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VOL. 13, NO. 17

Risk Management Teams at the Ready

By Mary O'KEEFE

Some information on what led to a recent shooting on a Michigan high school campus has been released by that state's authorities. Although the investigation continues on who knew what when, it is worth looking at how Glendale Unified School District investigates, analyzes and responds to possible threats to its schools.

Due to the ongoing investigation of the Michigan school shooting, and that it occurred in another state under a different set of rules and guidelines, GUSD cannot comment specifically about how the district would handle this same situation; however, its representatives are able to speak in general terms of how it has approached possible threats.

GUSD has a threat assessment team that is activated anytime there are students who indicate they may self-harm or may harm others at the school, said Hagop Eulmesekian, director of Student Support Services at GUSD. The assessment team includes trained individuals like school psychologists and school resource officers, and sometimes a medical evaluation team member from the County of Los Angeles.

Students can show their negative, and at times dangerous, intent in a number of ways.

"Sometimes there is an online chat, a lot of times there are notes or messages that they leave [for someone to find]," Eulmesekian said. "We immediately bring the student in for threat assessment."

Students being evaluated can fall into one of three categories: either the team finds there is no risk, moderate risk or high risk. Regardless of risk level, the assessment team always contacts parents/guardians of an evaluated student. If it is found that a student is at high risk, that student is held on a psychological hold for at least 72 hours. In addition, the team speaks to the

see GUSD on page 8

Supervisor Barger Kicks Off Christmas Season Locally with Annual Tree Lighting

By Bethany BROWN

La Crescenta Library held its 7th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on Dec. 8. The public was not invited to the event, which was sponsored by LA County 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger. Barger had the honor of lighting the tree as limited guests and employees of the library gathered in the courtyard to celebrate.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in the County, there was no public ceremony as was held in years prior to the pandemic, but it was live-streamed on the La Crescenta Christmas Tree Lighting Facebook page for community residents to watch in real time.

Event coordinator and former Crescenta Valley Town Council President Robbyn Battles said she started the event seven years ago while she was serving on the Town Council because she wanted La Crescenta to have something festive to look forward to each holiday season.

"The intent is just to bring some joy to the community," Battles said. "Christmas trees – the lights – they just put a smile on your face and that's the whole thing ... you could be having the worst day on the planet, and you see a beautiful Christmas tree or a little Charlie Brown tree and it still makes you



Photos by Bethany BROWN

Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger (at microphone), with a limited number of guests, lit the La Crescenta Christmas tree.

smile."

Veteran members of The American Legion were present to lead the flag salute as the ceremony began and live music was pro-

vided by The West Wind Quartet. The all-female instrumental group consists of Janice Melhorn on horn, Sarah Bloxham on oboe, Trudi Anderson on clarinet and

Virginia Moore on bassoon.

Battles introduced Supervisor Barger and extended her gratitude for Barger's support of the

see TREE on page 19

Get Tested, Vaccinated, Boosted and Mask Up for the Holidays

By Mary O'KEEFE

"We should all be concerned about omicron but not panic," said President Joe Biden in a Tuesday press conference concerning COVID-19 and the increasing spread of the omicron variant.

Omicron has quickly become the dominant variant of COVID-19 in the U.S. As of Dec. 17, more than 73% of new cases in the nation were caused by omicron, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

President Biden stressed that the best way for Americans to protect themselves from serious illness and hospitalization from COVID-19 and specifically from the delta and omicron variants is by getting vaccinated and

seeOMICRON on page 8



Photo by Mary O'KEEFE

A sign on Foothill Boulevard directs people to a nearby location where COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots are administered.



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER



From the Mouths of Babes

Sometimes I get so caught up in preparing for something (like Christmas) that I forget why I'm doing what I'm doing (not exactly like walking into a room then totally forgetting why I'm there – though that happens, too).

Christmas is a big deal but this year I just couldn't pull it together. For example, our tree sat on our front porch from Dec. 4 to Dec. 19 – we just couldn't find the time to bring it inside. Although Steve has strung the lights on it, I have yet to hang a single decoration on it. I also had bought four plain Christmas wreaths to decorate then hang at the office and our house and give to my mother-in-law and sister-in-law. I finally found time to decorate three of the four (sorry, sister-in-law Sue, but you're not getting one this year). The house isn't completely decorated for Christmas though I am pleased that some things got done. I was able to mail out some gifts but, as of this writing, all my shopping isn't yet done. And mailing out Christmas cards? Just a fond memory dating back nearly a decade.

I am so grateful to those who helped me this past year, whether personally or professionally. I am humbled by the outpouring of support from friends, family and readers and am embarrassed that I have not taken time this season to express my gratitude.

Which is a way to say how easy it is to get caught up in the "busy-ness" of the season and overlook the reason for the season. Thank goodness for Charles Schultz.

Either on Saturday or Sunday night, I was in our room scrolling through TV channels and came upon "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

I stopped and watched it – actually watched it. It didn't take long before I recognized myself in some of the characters that were busy planning a Christmas pageant. At one point, Charlie Brown asks aloud, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"

His buddy Linus responds, "Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about."

Linus then takes center stage and recites from the Gospel of Luke, 2: 8-14. Linus' reminder of what is the real reason for the season was a nudge to me, reminding me that our Christmas tree, decorations, etc. are not the reason for Christmas: it's the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. And let's not forget; the savior was not born in a Four Seasons but in the equivalent of a manger or cave – not fancy digs by any stretch of the imagination.

And yes, while I know that Dec. 25 is not the date of the birth, I think it's important that a day is set aside – a day that is supposed to remind us of one of the greatest moments in history whose purpose is not to make us feel guilty for the shopping, decorating or cooking that didn't get done.

So to all I say Merry Christmas. I hope that you find time to step outside the busy-ness of Dec. 25 and remember the reason for the season.

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 in the Foothills



*'Twas two days before Christmas, with so much to do:
With 365 days to prepare, I'm pondering how the time flew.
Amongst the ribbons and wrappings, I read at a glance,
Meteorologists are giving a "White Christmas" a chance!*

*The nostalgic fragrance of pine drifts through the house.
While awaiting Amazon's delivery of a gift for your spouse.
Class parties, gift baking, a latte with friends,
Long line-ups, dog grooming, tying up the loose ends.*

*With all our mad dashing, we're reeling from shock;
Let's stop for a minute and really take stock.
It's crassly commercial, the cynical may say;
If that's true, the fault is ours and we've gone astray*

*Take time for yourself though hard as that seems;
Enjoy children's laughter, excitement and dreams.
Take a moment tonight to calm all the wild,
Through the clouds seek the stars, just you and your child.*

*The pumpkin pie can be Costco's; your shopping is all done for that toy.
More important to feel is a child's sense of joy.
The holidays aren't about push, rush and shove;
They're for friendship and sharing and love.*

*Hear the bells, feel the warmth, set the candles aglow
Of a message first sent many years long ago:
One of peace, love and goodwill, and hope burning bright.
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*

- Sue Kilpatrick, December 2021

Do sleighs use chains? Does the nose of a particular reindeer (Rudolph in this case) have a high-beam switch? Tomorrow (Friday) is Christmas Eve; both questions are good ones as they relate to the current and upcoming weather conditions.

