to create longterm habits. For example, focus on small changes. Rather than trying to cut out soda altogether, soda drinkers might consider switching to diet soda or minimizing their intake. Over time they might get to the point where they can cut it out altogether.”

Eating better can also improve health overall and mood, he added.

“It also reduces the risk of chronic diseases like obesity and

diabetes,” he said. “Obviously no one likes getting sick and eating a healthy diet can maintain a person’s immune system.”

Setting and achieving longterm goals can fight obesity, too, which is estimated at 40% in the USA. Park recommends incorporating physical activity, as well as getting enough sleep and reducing stress, to keep obesity at bay.

“Also eating out regularly typically is not suggested,” he added, “and it can be expensive.” He suggested cooking at home.

“People can also control what is going into their food.”

Thankfully there are several programs – both online and in-person – that people can take advantage of that can meet their needs if they want to create a more healthy lifestyle.

However, not all programs are for everyone, warns Park.

“Everyone is unique,” he said. “Not all programs are for all people. And there is a lot of information people can access on the internet.” He recommends

getting in touch with a health care professional to determine what program, if any, is best.

Currently, weight loss drugs are also very popular.

“I think there is a misconception that weight loss drugs can be used solely without people making lifestyle changes,” Park said. “Even though a person might be on the medication lifestyle changes are still needed. Each person’s situation is different – I would always make sure a health care professional is sought.”

GUSD from page 6

This resolution and the Holocaust survivors’ presentations hold increasing significance given the dramatic rise in anti-Semitism across the nation and in Los Angeles County. GUSD Students to Hear from Holocaust Survivors

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24. Holocaust survivor speakers will present their life stories to students via Google Meet. The presentations will also be recorded for future viewing.

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She is the only survivor from Los Angeles who is able to attend.

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between 1940 and 1945. Of these, they murdered 1.1 million people. On this annual day of commemoration, GUSD joins nations all over the world in honoring the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and providing educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

Every year, the Glendale Unified Board of Education adopts a resolution in honor of Holocaust Remembrance

Day. The resolution includes a commitment that “our community work together to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.” This resolution and the Holocaust survivors’ presentations hold increasing significance given the dramatic rise in anti-Semitism across the nation and in Los Angeles County.

City of LCF Announces CAAP Goals

On Jan. 20, the City of La Cañada Flintridge announced the approval of its comprehensive 2024 Climate Action Plan & Adaptation Plan (CAAP), marking a crucial step in its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions community-wide and in municipal operations. The plan includes a vision to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 with interim goals of reducing emissions

by 40% by 2030 and 58% by 2035. Key strategies include transitioning to 100% renewable energy, increasing electric vehicle infrastructure and promoting building electrification.

“The updated CAAP was built on a detailed vulnerability assessment evaluating the City’s readiness in the face of climate threats including extreme heat, wildfires and pressure on resources such

as water and energy,” said Mayor Michael Davitt. “We combined these findings with community workshops to create a solid plan for integrating climate action into all levels of City governance, setting a precedent for future policies and investments for years to come.”


With a focus on sustainable practices, the CAAP emphasizes energy efficiency, the reduction

of fossil fuel reliance and adaptation measures to safeguard the community against climate impacts. The City’s efforts also involve close collaboration with residents and local organizations to drive meaningful change. By 2040, the plan seeks to reduce vehicle miles traveled through the adoption of electric vehicles to reduce combustion engine VMT by 25%, further enhancing

the community’s resilience to environmental challenges.

The City will continue working with stakeholders, leveraging public-private partnerships and championing initiatives to support the community’s overall environmental health.

For more information on the 2024 Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and ways to get involved, visit LCF.ca.gov/climateaction.



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HOCHMAN from Cover

Hochman said. “We have sent this warning and I’ll say it again ... the question is not if but when you will be arrested; you will then be prosecuted and then you will be punished to the full extent of the law.”

In a statement released from Hochman’s office on Jan. 17, it was announced that the LA County District Attorney’s office had filed charges against “nine additional individuals in connection with nine alleged crimes committed during LA County’s devastating wildfires.”

The individuals were charged on a variety of alleged crimes including felony arson, felony possession of ammunition by a felon, felony looting during mandatory evacuations and misdemeanor impersonation of a firefighter. These crimes occurred in cities including South Gate, Brentwood, Hawthorne, Huntington Park, Compton, Santa Monica and Malibu.

Hochman said if these individuals are found guilty they will be looking at anywhere from six to nine years in prison. And there are some who could face 22 years of prison or even a life sentence.

“These are very significant punishments,” he said. “Justice will be swift. Justice will be significant if you want to take advantage of this tragedy.”

He added two charges of arson were filed as well for a person who set bushes on fire in the City of Industry. That individual allegedly set a pallet and the back of a trailer on fire. Another individual was charged with arson in Irwindale under the I-605 underpass.

Hochman’s office is responding to “numerous allegations” of looting and price gouging.

Some rents have increased well over 100%. There is one report of a house’s rent that went from \$14,000 a month to \$28,000 a month. The Venice area has reported rental

hikes up to 60% and throughout LA County rental companies and individuals are taking advantage of those displaced by the fire. Not only are the costs of rent rising, but requirements of two months’ rent or more are being asked.

“The price gouging is particularly despicable because these are people who are basically looking at this situation and saying, ‘How can I make the most money from people who are desperately seeking housing supplies?’ They’re seeking services because they’ve lost everything. They’ve lost their homes,” Hochman said. “I will tell you that with respect to this price gouging ... we have seen people increase their prices for rooms they are renting, for houses they are leasing [by] 100-200%. Here’s again my warning ... If you’re one of those people who have engaged in price gouging, not only do you need to stop it immediately I would strongly recommend that you go

back and fix it.”

He told those who are gouging to refund any funds they have overcharged people.

For those who do offer refunds, he said, “We will certainly take that into consideration in deciding whether or not to charge you. So it’s your choice. If you want to actually abide by the law, you could benefit from it right this second; but if we go ahead and find out that you’ve engaged in price gouging and you’ve taken no steps to remedy the violation that you have basically enacted we will go ahead and prosecute you to the full extent of the law.”

Hochman added that those who price gouge will be subject to criminal and civil penalties.

“And as importantly your name will get out there. Your company’s name will get out there and you will be publicly shamed,” he said. “I want to make it crystal clear: stop it right now.”

“Price gouging during a declared emergency is a serious offense, prohibited under California Price Gouging Law (Penal Code 396). The law forbids businesses from raising prices on essential goods and services, including hotel rooms, rental housing and emergency supplies, by more than 10% during an emergency,” according to LA County Dept. of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA).

“Los Angeles County residents should not have to be burdened with price hikes by unscrupulous businesses when they are already dealing with the disruption and stress of life-threatening emergencies,” said Rafael Carbajal, DCBA director. “We stand ready to investigate reports of price gouging and to hold violators accountable.”

Anyone who discovers price gouging can report it online at stoppricegouging.dcba.lacounty.gov or by phone at (800) 593-8222.

VYMA from Cover

Chilingarian’s own background in music was not quite so flexible. After emigrating from Egypt to a USSR-controlled Armenia still reeling from genocide, Chilingarian’s mother gave up her pianist dreams to support her family. Chilingarian hoped to follow in his mother’s footsteps but his government-controlled primary school required extensive testing to qualify for music teaching and resources. The testers decided he would play violin due to his having a long pinky, regardless of his desire to play the piano. His mother acquiesced, believing the school knew best. Now Chilingarian’s children play in VYMA the instruments they choose. He

considers it “a dream come true that my own kids benefited from something I established,” back before Chilingarian was even married.

During his time with VYMA, Chilingarian reports seeing shy students open up and enjoying the process of music creation. The orchestra has grown as a collective as students build both their IQ by engaging their senses and analytical abilities and their EQ, or emotional quotient, by participating creatively in a community where they belong regardless of race, financial background or ability level.

In 2009, he began the VYMA music project at Longfellow

Elementary school, a Title One school, ensuring free instruments and instruction to 100 Longfellow Elementary students. The program resulted in both blossoming talent and confidence in the children ... and many successful performances.

During his free time, Chilingarian’s own performances with the Elixir Piano Trio allow students of VYMA to see professionals put into action what the children are learning. The trio consists of Chilingarian, teacher and award winning pianist Lucy Nargizyan, who works closely with VYMA as both an accompanist pianist and is Chilingarian’s wife, and Fang Fang Xu, LA Philharmonic and LA Chamber Orchestra cellist. The three perform across Europe, Mexico and the United States. The Elixir Trio will play at Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Ojai on Jan. 26 at 3 p.m.

Chilingarian hopes children and parents will take a chance on VYMA. He believes the best way to understand the orchestra is to experience it for oneself.

“You can only see the full picture when you see the starting point and the finished work,” he said.

For professional violinist and composer Abby Abdel-Khalek, VYMA was her starting point. She began to play the violin at just 5 years of age. During her time with the orchestra, VYMA partnered with the LA Philharmonic to offer students a chance to perform at the Hollywood Bowl. She credits this inspiring experience with jump-starting her career. Over the years, VYMA has also offered students the chance to play in places such as Disney Hall and Thorne Hall.

In spite of her busy schedule playing scores for film and TV such as “Star Trek: Picard” and BBC’s “Planet Earth II,” composing for film festivals such as the Cairo International Film Festival and Marrakech Film Festival and collaborating with organizations such as the Human Rights Watch, Abdel-Khalek gives back by coaching for VYMA. The orchestra’s

little girls especially find Abdel-Khalek a mentor worth looking up to. During her time working professionally, she has learned to be disciplined— but not too hard on herself — and that it is about the journey, not the destination.

“You know all those cliché sayings?” Abdel-Khalek joked. “Unfortunately I found out those are true.”

She said she passes these lessons on to her students.

Sandra “Sandi” Holden started out as a parent watching her children perform in VYMA. After seeing VYMA’s impact, she joined the program’s staff and is now the communications director. She is a music educator and composer as well and believes in the importance of exposing children to whatever instrument will stick. This skill set allows her to stand in for VYMA coaches when necessary.

Learning piano as a child, Holden saw that the teachers with the most impact were not the ones who insisted on only one way to learn, but the ones who helped her discover breakthroughs — a mindset she feels Chilingarian embodies as a parent, friend and maestro who “doesn’t let anybody slide but also doesn’t intimidate.”

Holden’s son found his identity in VYMA. Strong-willed and rebellious, her son tested out of high school to protest the students who “fell through the cracks” and began college at 16. Holden feared that her son’s unorthodox approach to life may lead him into trouble, but VYMA allowed him to find his passion and keep community with his peers. He found his own identity, separate from expectations.

“Usually the classical world doesn’t go with the skater world [which her son belongs to] but it did for my son,” Holden added.

VYMA’s focus on community and rejection of elitism gave her son a place that affirmed his beliefs and taught responsibility. Now 25, her son is equally skilled with the Timpani drum and a skateboard.

“This is the most wonderful setting for any young musician,” Holden said. “Please try us out. We look forward to whatever you play at whatever skill level. What I say

is true!”

VYMA parent and music education doctoral student Angela Chong was shocked by the growth she saw in her daughter. Chilingarian presented difficult music, such as Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony, as a challenge to rise up to rather than meeting intimidating expectations. Empowered by this mindset, Chong’s daughter mastered the pieces Chong had not previously realized her child was capable of. She said she never encountered an orchestra where so much individual attention was given adding that if she had been taught by someone like Chilingarian, she may not have such anxiety surrounding performing with her own violin.

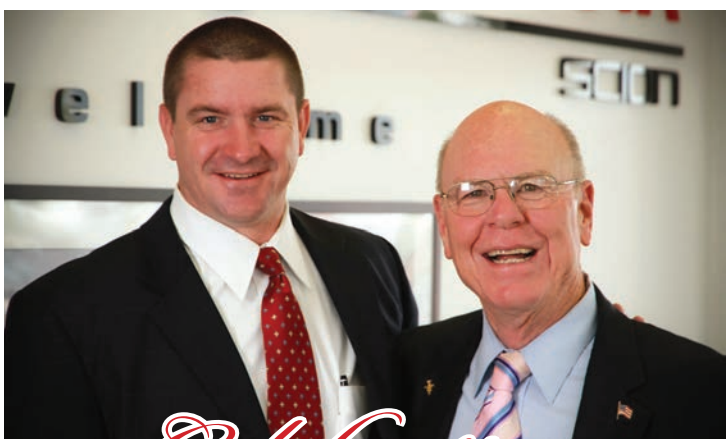
Chong noted that pushing students to do things they are not ready for may yield results but can make students resent music, while meeting a child where they are emotionally and showing they are more skilled than they think in the long run will be much more effective.

Chong’s research analyzes the backgrounds of families involved in music, looking at what parents have in common that encourage their children’s musical aspirations. With VYMA’s students hailing from many different backgrounds, Chong has so far found that her fellow families have more in common than not.

COVID and the Eaton Fire have been difficult on the community and VYMA has again experienced the difficult switch from online to in-person. Due to fires, VYMA moved the placement audition date to Feb. 14.

VYMA is committed to ensuring students of any financial background have the chance to play music and offer partial and full scholarships for those struggling. The orchestra will ensure students who have lost instruments in the fires are still able to participate, continuing VYMA’s record of providing necessary resources. The orchestra accepts students from Arcadia, La Crescenta, Los Angeles and all surrounding areas. The spring performance will be on May 17 at John Muir High School.

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Project UFO Lands in Tujunga

Recently I was sent two newspaper clippings with brief mentions of filming being done in Tujunga for the television show “Project UFO” in 1978. The program featured Air Force investigators charged with examining UFO sightings and the show aired on NBC for two seasons.

The initial filming was during the first week of February 1978. Just months prior in 1977 a UFO sighting had occurred in Council Bluffs, Iowa and the newspaper clipping included a photo of the Tujunga Canyon Boulevard street sign being covered over with a Council Bluffs sign.