A storm is due today (Thursday), with another close behind. Widespread rain is expected along with high mountain snow. The second one is predicted to drop temperatures and bring additional rain and low elevation snow over Christmas weekend. In our neck of the woods, three to six inches of rain is forecast. Snow? Snow capped mountains are an almost certainty. But will snowplows be deployed to Foothill Boulevard?

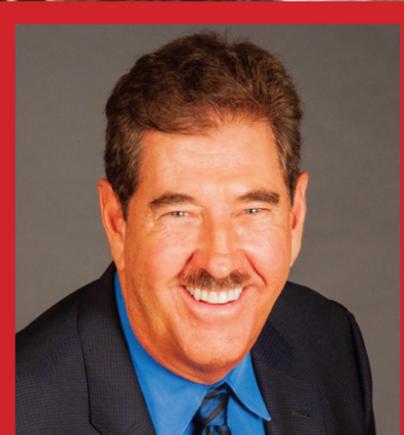
Sue Kilpatrick is a Crescenta Valley resident and Official Skywarn Spotter for the National Weather Service Reach her at suelkilpatrick@gmail.com.

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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



From our family to yours, may you have a peaceful and happy Holiday Season!



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NEWS

IN BRIEF

CV Weekly Offices Closed for Holidays

The offices of CV Weekly will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 for Christmas and Friday, Dec. 31 in observance of New Year's.

Annual YMCA Tree Lot Raises Money for Local Youth Programs

This year, nearly 1,400 trees were purchased by supportive friends, family and neighbors at the annual YMCA of the Foothills tree lot. In partnership with J's Maintenance and Gomez Landscape and Treecare, the Y raised over \$186,000 directly impacting its youth programs.

This year marked the second most successful year for tree lot. This year alone, over 3,000 children and teens learned, grew, and thrived through the Y youth-driven programs, camps, and partnerships, which this event raises funds to support.

Recall of Procter & Gamble Products

The Procter & Gamble Company on Dec. 17 issued a voluntary product recall to the consumer level of aerosol dry conditioner spray products and aerosol dry shampoo spray products from Pantene, Aussie, Herbal Essences, and Waterless produced in the United States, in addition to previously discontinued aerosol dry shampoo products from Old Spice and Hair Food, due to the presence of benzene detected in some products. Benzene is classified as a human carcinogen. Exposure to benzene can result in cancers including leukemia and blood cancer of the bone marrow and blood disorders which can be life-threatening. To date, The Procter & Gamble Company has not received any reports of adverse events related to this recall and is conducting this recall out of an abundance of caution, according to the company.

Consumers can visit www.pantene.com, www.aussie.com, www.herbalessences.com, www.hairfood.com, www.oldspice.com, or www.waterlesshaircare.com, for more information about the impacted products and to learn how to receive reimbursement for eligible products.

No other products from Pantene, Aussie, Herbal Essences, Hair Food, and Waterless are in the scope of this recall and such other products may continue to be used as intended, including those aerosol dry shampoo spray products with production code ranges different from those specifically communicated.

The vast majority of products are not part of this recall, including mousses, hairsprays, liquid shampoos, liquid conditioners, styling products, treatments and unaffected aerosol dry shampoo sprays.

Consumers with additional questions can seek more information via the Consumer Care team at (888) 674-3631 from Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. EST.

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'Cops for Kids' Brighten Up the Holidays



Photo by Justin HAGER
A family, with Officer Jamilah Jabali, gathers around a tree laden with gifts delivered by members and supporters of the Glendale Police Officers' Association.

By Mary O'KEEFE

On Thursday evening last week Glendale police officers, staff and volunteers from the community filled their vehicles with hundreds of toys then made their way through city streets to families in need of holiday spirit.

The Glendale Police Officers' Association (GPOA) "Cops for Kids" program has been reaching out to families in need for over three decades. The program started with six families being helped, because that was all the funding they had for the program, but boy! How this has grown.

"This year we are supporting 40 families," said Amy Tate, "Cops for Kids" chairperson. "This is one of our biggest years yet."

The need has grown, in part due to the pandemic, and thanks to the generosity of the community and the officers/staff, the program has been able to keep up with the demand.

Days before bringing the wrapped gifts to the families, volunteers dropped off trees for them to decorate.

Tate works with local school administrators to find students who are in need. In addition, police officers add names of families they have interacted with that may be helped by this program. Throughout the year the GPOA holds fundraisers to raise money for "Cops for Kids," including golf and poker tournaments. Tate also reaches out to sponsors who have helped in the past and is always looking for more to help.

Tate and her staff of volunteers talk to the families to find not only what they need but also what the children want from Santa.

This program is designed as a very personal outreach and Tate works on this project all year long. She is familiar with the history of the families and how the children have changed over the years.

To accomplish such a monumental task an army of shopper volunteers hit the stores with donated money to fulfill the Santa wish list weeks before the planned delivery. Funds are limited but more often than not the volunteers, including police officers, dig deep into their own pockets so one more gift can be bought that will make the toy delivery

just a little more special.

As the caravan of volunteers and police arrived at one home there were three little faces looking out of the front window of an apartment. As volunteers and police walked up with packages in hand, the sounds of laughter could be heard from inside the home.

"The [kids] have been waiting and looking out the window all night," said a mom.

She and her husband stood back as the presents were put under the tree and the police and volunteers talked with the kids.

When an officer shows up at a home it is usually because there is a victim inside or

someone is in trouble with the law; however, holiday trips like those last Thursday are completely different.

"Most of our contacts are negative," Agent Keith Soboleski, retired, said in a past interview with CVW. "This is all positive. We are showing up and bringing them gifts."

The program also gave grocery gift cards to the families.

"This has been a [difficult year]. COVID has been hard," the mom said. "But this ... I am so happy with this."

To see a full list of sponsors who helped make this year's visit so special, go to www.cvweekly.com/NEWS.

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Booster Required for Cal State Students

The California State University announced on Wednesday that it will require faculty, staff and students who are accessing university facilities or programs to receive a vaccine booster shot in order to be fully immunized against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and in compliance with the university's COVID-19 vaccination policy.

The new requirement calls for boosters to be received by Feb. 28, 2022 or six months after an individual received the final dose of the original vaccination, whichever is later. However, individual campuses may establish an earlier date for compliance for students and non-represented employees based on local circumstances.

"Vaccination, including a booster when eligible, remains our most effective strategy against infection and severe disease," said CSU Chancellor Joseph I. Castro. "This is

particularly important in light of the rapid rise of cases of COVID-19 throughout the state and nation as the omicron variant spreads. Implementing the booster requirement now will help mitigate the potential spread of the variant on campuses as they repopulate in January after the winter break."

As announced previously, the CSU's COVID-19 vaccination policy allows students and employees to seek exemptions on medical and religious grounds.

The university's new requirement will take effect immediately upon implementation of the policy; however, represented employees will not be subject to the booster requirement until the CSU concludes its meet-and-confer process with its labor unions.

The university will share the revised university policy as soon as it is finalized.

President Pushes Pause on Student Loan Repayment

By Mary O'KEEFE

On Wednesday, President Joe Biden announced a 90-day extension of the "pause" for student loan repayments.

"We know that millions of student loan borrowers are still coping with the impacts of the pandemic and need some more time before resuming payments. This is an issue Vice President [Kamala] Harris has been closely focused on, and one we both care deeply about," President Biden stated in a release on Wednesday.

With these considerations, the Administration extended the pause on federal student loan repayments for an additional 90 days to May 1, 2022.

"This is such a relief," said a man who has been paying off his loan for years. "There is so much pressure taken off [my

shoulders]. I don't have to worry that my next paycheck right after the holidays [will be] for repayment of the loan."

Another former student is relieved that there is an extension but feels the problem has just been kicked down the road.

"I want to know if [the loan] will come back in full force," she said. She added that the political promises that were made by President Biden and others to forgive student loans have yet to be addressed.

"It's nice to have an extra 90 days," she added.

She knows that there are many who have lost their jobs or have had their hours dramatically reduced due to the pandemic and this extension gives some breathing room but she would like to see some real loan forgiveness.

see STUDENT LOANS on page 19

Families Treated to Toys, Food and a Movie at CV Park



By Mary O'KEEFE

Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Dept. hosted its annual winter toy giveaway on Saturday, Dec. 18 at Crescenta Valley Park.

CV Park supervisor Jason Hauser estimated a total of 400 individuals came to the event throughout the day – fewer families than in years past. But

those who came were glad they did. Kids were able to pick out toys, were given a stocking full of goodies and got a picture and visit with Santa Claus. Then the family was treated to a continental breakfast and was able to sit down and watch “The Nightmare Before Christmas.” Screening of the Disney movie was made possible by The Balcony of LA.

The families were also given a

box of groceries to help with their holiday dinner.

Volunteers from Crescenta Valley High School Prom Plus Club and the Parks and Rec programs were there early in the morning to help set up and support the event.

The annual toy and food distribution was canceled last year due to the pandemic. In years past well over 600 individuals came to the event, which is co-

hosted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Station. This year the station sent over toys that had been collected but did not participate like in years past.

In addition to toys for the event, the LASD-CV Station has been collecting food items, which have been donated to the Bailey Center in Tujunga.

Photos by Mary O'KEEFE

CHP Looking for Extra Eyes and Ears



Photo courtesy of Officer J. BOYD
CHP Officer Vince Ramirez and former Teamsters Local 896 office manager Robyn Wilson are active in the senior volunteer program.

By Mary O'KEEFE

The California Highway Patrol is looking to recruit individuals for its senior volunteer program.

“We are in need of volunteers,” said CHP Officer Vince Ramirez.

The program is an especially good fit for retired people and for those who have free time they want to fill. The requirements are that individuals must be 55 years old, available to work a minimum of four hours per week and have a good driving record.

“They will also have to pass a background check,” Ramirez added.

Once applicants complete the initial process they will then be called in for an interview with CHP.

“They are important and can help in various categories,” he added.

Some work the front desk at the Altadena station, some drive patrol vehicles under maintenance to and from the motor transportation center and some help with clerical

work.

“We also bring them to different events,” Ramirez said.

Pre-pandemic, CHP attended several outreach events including visiting elementary schools. Officers brought along volunteers to help answer questions and assist outreach efforts. In addition they can be brought on ride-alongs, riding in the patrol units with officers.

“They are our extra eyes and ears,” he added. Pre-pandemic the volunteers would also support school areas with traffic patrol.

Robyn Wilson has been a senior volunteer since 2016.

“I have always been interested in police and CHP. When you retire you can look at the walls or you need to do something,” she said. “I saw an ad that [CHP] was looking for volunteers.”

She walked into the Altadena CHP office, filled out the application, met the requirements

and never looked back.

“It has been very exciting,” Wilson said.

One thing Wilson misses is the outreach events that were canceled due to the pandemic the last two years.

“I always enjoyed Kids and Kritters in Montrose,” Wilson said. “I did that booth two or three years. I liked that you got to meet the kids and really got to know [them].”

Wilson added the one thing that has surprised her about working with CHP was the camaraderie at the station and among officers.

“Everyone gets along,” she added. “We have their backs and they have ours.”

Wilson encourages everyone who can to explore becoming a senior volunteer.

“If [seniors] would like experience working with the CHP and doing all types of different jobs,” Wilson said. “It’s absolutely gratifying.”



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CRIME BLOTTER

Dec. 19
600 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a vehicle was vandalized between 3:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Dec. 18
4400 block of Sunset Avenue in Montrose, the rear passenger side window was smashed and items were stolen from a vehicle between 1:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

Dec. 17
3100 block of El Caminito Avenue in La Crescenta, a resident reported that while reviewing her property's video surveillance she saw two men, about 18 to 20 years old, stealing her catalytic converter. The surveillance showed that while one of the men raised the vehicle with a floor jack and cut the catalytic converter from the vehicle the other man acted as look-out. The catalytic converter was stolen at 6 a.m.

600 block of Hook Tree Road in La Cañada Flintridge, the rear window of a home was smashed and items were stolen overnight.

800 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a woman reported after she arrived at her work at a local bookstore she placed her purse on the desk in her office and went to work in the front of the store. When she returned a few hours later she found that her

wallet was missing from her purse. She learned that two of her credit cards had fraudulent transactions on them with purchases a Vons Market and Armstrong's Garden store.