The scene was filmed in the parking lot of Commerce Pharmacy on the southeast corner of Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and Commerce Avenue. What’s interesting about that is the Commerce Pharmacy building

was torn down many years ago. I had never seen the structure until watching this show. The address appears in phone books in the early 1950s, and Commerce Pharmacy arrives in 1975 and continues through 1984.

The episode, called “The Medicine Bow Incident,” aired on March 26, 1978. Tujunga played the role of Medicine Bow, Wyoming where the investigators interrogate a man about his claims of sighting a UFO. In addition to the pharmacy, several other buildings are shown and it’s quite entertaining to see what Tujunga looked like nearly 50 years ago.

Just months later, the second filming took place during the first week of September 1978. In this instance the newspaper clipping displayed a film crew just outside of what today is the Modest Fly Art Studio at 10055 Commerce

Ave. and included complaints about the parking difficulties the day of the filming.

With this second episode, called “The Superstitious Mountain Incident” that aired on Dec. 7, 1978, there were a few pleasant surprises, the least of which was the guest appearance of Dr. Joyce Brothers acting her heart out on Commerce Avenue. More special was the appearance of two local historic stars, Bolton Hall Museum and Nicholson’s Market.

The Air Force investigators lean against the southern stone pillar out in front of Bolton Hall while observing a young couple across the street. What makes this more interesting is that Bolton Hall was boarded up at this time. It was nearing the end of some 20 years of dormancy after being closed down as a city services building in 1959. It would be another two years before it would

be dedicated as a history museum on Dec. 6, 1980.

It was quite exciting to discover the appearance of Nicholson’s Market in the program as that again was something I had never seen. Nicholson’s Market was one of the earliest stores in Tujunga. It was first opened in the mid ’20s by its proprietor, William Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson and his wife Mary operated their little store at 10227 Commerce Ave. for nearly 25 years until William’s passing in 1948. The store continued to operate under different names and when “Project UFO” arrived in 1978 it was Roy’s Market. For the filming, the name was changed to Pawlings General Store, and today it’s simply a residence.

The side story about Mr. Nicholson is that the man could whittle. I’m not talking the sharpening of sticks – I’m talking incredible, amazing whittling.

Mary passed away in March 1945 and William followed in July 1948. Many years later, Bolton Hall Museum received a phone call: “Would you like this box of whittled items that we’ve found in storage at the market?” Fortunately, the box was accepted. You can still visit the museum and observe many of these impressive carved wooden items for yourself.

With some effort it’s possible to locate and watch these clips online but to see them on the big screen along with further commentary come join me at Bolton Hall Museum on April 12 at 1 p.m. for my presentation “Foothill Connections to Old Los Angeles.” Numerous interesting topics will be explored.

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 THE LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS » KATHRYN BARGER

Barger and Horvath Seek Evaluation of Emergency Notifications During Eaton and Palisades Wildfires

In the wake of this month’s devastating Eaton and Palisades wildfires, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger and coauthor Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath successfully introduced a motion calling for an independent after-action review of the emergency notification systems used to alert residents of evacuation orders.

The motion seeks to assess the County’s emergency evacuation policies and notification systems used during the Eaton and Palisades fires, which tragically claimed 27 lives and destroyed more than 15,000 structures.

“The January 2025 fires, fueled by severe windstorms, mark one of the most destructive disasters in Los Angeles County’s history,” said Chair Kathryn Barger. “While I deeply appreciate the heroic efforts of our first responders, we owe it to our communities to assess and review our emergency notification systems. Our Board is committed to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement in the face of increasingly severe natural disasters. This independent assessment will also ensure we are better prepared for future disasters and can act swiftly to protect lives and property.”



“Chair Barger and I stand united in calling for a comprehensive after-action report on the response to this month’s devastating wildfires,” said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath. “Our communities affected by the

Palisades, Eaton and all other fires deserve a transparent and full accounting of everything that occurred. Los Angeles County is committed to understanding every aspect of these events to ensure

we are continually improving our emergency management practices and better protecting our residents.”

The motion, which will be voted upon by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting next Tuesday, directs County counsel, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Sheriff’s Department, and Office of Emergency Management, to engage an independent consultant to conduct a thorough review of the evacuation policies and emergency alert systems employed during the disaster.

The consultant will deliver a progress report to the Board within 90 days and subsequent updates every 90 days until the review is complete. A copy of the motion is available at <https://tinyurl.com/mrcnmyw>.

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Community Organizations Step Up to Help Wildfire Victims



Photos by Ruth SOWBY

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

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

A concert for children of all ages

Sunday, February 2 at 2 p.m.
Pre-concert lecture at 1:30 p.m.

The CONDUCTOR'S SPELLBOOK
LCPC Orchestra

Free Admission

In-person and broadcast live at live.lacanadapc.org

STORY and MUSIC by **PAUL DOOLEY**
ILLUSTRATIONS by **TANNER PORTER**

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

By Ruth SOWBY

Since the start of the fires, the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge has been turned into a Fire Relief Distribution Center. According to Ceramics Studio coordinator Loren Barker, the Distribution Center's goal has been "to help anyone affected by the fires." Those affected have been welcomed to "get what you need." Donated food, water, toiletries, first aid supplies, children and baby supplies and pet food filled tables and chairs. In fact, any flat surface available, inside and outside, was covered with products to give away.

Last weekend Pasadena resident Josselyn Ramirez stopped by the Center. She said she evacuated after the warning. She was safe but her "apartment burned down." Ramirez picked out a big box of diapers for her 18-month-old son, Benjamin. Currently, she and her family are living at her mother's residence in the San Fernando Valley.

La Crescenta resident Beverly Halter has volunteered at the Distribution Center for two days. A member of the La Crescenta Woman's Club, she said that the Club is open for those needing help filling out insurance paperwork, among other things. Provided is workspace and WiFi, emotional

support and resources, activities for children, and coffee and snacks. Halter said Club volunteers may be available for as long as three months.

Anything not distributed by Sunday, Jan. 19 has been loaded up and taken to other community help organizations and local churches.

Other local distribution centers include the La Crescenta Library, which provides free N95 masks. The Pasadena City College Community Education Center

provides, among other resources, free emergency childcare on the PCC campus.

On Sunday, Jan. 26 there will be a free pop up store open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for La Cañada Unified School District students, ages 5-17, who have been directly affected by the fires. Free hot dogs and drinks will also be provided. The pop up store will be at the Foley Home at 1023 Oxford Way in La Cañada Flintridge.

Uber is offering free services. For a free Uber ride up to \$40, use promo code WILDFIRE25 in the wallet section of the Uber app.

TOP LEFT: The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge turned into a Fire Relief Distribution Center and welcomed donations. Donor and La Crescenta resident Sonya Goodwin, left, is joined by her daughter Heather Angeline who is also a La Crescenta resident, and volunteer Hilda Linn.