The theft occurred between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Dec. 15
1200 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, the door lock on a vehicle had been punched while it was parked in a school parking lot. Nothing was reported stolen. The attempted vehicle burglary occurred between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Dec. 14
2900 block of Community Avenue in La Crescenta, wireless earbuds/headphones and a charging case were stolen from student's backpack while at Crescenta Valley High School. The student stated she had placed the items in the front zippered pocket of her backpack at the start of the school day. Her backpack is too large to fit inside the physical education locker so she normally left it at the front of her locker but she would take out the items from the pocket and would place them in the locker. She forgot on Dec. 14 to put the items in the locker.

When she returned from class she found the items had been stolen. The theft occurred between 11:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

Obituary

Glynn S. Martin



June 8, 1931 – Nov. 20, 2021

Glynn S. Martin, 90, a longtime resident of Sparr Heights and Montecito Park, passed away on Nov. 20. Glynn was born to Harber and Ethel Martin of Martinsville, Virginia on June 8, 1931. Glynn graduated from Fieldale High School in 1949 after serving as class president. He enlisted in the Air Force in January 1951 and was honorably discharged from the 407th Air Police Squadron as a staff sergeant in December 1954.

Glynn relocated to Los Angeles and began his education at Los

Angeles State College where he earned his bachelor's and his first master's degrees. In 1958 Glynn began his career with the Glendale Police Dept. and continued his academic pursuits, earning a second master's degree at USC. Glynn's police career included assignments in patrol, detectives and administration and he also served as the president of the Glendale Police Officers Association.

Glynn retired in 1994 as the captain of the Investigations Bureau, having overseen major cases including the investigations of Richard Ramirez (Night Stalker) and serial arsonist John Orr. In retirement, Glynn continued his community service with the Glendale Sunrise Rotary, the Glendale Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Glendale Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

Glynn greatly enjoyed his life in and around Glendale. Daily he could be found at the La Cañada McDonald's before his morning walks through La Cañada and Montrose. He regularly attended the seasonal music at La Cañada

Memorial Park, and frequented many local eateries.

Glynn was deeply committed to family and particularly proud of his grandchildren Megan (LCHS 2010) and Ryan (LCHS 2014), traveling extensively for Megan's club softball games and helping Ryan win the regional Soap Box Derby championship.

Glynn is survived by his wife Mary; sons Glynn Bridgyn (Leslie) and John Brendan; two grandchildren; and his sister Peggy Young of Rocky Mount, Virginia. Glynn was predeceased by his parents and his siblings Ernest, John, William, Marvin, Harold, Kyle Wayne Inez and Lucy.

A private service was held at Forest Lawn Glendale. A celebration of life is planned for Jan. 15, 2022. Further details are available by contacting glynnmartin@earthlink.net. Donations in honor of Glynn's service to country and community can be made to the Glendale Chapter of the American Red Cross or Boy's Republic.

Obituary

Carl Lee Scholten

Dec. 27, 1957 – Nov. 13, 2021

Carl Lee Scholten, 63, passed away on Nov. 13 at his home in Canyon Country. The family was shocked and saddened by his sudden and unexpected death.

Carl was born on Dec. 27, 1957 in Sheldon, Iowa. He was the son of the late Gerhard W. Scholten and Bernice M. (Jacobs) Scholten.

Carl grew up on the family farm and graduated from Floyd

Valley High School. He attended the University of Iowa before heading out to California by way of Minneapolis. He lived in California most of his adult life and he was self-employed as a freelance insurance adjuster, specializing in helping those facing catastrophic damages in natural disaster zones.

Carl had a larger-than-life personality. He always knew how to make a grand entrance at family gatherings, sometimes even days late, bringing with him an abundance of cheer and an exuberant infectious joy. He was

adventurous and lived life at full speed, fully engaging in a variety of new experiences. He enjoyed motorcycling and looked to the ocean for fun, sun and comfort.

Carl is survived by his ex-wife France Berube and stepchildren Charles, Pierrick, Arnaud and Zoée as well as his siblings Dennis (Boise, Idaho), Cheryl (Edina, Minnesota), Paul (Seattle, Washington), Gregg (Columbia, Maryland), Jana (Boston, Massachusetts) and extended family across the United States.

GPD REPORTS

Male Arrested with Loaded Firearm, Narcotics, and Marijuana

On Dec. 12 at approximately 1:15 p.m., officers assigned to Glendale PD's Patrol Bureau responded to a hotel on the 6700 block of San Fernando Road regarding an occupant who was refusing to leave and thereby trespassing.

Upon arriving, officers learned that 23-year-old Gagik Arshakyan of North Hollywood (who was arrested in Glendale in September 2021 for possession of a firearm) was the occupant trespassing, and he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

Officers went to the room associated with Arshakyan and were ultimately able to make contact and detain him. Inside of the hotel room officers located a loaded firearm and narcotics. Officers searched Arshakyan's vehicle and located a large quantity of marijuana.

Arshakyan was subsequently arrested and booked for possessing a controlled substance while armed, possessing narcotics, possessing marijuana for sale and for his outstanding warrant.

Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest of Male in Possession of Three Firearms

On Dec. 3 just before 3:30 p.m.,

an officer assigned to Glendale PD's Special Enforcement Detail (SED) was traveling near the intersection of Hawthorne Street and San Fernando Road when they noticed a vehicle traveling with expired registration.

The officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop and contacted the driver, 48-year-old Hamlet Avetisyan of Tujunga. As Avetisyan was exiting the vehicle, he reached under the seat and officers observed a methamphetamine pipe. Assisting units arrived and Avetisyan was found to have a loaded firearm, six blank credit/debit cards with PINs written on the back, three gas cards with PINs written on the back and another individual's identification card on his person.

A vehicle search produced two firearms (one loaded), three packages of heroin, seven Oxycodon pills, 11 re-encoded blank credit/debit cards with PINs written on the back, and a notebook containing personal identifying information for several individuals.

Avetisyan was subsequently arrested and booked for carrying concealed weapons, possessing controlled substances while armed, identity theft, possessing narcotics and controlled substance paraphernalia and for an outstanding warrant.

Two Arrested in Possession of Burglary Tools

On Dec. 3 just before 4:30 p.m., an officer assigned to Glendale PD's Patrol Bureau located a vehicle traveling along the 200 block of South Central Avenue that was wanted out of another city for felony involvement.

The driver of the vehicle entered a parking structure and pulled up next to two parked vehicles in the area and activated the hazard lights. The officer then contacted and detained the driver, 25-year-old Jesus Ramos of Sun Valley, and passenger, 30-year-old Marcelo Ramirez of Los Angeles. Assisting units arrived and officers observed a large floor jack and reciprocating saw inside of the vehicle. Ramirez was found to have methamphetamine on his person. It should be noted that the vehicles that Ramos parked near are known to be targeted for catalytic converter thefts.

Ramos was arrested and booked for grand theft, possessing burglary tools and for driving without a license. Ramirez was arrested and booked for grand theft and possessing controlled substances.

Due to L.A. County's emergency "zero-dollar" bail order, Ramos and Ramirez were both released with a notice to appear in court at a later date.



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2	2200-2400	Honolulu	Montrose	91020	Montrose Shopping Park
3	3432	Buena Vista	Sparr Heights	91208	
4	3532	Rosemary	Sparr Heights	91208	
5	3601	Angelus	Sparr Heights	91208	
6	1200-1400	Oak Circle	Sparr Heights	91208	
7	1044	Shirleyjean	La Crescenta	91214	❄️
8	2751	Timberlake	La Crescenta	91214	
9	2653	Orange	La Crescenta	91214	❄️
10	2809	Foothill	La Crescenta	91214	La Crescenta Library
11	2812	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
12	2848	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
13	3032	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
14	3036	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
15	3109	Alabama	La Crescenta	91214	
16	3113	Pontiac	La Crescenta	91214	
17	3006	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
18	3021	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
19	3037	Altura	La Crescenta	91214	
20	3142	Prospect	La Crescenta	91214	❄️
21	4012	New York	La Crescenta	91214	
22	4116	New York	La Crescenta	91214	
23	4422	New York	La Crescenta	91214	
24	3420	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
25	3433	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
26	3437	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
27	3440	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
28	3452	Mary Ann	La Crescenta	91214	
29	3500	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
30	3504	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
31	3510	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
32	3514	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
33	3520	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
34	3526	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	❄️
35	3540	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
36	3550	Brookhill	La Crescenta	91214	
37	6420	Creemore	Tujunga	91042	
38	6817	Day	Tujunga	91042	❄️
39	7006	Day	Tujunga	91042	

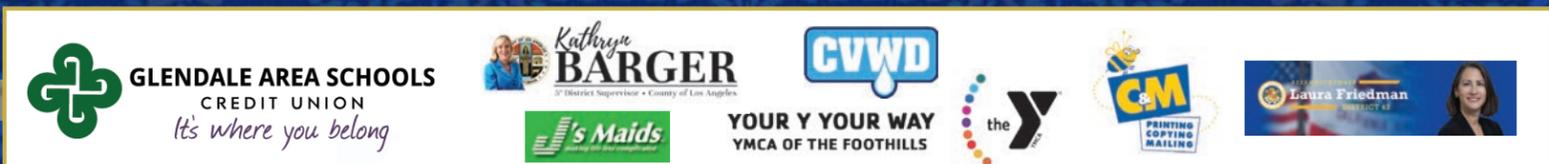


The Oak Circle Wishing Tunnel (a 25-year tradition) at 1410 Oak Circle welcomes all to stop on by nightly to walk through, make a wish, and even drop off a letter to Santa in the mailbox! All letters that are received by December 19th that include a return address will be answered!

JUDGING CATEGORIES

- 1. Christmas Story Award**
(traditional or nostalgic use of lights and decorations - Leg Lamp use gets extra points)
- 2. Clark Griswold Award**
(excessive use of lights and decoration - more is ALWAYS better, can we see it from space?)
- 3. Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree Award**
(best use of music and technology)
- 4. Santa's Coming to Town Award**
(best use of Santa or Santa's in decor)
- 5. Most Original Award**
(not your usual every-day holiday decor)
- 6. Best In Show Award**
(ya blew the judges minds)

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Patys Restaurant	10001	Riverside Dr, Burbank
Something Vegan	10000	Riverside Dr, Burbank
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OMICRON from Cover

getting their booster shots. The President said that both he and former President Donald Trump are vaccinated and have received their boosters.

Although COVID numbers are on the rise, due in part to omicron and in part to the unvaccinated population, the country is not reverting to as it was at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. President Biden pointed out the three biggest differences between then and now are that more than 200 million Americans have been fully vaccinated, medical personnel and the government are better prepared and have ample personal protective equipment and scientists know how the virus spreads.

“Let me be clear: Thanks to the prior administration and our scientific community, America is one of the first countries to get the vaccine. And thanks to my administration and the hard work of Americans, we led a rollout that made America among the world leaders in getting shots in arms,” President Biden stated.

Due to the spread, Los Angeles County last week required face coverings to be worn in all indoor public settings regardless of a person’s vaccine status.

As the holidays grow near, more people are lining up to get tested and to get their vaccine or

boosters; however, finding a place to get a free test for COVID-19 can be difficult.

“Currently there is plenty of capacity at our DHS run sites. However, most of our sites are in geographic locations that have been identified as high COVID-19 positivity areas within LA County. Proximity of available testing sites will depend on the geographic LA County location being searched,” stated the Dept. of Health Services, LA County in response to an email request from CVW.

CVW had researched covid19.lacounty.gov/testing, the online testing appointment website, for over a week and was unable to find any appointments available within 25 miles. Some locations listed appeared to have appointments available but were found to no longer administer tests, and some of those locations referred to the Adventist Urgent Care in La Cañada on Verdugo Boulevard. That urgent care location was found to be closed until the first week of January 2022.

The best way to find a COVID-19 testing location appears to be by driving around the local area to find signs that state “free COVID testing.”

CVW found one of the easiest and fastest sites at the west side of the 76 Service Station at 2384 Foothill Blvd. The tests are free and the results are given in 24 to

48 hours. Test takers will need a QR code reader on their phone. They click on the QR code, fill out the form and wait in their vehicles until a technician comes to the vehicle with the test. The test is administered while remaining in the vehicle and that’s that.

The location is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call (888) 498-2668 or visit labananda.com.

It is expected that the rush to test may slow after the holidays.

To find more LA County locations for testing and vaccinations/boosters visit <https://covid19.lacounty.gov>.

Pharmacies like those at CVS, Walgreens and Vons also administer the vaccine and boosters. Not all locations have the vaccines, so it is advised to first visit their individual websites to find the active locations.

In LA County as of Wednesday, new cases of COVID-19 cases doubled from Tuesday to 6,509 new cases.