MIDDLE: At the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge, Josselyn Ramirez finds diapers and clothes for her 18-month-old son. Her Pasadena apartment burned down in the Eaton Fire.

TOP RIGHT: Community Center of LCF Ceramics Studio coordinator Loren Barker looks over the pet supplies table. Dog food was a popular donation.

LEFT: At the Community Center of LCF, La Cañada resident Lyn Slotky had a tough Saturday of volunteering. She takes a short break from her duties.

BELOW: The Community Center loaded up its extra donated clothing and supplies for other local community help organizations.



Knights of Columbus Host Free Pancake Breakfast at Holy Redeemer

By Ruth SOWBY

Holy Redeemer Church in Montrose welcomed several dozen church and community members for free pancakes and pineapples. On Sunday, Healy Hall was crowded as hungry parishioners lined up for breakfast after church services. A couple of buckets were available to accept donations. Proceeds will go to the Knights of Columbus to help wildfire victims.

Knight of Columbus member Scott Frost was handy at the skillet turning out pancake after pancake ... after pancake. Co-chef and Deputy Grand Knight Daniel Van Slyke was in charge of the scrambled eggs. The pancake breakfast is usually held at the church once a month. This additional breakfast took the place of the canceled quarterly bingo game planned for the night before. Church leaders thought the wildfires might discourage people from turning out that night. Though Montrose residents Ruth Lyons and Mimi Mask enjoy church bingo they said pancakes were a great substitute.

Church member Andrea Banuelos tries to never miss a pancake breakfast. She was one of the first to line up for a big helping. Also a church member, wheel chair bound Emile Stolle was served the last two pancakes of the morning.

On June 14 there will be a special



Photos by Ruth SOWBY
TOP LEFT: Knights of Columbus member Scott Frost (left) is pancake chef for the Holy Redeemer breakfast. Deputy Grand Knight Daniel Van Slyke takes over the scrambled eggs.
TOP RIGHT: Church member Andrea Banuelos is one of the first in line for pancakes at Holy Redeemer Church on Sunday.
LEFT: The Knights of Columbus hosted a pancake breakfast at Holy Redeemer Church in Montrose. Healy Hall began to fill up as church members chow down after Mass.

church bingo game to raise funds for a large, solar-powered crate on church grounds to store stretchers, gurneys and other equipment to be used in

emergencies, such as fires. At the bingo game, there will also be an opportunity to join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

People Making News

Daniel Wood Corella of Tujunga has been named to the fall 2024 President's List for Southern New Hampshire University. The fall term runs from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President'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.

Southern New Hampshire University is a private, non-profit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire.

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

Carlson was a candidate for AB journalism.

For additional details and a complete 2024 commencement schedule, visit UGA's commencement website, commencement.uga.edu.

Bucknell University has released the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Those earning a spot on the

Dean's List include: Aleksandr Davtyan, Class of 2025, majoring in neuroscience and Jackson Greninger, Class of 2027, majoring in computer science & engineering, both from Glendale; Hanan Phillips, Class of 2026, majoring in economics, from La Cañada Flintridge; Sara Cooperson, Class of 2027, undeclared management,

from La Crescenta.

James Cartnal of La Crescenta excelled during the fall 2024 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List. James's major is sports media.

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality

education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

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Share your **BUSINESS CONCERNS**, learn about new laws that may affect your **BUSINESS** and network with other **entrepreneurs.**

St. Luke's of the Mountains, a CV Chamber member

Sadler Hall, 2563 Foothill Blvd. **JAN 30**
6 p m

Parking on the street or in the parking lot accessed via Cross Street east of Rosemont Avenue.

Sponsored and hosted by the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce

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

Hybrid DocTalks

Recognizing Heart Disease

Thursday, February 6th 12-1 p.m.

To Register: We will have box lunches for takeaway at the end of the talk for our in-person attendees. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the talk will begin promptly at 12 p.m. Reservations for takeaway box lunches are required 48 hours in advance.

To register, please call (818) 952-2228, scan the QR code or visit uscvh.org/doc-talks

Location: USC Verdugo Hills Hospital 4th Floor Council Rooms A & B (enter from hospital main entrance) 1812 Verdugo Blvd. Glendale, CA 91208 **FREE PARKING**

Dr. Vicken Zeitjian
Dr. Vicken Zeitjian is board-certified in interventional cardiology, cardiovascular disease and internal medicine. He also has expertise in cardiovascular diagnostics and treatment modalities and specializes in the treatment of coronary artery disease and peripheral vascular disease via catheter-based approaches.

For updates and announcements, follow us on:
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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Theme Park Preview for SoCal – Spring 2025



By Charly SHELTON

As 2025 unfolds, Southern California's theme parks are gearing up to offer a vibrant array of events that promises to delight visitors of all ages. From culinary festivals to cultural celebrations, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

At Universal Studios Hollywood, the much-anticipated Butterbeer Season from March 1 - May 31 is set to enchant fans once again. While specific offerings are yet to be announced, this event typically accentuates the Butterbeer

favorites found only in Wizarding World, offering guests the chance to savor seasonal variations of the iconic drink. Beyond that, Universal Fan Fest Nights are on the horizon, promising exclusive after-hours access to the park with themed entertainment and unique experiences tailored for the most dedicated fans. This will be a series of separately ticketed nighttime events with themes ranging from Star Trek to Dungeons & Dragons to Back to the Future. It will run select nights from April 25 - May 18.

Over at Knott's Berry Farm, the Peanuts Celebration is slated

to return on weekends from Feb 8 - March 9, bringing the beloved characters of Charles Schulz to life through interactive shows, character meet-and-greets and themed attractions that celebrate the humor and heart of the Peanuts gang. Following this, the Boysenberry Festival will take center stage from March 28 - April 27, inviting guests to indulge in a plethora of boysenberry-inspired dishes, drinks, and desserts, showcasing the park's rich agricultural heritage.

Disneyland Resort is also preparing a lineup of festive events. The Lunar New Year celebration at

Disney California Adventure Park is on now, honoring the traditions of Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese cultures with multicultural performances, special merchandise and delectable Asian cuisine. This runs through Feb 16. Then from Feb 28 - April 21, the Food & Wine Festival will commence, offering a culinary journey through California's diverse food landscape with gourmet dishes, wine pairings and live cooking demonstrations by renowned chefs.

These events not only provide entertainment but also offer immersive experiences that

Photos by Charly SHELTON
LEFT: At Knott's Berry Farm, the Peanuts Celebration is slated to return on weekends from Feb 8 - March 9.
RIGHT: The Lunar New Year celebration at Disney California Adventure Park continues through Feb. 16.

celebrate cultural diversity and culinary artistry. As additional details are announced, it's advisable to check the official websites of each theme park to plan a visit accordingly. Whether a local or planning a trip to Southern California, 2025 promises a calendar full of engaging events that cater to a wide range of interests and tastes.