“This steep increase, one of the steepest rises we have ever seen over the course of the pandemic, reflects the circulation of omicron and the associated rapid acceleration of transmission associated with this variant,” according to DHS.

GUSD from Cover

parents, and student, about access to weapons. Backpacks and lockers are searched and “often times” members of the team will go to the home to make certain any weapons are secured.

“Owning guns is a right but leaving them where people in the house have access is against the law,” Eulmessekian said.

SB172, “firearms,” which was authored by Sen. Anthony Portantino, makes it “a crime in California to keep a loaded or unloaded firearm in the home of a minor without properly storing and locking the firearm with a gun safe or by using a firearm safety device.” Eulmessekian said that paperwork given to parents at the beginning of each school year includes the form “Information for Parents/Guardians and Students,” which includes this information and requests parents to sign that they have read and understand this law.

The form in part states, “We

are all aware of incidents of self-harm or gun violence in our surrounding communities and across the nation. In California each year an average of 27 children under the age of 18 die by suicide using a gun. In a majority of these gun-related incidents, the minor gained access to a lawfully purchased gun from their residence or the residence of a relative [lawcenter.giffords.org].”

The statement continues as to the importance of properly and safely storing guns in a home where children are likely to be present.

The district’s risk assessment team receives information about students from teachers, mentors and other students. It may get information from statements students made to others or in their writings or posts on social media but Eulmessekian said parent involvement is the most important way to prevent violent behavior by a student.

“Parents need to have an

active role in their student’s social media [accounts],” Eulmessekian said as an example of one way parents can oversee information. He added many times school officials find that parents did not know what their child was posting on social media or what social media accounts they are even on or follow.

A rumor last week that the social media platform TikTok had a video that promoted school violence prompted schools across the nation to take precautions that included closing campuses or adding extra patrols. And although after investigating the rumor was found not to be true, it was still something districts, including Glendale, did not take lightly. GUSD had extra patrols around schools due to the rumor.

Eulmessekian added it is important for parents to understand what their child is doing online.

“That was the number one recommendation from [law enforcement],” he added.

In a webinar that was sponsored by the district last year during the COVID shutdown, school resource officers from Glendale police stressed how important it was for parents to follow their children on social media. In addition to possibly discovering any signs of students considering endangering themselves or others, parents could also find signs of cyber bullying.

Bottom line: It truly does take a village for school populations to stay safe. Keeping communication open among school administrators, teachers, parents and students is key.

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A woman in athletic wear is performing a plank on a grassy field at sunset. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, with trees and a building visible in the background. The woman is wearing a black tank top, colorful patterned leggings, and sneakers. She is in a low, stable position, demonstrating strength and focus.

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

CV Christmas In Wartime

As Christmas approaches, I became curious about the Christmas mood in CV at the onset of WWII. The attack on Pearl Harbor was only a couple of weeks before Christmas in 1941. Once again I turn to the pages of the old CV Ledger newspaper to get a read on how Christmas was to be celebrated. Here are some of the highlights I found.

Just two weeks into the war, rationing hadn't started. New cars were still for sale, gas was available and meat, sugar and coffee were still advertised in local stores. We were just getting a hint of shortages to come. Slater Hardware promoted kids' toys with the admonition "Metal toys are scarce! We still have a good stock." Montrose Sport Center gave notice that "The manufacture of tennis balls has been discontinued." Ads for auto tire retreads had replaced ads for new tires.

Organizations for home defense

were quickly being put together. The auditorium at Clark Junior High was filled to capacity and hundreds stood outside to elect the chairman of the Civilian Council of Defense of the Crescenta Cañada Valley. Air raid wardens were appointed by the Montrose sheriff with Frank Lanterman in charge of the La Cañada district. Each local school was to have two emergency stations and the call went out for old sheets to serve as bandages and slings. The Army established a base hospital at what is today Hahamongna Park in La Cañada. The entire area was declared a military reservation, off-limits to civilians. An armed guard was stationed in Pickens Canyon to protect the water wells there.

On a Wednesday night in mid-December a practice black out was declared, with patrolling squad cars broadcasting through the streets. Although many complied, some

lighted homes and businesses were unoccupied so a few vigilantes took to the streets with rocks and baseball bats to put the lights out themselves. Windows were smashed and doors jimmied open. With the potential of more blackouts, the sheriff asked businesses to install outside power switches to avoid future vandalism.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church proudly stated that it was the first church in the valley to blackout its windows. Many churches stated they would no longer have evening services. Anawalt Lumber advertised window plywood for blackouts that had "already been put to the test in England" and "Can be salvaged after the emergency is over." Donations were solicited to buy the valley an air raid siren.

Most holiday parties were canceled, but a few went on anyway. The Mount Waterman Winter Sports Carnival was going ahead "war or no war."

Rockhaven Sanitarium was holding a Christmas party for its 100 patients. Proprietor Agnes Richards would sing Christmas songs and, in a nod to patriotism, two trees were decorated with red, white and blue lights.

Although most news stories had an optimistic attitude, some of the stories were sad. A young woman's cheery engagement party was interrupted by the news of the Pearl Harbor attack. A Glendale nursery, probably owned by Japanese Americans, advertised that they were "American owned and operated." The sheriff escorted the first busload of "enemy aliens" (Japanese and German) to the Tuna Canyon CCC Camp. "Bunco artists" were going door-to-door claiming to be representing the Red Cross then pocketing donations. The Rose Parade was canceled, but one local expressed relief to not have to face the usual traffic jam of cars transiting Devil's Gate Dam.

Tujung songwriter "Singing Jimmie" Smith wrote a song for America's entry into the war. A portion of it goes: "Now we're in, sink or swim. Mr. Hitler knows the Yankee boys are after him. We'll see it through and, when we do, there will be a day of reckoning, that is overdue, for Italy and Germany, Japan and all the other axis fraternity. We'll whip the whole kaboodle, Make 'em holler Yankee Doodle, and surrender to the good old USA!"

An editorial gave appreciation for the fact that Democrats and Republicans, La Cañadans and La Crescentans had laid aside petty differences for the war effort. But sadly it seemed that Christmas 1941 had, for the most part, been set aside as well.

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 WASHINGTON » REP. ADAM SCHIFF

Keeping Pets and Families Together in Affordable Housing

Numerous decisions go into finding a place to live. Of course, the most pressing issue is cost and so many families are priced out of particular neighborhoods or out of any housing altogether. This is especially true in Los Angeles, which has long been experiencing a crisis in unaffordability and homelessness.