LCPC Free Concert: "The Conductor's Spellbook"

For those who ever wondered how the diverse instruments in the orchestra produced their unique sounds or wanted to know which musical instruments play faster or slower, higher or lower or who wanted to conduct a classical orchestra, the LCPC orchestra at La Cañada Presbyterian Church will attempt to answer those questions on Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. As part of its Ovations Art Series, LCPC will

introduce the fundamentals of the orchestra at its next free concert "The Conductor's Spellbook." This concert is for children and adults who want to know more about how a musical orchestra works. The narrator and conductor review major concepts including the science of sound, vibration, frequency and musical moods based on dynamics and tempo, as well as instrument families, mechanics, ranges and

even some "special powers!" LCPC's director of Music & Worship Arts, Jack Lantz, explained: "The Conductor's Spellbook" tells the magical story of Tony Stradivarius. During a field trip to the symphony, young Tony finds a powerful book of spells and uses it to control the orchestra. Narrated by Kathy Purdy, "The Conductor's Spellbook" is an exciting and interactive concert experience

that introduces audiences to music, orchestra instruments and even conducting. The work includes extensive musical special effects and is perfect for a family concert for parents and children of all ages." The concert will be held in the LCPC sanctuary at 626 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada. There is no charge for admission (freewill offering accepted). Prior to the concert, at 1:30 p.m. LCPC's

director of Music & Worship Arts, Jack Lantz, will introduce the instruments of the orchestra and explain how he will conduct the concert. After the concert, the audience will have an opportunity to meet the musicians and see the instruments up close. For further information, call the church office at (818) 790-6708 or visit lacaadapc.org.

THEN & NOW



THEN: The community donated cash and labor to build this church in 1897. In a complex side story, this also solved the legendary "dance war" in La Cañada. Before this church was built, dances were being held in the schoolhouse on Saturday night and church services in the same schoolhouse on Sunday, which really ticked off the church-goers who considered dancing sinful. This created a huge conflict in early La Cañada, but was resolved when the church services moved into this beautiful new structure at the intersection of Michigan Avenue (now Foothill Boulevard) and Verdugo.

Church of the Lighted Window Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



NOW: This current structure was built in 1924 on the same site as the original. In 1925 a dramatic back-lit stained glass was installed in the front of the church. California's State poet laureate John Steven McGroarty immortalized the church in a poem as the Church of the Lighted Window, and the community has informally called it that ever since then. In 1969, the church was declared a California State Historic Landmark.

JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. 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 February.

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.

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 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.

org/los-angeles/. Admission to the dance performance will be also 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.

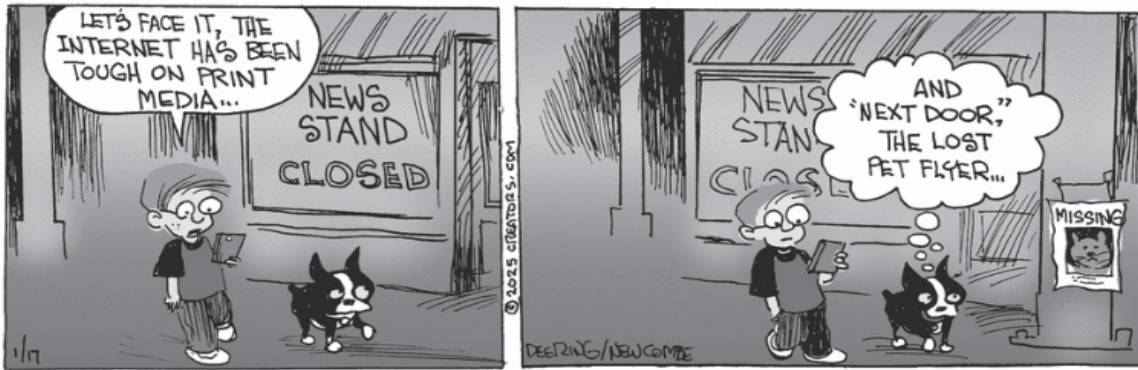
Online ticketing is available at <https://www.elportaltheatre.com/fritzcoleman.html>.

PARROTS IN THE CRESCENTA VALLEY

Look to the skies any afternoon in our Crescenta Valley hillside communities and most likely flocks of brightly colored, squawking birds will be seen overhead. These parrots are not "native" birds but they have been part of the lives of locals for the past 20 years.

see CALENDAR THIS on next page

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



1.23.25

ACROSS

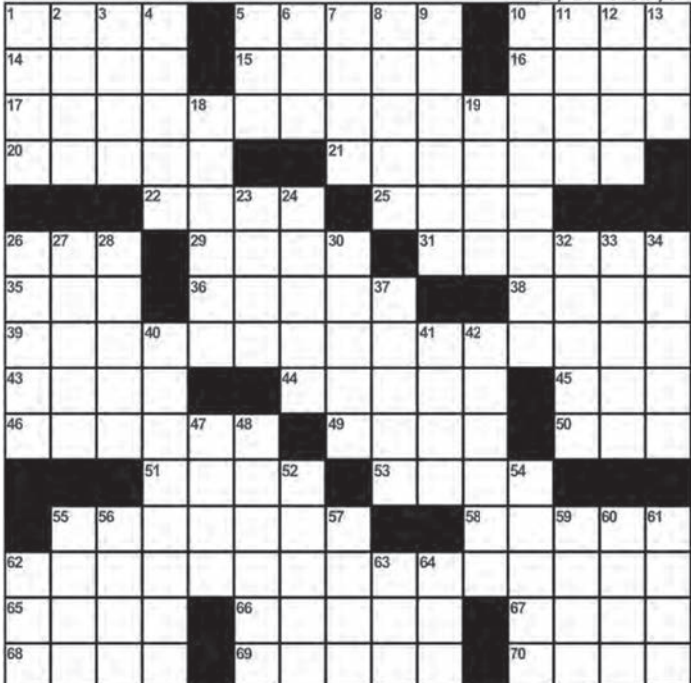
- 1) Closure for loose clothing
- 5) Movie theater yell
- 10) Coin hole
- 14) Eye lasciviously
- 15) Make up for, as sins
- 16) Well-drawn character?
- 17) Traveling at 186,500 miles per second
- 20) Add bells and whistles
- 21) Baltimore's nine
- 22) Celestial spheres
- 25) Show gloominess
- 26) ___ about (wander)
- 29) Japanese aborigine
- 31) Make a second account
- 35) Bobby, Bruins' #4
- 36) ___ for the mill
- 38) ___ weight (precious metal measurement)
- 39) How actions speak?
- 43) Abu Dhabi dignitary
- 44) Art photo shade
- 45) This may be inflated
- 46) Titles for chairwomen
- 49) Lunar valley
- 50) ___ Monte (food giant)
- 51) Stake-driving hammer
- 53) ___ on (put trust in)
- 55) Tilted
- 58) Like porridge or granola
- 62) Tooth-cleaning product's claim
- 65) Fifties audiophile's purchase
- 66) A fine playing marble
- 67) Heavy burden
- 68) Oil cartel letters
- 69) Did a cobbler's job
- 70) Big name in elevators