Understanding the stresses families already face, we should be doing everything in our power to ease the burden of finding safe and secure housing. But while we focus on rapidly building more units and scaling up services, we must also make sure that we're providing more than just a roof over someone's head – we're providing

a home they can make a life in.

People shouldn't just be able to find affordable housing – they should be able to find affordable housing that's in good condition. They should be able to find affordable housing in a safe neighborhood, with a good school district that will meet their children's needs. They should be able

to find affordable housing near public transportation, a grocery store or their family doctor. And they should be able to find affordable housing that allows them to bring their beloved pet.

Sadly, that last one can be difficult to find for U.S. pet owners – more than 25 million of whom are renters. A 2019 pet-inclusive housing survey

found that a vast majority of rental property owners and operators place restrictions on pets, including blanket bans on size and breed. Often, these restrictions are meant to weed out dog breeds that have been maligned as "dangerous" – pit bulls, Rottweilers, German shepherds, Huskies, and the

see SCHIFF on page 18

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Holiday Fun Comes to JohnHart Campus

By Bethany BROWN

JohnHart Real Estate held an event on Sunday, Dec. 12 in celebration of the holiday season at the new JohnHart campus at 2428 Foothill Blvd. The campus now serves as the company headquarters.

The event was free to attend and offered complimentary hot cocoa, pictures with Santa, a "snowground" and sled rides. Ten tons of snow were brought in for people in the community to play in and take sled rides, which provided a Hallmark movie moment for residents of the Foothills. Families stood in a line that stretched down the block as they waited for their turns.

Live music was provided by carolers in festive attire who entertained families as they waited in line and there was a surprise performance by the CVHS Charismatics as the event neared its end. The Falcon choir group is among the most highly regarded and in-demand non-professional choirs in the area.

Event organizer and real estate broker Robbyn Battles said the reason she held the event was she wanted to give back to the community that has been so good to her over the years.

"I've lived here all my life; I've worked here all my life and this community has continuously been very, very good to me. I felt like hosting this event and giving residents a day of real holiday fun, especially after the last two years, was the least I can do in return," she said.

Battles said she plans on organizing the event at the campus again next year but will be adding more snow and likely a stage for the performers so they can be better heard from a distance. The turnout was larger than initially expected with around 600 people and she wanted to assure there would be enough refreshments and snow available for many to enjoy next year.

"It was such a great day," Battles said. "I really do think it was something that the community just really needed. It was Christmas here 100% and it was all about just having fun and enjoying the spirit of the holidays."

Photos by Bethany BROWN
LEFT: Carolers entertained the crowd.
RIGHT: Ten tons of snow was brought in for sledding.



ALG Welcomes Back Seniors



The Assistance League Glendale Senior Neighborhood Fellowship program serves lunch to local seniors.

The Assistance League Glendale Senior Neighborhood Fellowship program welcomes senior citizens for lunch and entertainment every second Wednesday of the month. The recent luncheon on Dec. 8 was the first in-person luncheon held since the pandemic. Assistance League Glendale also has a program for youth called the Assistees. The Assistees perform volunteer

see ALG on page 19

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Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

How To Successfully Buy A Home In This Market

Dear Phyllis,

I look forward to getting the CV Weekly and especially reading your real estate advice. My son has been trying to buy a home for more than six months. He has made five offers, responded to multiple counter offers and can't seem to get an offer accepted so that he can buy a home. He isn't picky, he just wants a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home in the La Crescenta school district. He has been working with an agent who is friends with his wife. I am trying not to be a nosy mother and mother-in-law, but I think maybe it's time for him to switch real estate agents. Can you offer some advice as to how to successfully buy a home in this market?

Concerned Mom

Dear Concerned Mom,

It is hard not to get discouraged in today's Foothill real estate market, especially in La Crescenta. Unfortunately, your son is in the same boat as most buyers. I recently wrote an offer for a cash buyer \$235,000 over asking price. The listing agent provided a physical inspection noting the electrical panel needed to be updated, there was old, galvanized plumbing and the roof was near the end of its life expectancy. There were twenty-eight offers. My client waived all contingencies, even her inspection contingency. She was still beat out by another buyer who offered a higher price.

If your son is working with a full-time experienced real estate agent who is respected within the community, this is simply a matter of a very difficult market. There are two ways to go about this:

- Focus on homes that were originally listed too high and have been sitting on the market for more than two weeks. There could be some wiggle room and your son should have less competition.
- Your son needs to be submitting aggressive offers. I am hoping he is pre-approved with an experienced local reputable lender.
- He should also consider waiving the appraisal contingency as well. Lenders base their loan amount on a percentage of the appraised value or purchase price, whichever is less. There are numerous components to a strong offer in addition to price. When the price offered is contingent upon the home appraising – the buyer has an "out". Many buyers write an offer with an appraisal contingency; meaning that if the home does not appraise for the full amount, the buyer can cancel escrow and have their deposit returned. As homes are selling for record breaking prices, many appraisals are coming in at less than the agreed upon sales price. If your son has a large enough down payment, this is a good tool.

I don't know your son's finances, so I suggest he discuss both options with his lender and his real estate agent. Best of luck to him.

Toys, Food and Money Donated by LCWC



Pictured are (from left) Dawn Berger in a skirt made of men's ties, Carol Benedetti, who won the huge light necklace in the gift exchange, Emma Lestina, Vicky Guagliardo, Shirley Griffith, Mary Ann Martin from the sheriff's station, Club President Carol Huntwork and Rita Even.

The La Crescenta Woman's Club donated toys and food and made a monetary contribution to the LA County Sheriff's Dept. toy drive at their Christmas party on Dec 8 at their decorated clubhouse at 4004 La Crescenta Ave.

Each year the Woman's Club supports the sheriff's toy and food drive, which helps local families in need bring smiles to the children's faces at Christmas. The Woman's Club also voted to send money to help the family of a Crescenta Valley High School student whose apartment burned in a fire earlier this season. For over 100 years when club members hear of a need, they have been willing to help!

For more information to rent the clubhouse or to join the Club call (818) 957-9806 or visit the website www.lacrescentawomansclub.org.

Club members are planning for their next event: their annual big bingo night on Feb. 19.

Submitted by Danette ERICKSON

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Traveling Back in Time to Explore Bethlehem at CV Church

By Lori BODNAR

CV Church hosted its annual Explore Bethlehem event at its La Crescenta campus on Dec. 12. Guests to the event enjoyed featured foods such as pomegranate, pita bread, hummus, a dip of tzatziki (Greek yogurt and cucumber), dates, tabbouleh (parsley, tomatoes, and quinoa), pickled beets and warm apple cider. Activity booths were set up around the church grounds giving visitors the chance to either view or take part in making pottery, perfume, homemade candles, leatherwork and sand art, and crafts including creating crowns and suncatchers. The activity booths were decorated to replicate various stalls in Bethlehem. On-site were also storytelling, singing, photo booth, mini-train ride and petting zoo.