DOWN

- 1) Place for lost change
- 2) "By gosh!"
- 3) As well
- 4) The first "M" in M-G-M
- 5) "A Bridge Too ___"
- 6) Giant legend "Master Melvin"
- 7) Silver salmon
- 8) Divest of munitions
- 9) Fourth-year student
- 10) Small dagger
- 11) Opera house box
- 12) ___ and aahs
- 13) Dangerous stick
- 18) Make enemies of
- 19) Carefree gait
- 23) Whirring sound
- 24) Peevish states
- 26) Automaton of Jewish legend
- 27) It lures people to the kitchen
- 28) Tree worshiper
- 30) Poe's doomed house
- 32) Went the wrong way
- 33) Skier's quarters
- 34) Household antiseptic brand
- 37) Fleshy-snouted beast
- 40) Striking in appearance
- 41) Shade of green
- 42) Rejoice in
- 47) Long, heavy hair
- 48) Buddhist sermons
- 52) Set free
- 54) Web company
- 55) Liner or tanker
- 56) Term for some judges
- 57) Indian dish made with stewed legumes (var.)
- 59) Add a little color to
- 60) Vanity case for milady
- 61) Costner role
- 62) One of the five W's
- 63) Donned the feedbag
- 64) "Waking ___ Devine" (1998 film)

SMARTER THAN NOT

By Luke Cayton



ANSWERS on page 16

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com

January 20, 2025 - January 26, 2025

ARIES March 21 - April 19

You seem to be enjoying the effects that exercise has on you. The ability to channel some of your excess energy into working out is giving you great satisfaction. You're combining looking good with the opportunity to become more fit and healthy day by day. If it's working for you, don't stop now.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

You want to shine, and maintaining great health is one way to do it. You seem particularly suited to forms of exercise that involve flexibility. You may have a tendency toward stiffness, especially in the arms and legs. Think about taking up fencing, dancing, or swimming as a way to keep fit. The more you do, the better you'll feel.

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

The cosmos is encouraging you to assess your overall well-being. Ask what really nurtures you. What makes you feel good inside? Sometimes the things you think are good for you are in actuality harmful, whereas some of the things you dislike can be beneficial. It's time to check your diet and create one that benefits you on all levels.

CANCER June 21 - July 22

This might be a good week to join a group associated with any health issues you may have. You'll be able to get help and support from others who have been through similar experiences. If you have a particular fondness for a certain type of exercise or sport, try joining a community for that, too. You'll learn all kinds of useful tips.

LEO July 23 - August 22

This might be a good week to join a group associated with any health issues you may have. You'll be able to get help and support from others who have been through similar experiences. If you have a particular fondness for a certain type of exercise or sport, try joining a community for that, too. You'll learn all kinds of useful tips.

VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

You and your partner are going to enjoy working out together. If you just started dating, it will be even more fun. Romance will add a glow, making you even more attractive. Too much socializing may make you tired, so drink plenty of water and get enough sleep. Take extra vitamins

and minerals to boost your immune system, too.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You're running on your nerves now. Take time to relax and try to calm your brain. If you're always two steps ahead of yourself, you may get tense. That could bring on headaches or muscle strain. It would help to get a massage, especially with essential oils as part of the treatment.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You get the chance to understand firsthand how your thoughts affect the way you feel. You'll notice the difference in your energy if you've been having a bad day and cursing everyone as opposed to a good day when you're in love with the world. Your inner state has a major impact on your health.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Don't let moodiness keep you from exercising regularly. You may sabotage your efforts to stay in shape just as you're about to reach a goal. Perhaps deep down there's a conflict of interest, although it certainly won't appear that way on the surface. If you need a personal trainer to help sort this out, find one. It will be worth it.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

If certain health issues aren't resolving in the way you'd hoped, you might respond better to vibrational medicine. Your body attunes to subtle energies. If you wish to experiment with alternative treatments, such as spiritual healing, this may prove to be the deciding factor. Listen to your heart and do what feels best to you.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Don't let relationships get to you so much that they begin to affect your health. You could feel it mentally and physically if a new partner ditches you or if your dates aren't perfect. Relax. Stay cool no matter what happens. You'll feel more energized if you can take it all in stride.

PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

Don't let your partner nudge you into bad health habits. He or she may have a tendency to derail your efforts, which could be bad news if you've tried to stay on the straight and narrow. You aren't one to give up on your dreams, so don't do it now. Decide that you're going to be fit, healthy, and full of energy, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Hey Sears, where's the refund for the Master Protection on my washer?

When Danny Gardner cancels his Sears Master Protection, a representative tells him to be patient and that the bank is slow to process refunds. But it's been four months.

Question: I'm trying to get a refund from Sears Master Protection and I'm hoping you can help. I canceled two Master Protection Agreements recently. The same clerk processed both cancellations.

I received a refund for the first cancellation, which was for my dryer, two days later. But I never received the \$89 back for the Master Protection on my washer.

I have spoken to various clerks and no supervisor would take responsibility for processing the second refund. Sears has transcripts for every external telephone call from us. They also have written internal chats with the finance department that prove the clerks never processed the second refund correctly.

Sears has told me "the bank is slow" and I should keep waiting. But it's been four months. Can you help?

— Danny Gardner, Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Answer: Sears should have processed both of your refunds at the same time. I don't think "the bank is slow" is a valid excuse when an employee handled the refunds at the same time. It's far more likely someone at Sears made a clerical error and that your refund was missing in action.

That said, it appears Sears was trying to refund the Master Protection fee to your credit card, which you had used to purchase the warranty. Sears' policy is in line with most

other businesses – it always processes the refund back to the original form of payment.

The paper trail between you and Sears (and indeed, between me and Sears) shows that it made a good faith effort to refund the Master Protection for your washer. But the money never appeared on your statement.

When that happens, the back and forth with the customer service department is minimally helpful. You need to get the attention of someone higher up. I recommend appealing to one of the Sears customer service managers I list on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org.

I think it's a poor excuse when a company blames the bank for a slow refund. But clearly something happened between Sears and your

bank and it's hard to know who was to blame.

I contacted Sears on your behalf. The company decided to try an alternate form of payment for your refund – an old-fashioned paper check.

"The check from my Sears reimbursement arrived yesterday," you reported. "I have deposited the \$85 online and it has cleared my bank. Thank you very much for all of your attention to this matter. Blessings to you."

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

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CALENDAR THIS from previous page

Where did they come from? Where are they going? How have they changed genetically to adapt to their new urban habitat?

All are invited to Bolton Hall Museum at 1 p.m. on Feb. 8 to get the answers from the guest speaker for this 2nd Saturday program, Brenda Ramirez. Ramirez is a researcher working on LA's Free Flying Parrot Project at Occidental College's Moore Laboratory of Zoology.

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

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

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

CANASTA IS CALLING

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

BACK TO SCHOOL EXHIBITION AT BOLTON HALL MUSEUM

Bolton Hall Museum is

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

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.

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 15

1	S	E	A	M	5	F	O	C	U	S	10	S	L	O	T			
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68	O	P	E	C	69	S	O	L	E	D	70	O	T	I	S			

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NOTES & NODS

LCIF WELCOMES COMMUNITY

Lutheran Church in the Foothills (LCIF) is mobilizing efforts to help victims of the Los Angeles County fires. LCIF, as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is working with Lutheran Disaster Response to deliver aid to the affected communities in Southern California. LCIF has a link on its website where people can donate.

Gifts designated to U.S. Wildfires will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the wildfires. In addition, donations can be made by phone at (800) 638-3522. For those wanting to donate by check, donations can be mailed to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. People can also give in person during LCIF's regular Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

For more information, visit lcifoohills.org, email office@lcifoohills.org or call (818) 790-1951. The church is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd in La Cañada Flintridge. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE VERDUGO HILLS

UUCVH welcomes retired Disney executive Debbie DelMar on Jan. 26 at 10:30 a.m. "Blessings in Disguise: My Disney Story" will be the topic of DelMar's sermon. She'll reflect on her early Disney career as a Walt Disney Imagineer - how she received blessings but they were in disguise and did not reveal themselves until later.

UUCVH is located 4451 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. Visit the UUCVH website for the ZOOM link <https://www.uuverdugo.org/>.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNED FOR BELOVED REVEREND

A celebration of life is planned for Rev. Dr. Beverly Craig on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. at Center for Spiritual Living, 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. A light luncheon will follow the service.

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.

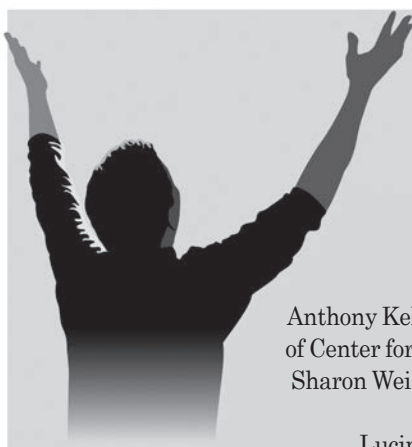
WALK AND WORD

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. 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 jlavieri@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.



SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Jon Karn of Light on the Corner Church; Rev. Kimberlie Zakarian of Holy House Ministries; Anthony Kelson RScP, Laney Clevenger-White, RScP, and Rev. Dr. Beverly Craig of Center for Spiritual Living-La Crescenta; Rabbi Janet Bieber, Carolyn Young, Sharon Weisman; Rev. Mary Morgan, Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta; Rev. Dabney Beck, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Lucinda Guarino, Rev. Karin Ellis, La Cañada United Methodist Church; Rev. Sherri James, UP Church; The Rev. C. L. "Skip" Lindeman, Upland Christian Church; Rev. Rob Holman, St. Luke's Anglican Church; Rev. Sharri Johnson, One Heart Retreat Center; Larry Maib Emeritus, Highlands Church La Crescenta; Rev. Valerie Reeves, Staff Minister, Redondo Beach Center for Spiritual Living

Responses are offered from the perspective of individual Spiritually Speaking respondents, which may or may not be in agreement with other respondents of Spiritually Speaking nor the editor and staff of the Crescenta Valley Weekly.

Reprinted from May 12, 2016

Question: *I was walking by my daughter's bedroom and overheard a conversation between her and a friend. The conversation was about sex and I distinctly heard her say, "This is the year I want to lose my virginity."*

I was shocked! She is 17 and just graduated from high school. Believe it or not, I was a virgin when I married, so premarital sex is totally out of my realm of understanding. I personally believe making love should be between two people who love each other and not just for the heck of it.

My question is, should I talk to her? I wasn't eavesdropping - I just happened to hear the conversation. And, if I talk to her, what do I say?

~ *Distraught Mom*

Dear Distraught Mom, I'm sorry you're confronted with this scary situation. Can I begin with some perspective framing observations?

1. It's late in the game for this conversation. Your daughter

has been bombarded with this for years. (Thank you, Beyonce, et al.) How could you not suspect this already anyway?

2. Thank God there's a difference between what we say and what we mean.

3. These days, there is comfort that this statement by your daughter happened at 17 instead of 13. Our culture so thoroughly bullies girls into becoming sexually active as early as possible.

4. Are you saying your husband was the first guy you ever loved?

Really? You were a virgin when you got married (thank God for that - let that be a joy to you forever). You said: "I personally believe making love should be between two people who love each other and not just for the heck of it." What if your daughter falls in love this year? Should she not make love? What if she loves him, like you said? If she loves him, doesn't that make it all right?

According to the standard you've given here, isn't she supposed to have sex at 17 then?

I say this because it's important to get this nailed

down in your thinking before you talk to your daughter about this, which you must. What do you truly believe about this? Didn't you have one standard for yourself back then and another for your daughter today?

It's been years since Tina Turner sang, "What's love got to do with it?" And Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young sang, "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with."

The sexual revolution is old now. We discovered it didn't work well. The popular music of our culture is a constant drumbeat to get girls to pull their pants down. Have you ever heard a hit song praising the virtue of waiting till marriage? Of course not. Yo never will. Virginity is mocked in America today. Is this what you want for your daughter?

So are you saying your daughter should do what you did and wait until she's married? I do. After years of listening to couples, I know three things:

1) Men and women are at their dumbest when dealing with each other.

2) The human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.

see SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING on page 19

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GCC from Cover

Councilmember Najarian raised questions about changing assumptions about city plans and initiatives.

“Are we still assuming that we’re going to get federal funds?” he asked for projects such as electrifying the Bee Line buses, for example.

Najarian additionally suggested reconsidering plans for bike lanes on La Crescenta Avenue.

Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian noted that crises bring out the worst and the best in humanity. He commended local businesses for their support and generosity and urged residents to continue to report downed trees and limbs through the city’s “MyGlendale” app.

City Manager Roubik Golanian further commended the city’s response to the recent unprecedented wind and fire emergency, recognizing staff at the emergency operations center, first responders, frontline public works and utility workers,

and community services and parks employees at the evacuation center set up in Pacific Park. During the fires, www.GlendaleCA.gov saw 144,500 visits; 6,405 new enrollments in the city’s emergency alert system [bit.ly/EmergencyEnroll] (bringing the total number of enrollees to 14,202); a social media reach increase to 317,000 accounts per post; and an increase of 4,500 followers on the city’s social media platforms in three days.

Golanian detailed the ongoing work: City crews are systematically working block-by-block to clear fallen limbs, brush and debris. Residents and businesses can call (818) 548-3950 for these kinds of services. Power has been restored to all parts of the city and repairs are being made. Those with utility-related concerns can call (855) 550-4497. All Glendale fire stations are fully staffed. Call (818) 956-4800 with fire-related questions.

The Glendale Fire Foundation is fundraising to support Glendale city staff members who have lost their homes: <https://glendalefirefoundation.org/>.

Councilmember Kassakhian said he hopes to continue the conversation started last April regarding the need to upgrade fire facilities, starting with the station on Honolulu Avenue in Montrose.

“What happened in Altadena could just as easily have happened in our city,” he said.

Glendale Fire Department’s Deputy Chief of Operations Jeff Brooks responded to questions about the city’s efforts at brush clearance and fire mitigation.

“We have a very aggressive vegetation management program. More than 60% of Glendale is in a very high fire severity zone according to CAL FIRE’s mapping of fire threats.”

The city issues approximately 9,000 notices each year reminding

residents of their responsibilities for clearing brush within 100 feet of their homes; has applied for a \$700,000 grant to help with these efforts; works with the California Conservation Corps for annual projects; and has been utilizing goats for brush clearance across the city. Chief Brooks noted the concerns of smoke management in response to questions about “controlled burns,” but noted that the department is confident in the procedures and programs currently in place.

The council again delayed acting on plans for the Verdugo Wash pending further consideration of councilmembers’ conflicts of interest. In September of 2024, the council requested an opinion from the state Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). In December the FPPC opined that Councilmembers Gharpetian and Najarian have disqualifying conflicts while Councilmember Brotman does not.

Councilmember Najarian deemed the opinion a “disenfranchisement of the people of Glendale.”

Councilmember Gharpetian wants an in-person meeting with the FPPC to clarify issues they might not have understood reflecting on the Verdugo Wash project, which has projected costs in the billions of dollars.

Community Development director Bradley Calvert clarified that the Verdugo Wash project “is not a bicycle path.”

“This is a multi-use recreational trail with open space components, and it falls under recreation as allowed with the existing zoning,” Calvert said.

The action before the council on Tuesday was a professional services agreement for \$5.76 million with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MMVA), responsive to the RFP issued in 2024.

see GCC on page 19

WEATHER from page 2

Subsequently, the carbon continues to be moved between the different reservoirs of the global carbon cycle, such as soils, the deeper ocean and rocks. Some of these exchanges occur very slowly. Depending on the amount of CO2 released, between 15% and 40% will remain in the atmosphere for up to 2,000 years, after which a new balance is established between the atmosphere, the land biosphere and the ocean.

Geological processes will take anywhere from tens to hundreds of thousands of years – perhaps longer – to redistribute the carbon further among the geological reservoirs. Higher atmospheric CO2 concentrations, and associated climate impacts of present emissions, will, therefore, persist for a very long time into the future.

CO2 is a largely non-reactive gas, which is rapidly mixed throughout the entire troposphere in less than a year. Unlike reactive chemical compounds in the atmosphere that are removed and broken down by sink processes, such as methane, carbon is instead redistributed among the different reservoirs of the global carbon cycle and ultimately recycled back to the atmosphere on a multitude of time scales,” according to the Royal Meteorological Society.

We cannot just stop talking about it and the climate will be fine. This issue is not going away; 2024 saw a global surface temperature of 2.32 degrees F above the 20th century average. This ranks as the highest global temperature in the period from 1850 to 2024, beating the next warmest year, 2023, by 0.18 degrees, according to climate.gov.

Although exact temperatures vary with climate specialists, NOAA, the World Meteorological Organization and NASA confirm 2024 was the warmest year on record.

The bottom line is: Mother Earth does not give a flying fart in space (to quote Henry Dashwood, portrayed by Colin Firth, in “What a Girl Wants”) what political party we belong to; the Earth will just keep warming and we, our children, grandchildren and forever future generations, will continue to pay the price.

The Red Flag Warning has been extended to Friday at 10 a.m. due to possible high winds with gusts from 55 to 65 mph over high terrain [above 4,000 feet], according to Ariel Cohen, meteorologist in charge, NOAA at Oxnard.

Temperatures for today, Thursday, will be in the upper 70s; on Friday highs will be in the low 70s and then it cools down to the upper and mid 50s for Saturday through Tuesday.

Rain is expected Saturday through Sunday. There is a “possibility” of flooding in the wildfire areas.

“Rainfall could be anywhere from 1/10 of an inch to an inch,” Cohen said.

After the weekend there is no rain or Santa Anas expected for the following days.

ROBIN from page 2

Steve and I had a chance to drive through Altadena on Sunday and the devastation is indescribable. I saw cars and buildings that are burnt husks of their former selves while others have burned completely; all that’s left are piles of ash. Due to the caustic air quality it’s hard to determine when people who still have a house can go back not to mention those who lost everything – will they go back?

Imagining something similar happening here is unthinkable – and something I hope never happens.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 17

(This is in the Bible.) It lies to you about love. (Love whispers “Wait.” Hormones shout “Now!”)

3) Moses and Jesus say that a man will leave his father and mother, join his wife and then the two shall be one flesh. Notice the progression? Leave. Join her. Then become one.

This is what you did. This is God’s design. This is what gives a baby two parents, a family.

You better do better than just talking about love. Love her and tell her the truth. Tell her just how single-minded and focused men can be about ... Just. One. Thing. Ask her how she feels about STDs or being a single mother. Ask her how she feels about following her mom’s godly example. Ask her how she would feel about being able to give her young husband something she’s never given anyone before.

Our godless culture world preaches that we’re really just animals – mate and move on. God knows better. So do you. Tell her.

Rev. Jon Karn
Light on the Corner
Church Montrose

pastorjon@lightonthecorner.org

GCC from page 18

Councilmember Brotman hoped to move the project forward.

“It’s time for us to award the contract and start moving forward with the master plan,” he said adding, “but this is for sure not the last word.”

“It’s not any word,” Mayor Asatryan interjected. “This is just the study to determine if it’s feasible.”

Councilmember Kassakhian expressed concerns about “the fairness and equity of the individuals on this council who have been elected to serve.”

“I kind of want to see the study,” one of numerous speakers told the council.

“Are we going to build a bike path that no one wants?” another asked.

A professor from Glendale Community College told the council that he is “kind of embarrassed for my city tonight.”

“The question is whether to accept free money to study a problem and a potentially visionary park for this city,” the professor said. “To my mind, why wouldn’t we accept the money to get more information, more data, when that is exactly what we need?”

Another speaker noted that the “Verdugo Wash runs through the heart of Glendale and

yet the space is blocked off entirely. Selecting a consultant to conduct a technical feasibility study that is already funded by the state is the least you can do for your constituents like me who have been disappointed by your inability to consider us.”

Patrick Murphy spoke “on behalf of the Verdugo Wash Neighborhoods Coalition.”

He explained that the conflict rules provide that if 25% of the public is affected by a project no one is “conflicted out” and that recognizing the presumptive conflicts is a suppression of speech. He noted that his organization is against the project as proposed. The group’s website is: <https://savethewash.com/>.

Alan Durham indicated that his concerns are “based on climate change, which is bringing unprecedented weather extremes.”

“Glendale could easily experience a 100-year rain event at any time – we just experienced an unprecedented fire event,” Durham said. “The Verdugo Wash should remain exclusively a flood control channel to protect our community and prevent a future disaster. It seems unlikely that this project would ever get the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers and the flood control district.”

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

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