Beth Krausse is the Children's Ministry leader. She helped organize Explore Bethlehem.

"The event took about four months to prepare and the set-up took about three hours," Krausse said. "We began setting up the booths after church service and finished by 4 p.m. Explore Bethlehem gives us an opportunity to be together in a wholesome, safe and loving environment. We enjoy doing this because we love our community and we want them to feel cared for and loved."

Heather Bondy volunteered at Explore Bethlehem.

"Explore Bethlehem spreads the story of Christmas and the hope of Jesus Christ," said Bondy. "The event gives people a chance to explore what people did in Bethlehem around the time Jesus was born."

CV Church has held the Explore Bethlehem experience

for many years. Last year, during the pandemic, a drive-through Explore Bethlehem was created in which people drove through the parking lot, played games out the car windows, and were given crafts. This year, CV Church held an in-person celebration outdoors with different activity booths and the popular "Bethlehem Express" mini-train and petting zoo.

"I think the experience is great because it gets the community together and it teaches our young ones about Bethlehem," said attendee Jamison Plummer. "We enjoy the camaraderie of the event. This is my first time attending; our family's friends invited us."

Cynthia Park was another guest.

"I think it is cool to see how life was like when Jesus was born," she said. "This is my first time at the event."

Breanne Henry said, "I like that there is so many booths for the kids. The activities and the food are very authentic. It is my second time going to the event and my daughter Xaler's third time attending." The authentic food was in part due to a generous donation by local restaurant Seasoning Alley.

Fifth-grader Suzie Bodnar attended Explore Bethlehem since she was a toddler.

"I liked making pottery and making perfume out of roses. I also enjoyed coloring the ornaments and the dreidel. I loved the train and the petting zoo. The hot apple cider was really yummy, especially with whipped cream on top!" said Suzie.

Explore Bethlehem ended with a reenactment of the Nativity then everyone sang holiday songs.

CV Church is having two Christmas Eve services at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., both led by Pastor Scott Wood.



ABOVE: The parking lot of CV Church was transformed for Explore Bethlehem, a community-wide opportunity to learn about the time and place when Jesus Christ was born.

BELOW: For the Nativity scene, Erick Garcia portrayed Joseph, Nickole Garcia was Mary, and Mia Bella Garcia was Jesus.



THEN & NOW



Then » Here we see Stan's, a brand-new burger joint, located on La Crescenta Avenue just west of the intersection with Verdugo. They opened just in time for WWII, and advertised that they would be open during blackouts. In 1953, the little building was expanded into the classic Bob's Big Boy we all came to know and love.

Bob's Big Boy

Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Now » Here we see the "Google" style architecture that was popular for Bob's restaurants. Bob's was a mainstay for La Crescenta diners until it closed in the 1980s, and is now a preschool. Note the three windows on the left side. They match perfectly with the three windows of Stan's, indicating that section is probably original to 1941.

A Captivating Experience: Enchanted Forest of Light

By Lori BODNAR

The Descanso Gardens' Enchanted Forest of Light is a rare opportunity for families and friends to explore Descanso Gardens when it is illuminated by brilliant lights and enhanced with art installations. The one-mile walking experience is available through Jan. 9.

"This is the fifth year of Enchanted Forest of Light. (We did not have a show in 2020.) Descanso Gardens is a place for people to come and enjoy nature, to take a breath, and have a relaxing time," said Jennifer Errico, Public Relations and Marketing manager for Descanso Gardens. "We see 'Enchanted' as an extension of the daytime experience. You get to see nature in a different light. I love watching the families pour through the gate at the opening and enjoy a night of exhilaration. We've had some engagements and lots of hot chocolate consumed."

There are 10 different light displays. Highlights include the first display, Flower Power, built near the Promenade that features 3,000 electric tulips in a garden of color-changing lights with music syncing

harmonies. The tulip garden light display was a favorite of many who attended the Enchanted Forest of Light.

Another favorite was Lightwave Lake, which amplified the beauty of the lake with lights shining on surrounding trees that reflected on the water. The feature included a giant white glowing orb that resembled the moon. This display was interactive, so fog was released when a button was pushed. Colors changed and music played when a little wheel was turned. Children and adults loved the interactive display and a nearby café filled with sweet holiday treats and portable heaters helped warm chilled hands.

Fantasy Forest projected lights onto trees and ticketholders walked along lighted paths that were reminiscent of a fairy world that included misty fog flowing around, adding to the mysterious and fantasy elements of the forest. There were also lights in the shape of a huge birdcage that people could enter, which was highlighted by an enormous crystal-lit chandelier hanging from a tree.



More than 3,000 electric tulips lit up the Descanso Gardens' Flower Power display.

In the Ancient Forest display projected laser lights that moved and sparkled onto the trees resembled fireflies, and a misty fog flowed around, adding to the ambience and beauty of the ancient forest and ferns.

"It takes about a month to set up the lights. We own the show

and most of the equipment, [and] we have a company that comes and helps us set it up," said Errico. "We wanted to highlight the beauty of the gardens: the electric tulips are where visitors will see more than 30,000 tulips this spring along the Promenade, the Oak

Forest canopy is highlighted with changing colors, the Main Lawn continues to be a place to play and the Ancient Forest is highlighted with 'fireflies' and music. The sound that plays on the Main Lawn was made for the HYBYCOZO pieces using a

see DESCANSO on page 19

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Your Local guide to good food!

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CV Weekly The Finest 2018 **CV Weekly The Finest 2019**

JUST FOR FUN

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

I missed my Breeze Airways flight. Does it owe me anything?

Joe Herman decides to try a new airline called Breeze Airways to fly from Hartford to Charleston, South Carolina. But on his return, the carrier leaves him behind. Is he owed anything?

My wife and I recently flew our first flight with Breeze Airways from Hartford to Charleston, South Carolina. When we arrived at the Charleston airport for our return flight, the airport monitors and the Breeze app on my phone showed the flight delayed with the gate [number] to be announced. We went to Terminal B to get something to eat and I tried to contact the airline. I received an automatic reply saying Breeze was "experiencing high volumes." About half an hour later, I received a reply saying the flight had already departed and in fact left on time.

Our only options were to book the next Breeze flight back to Hartford three days later, fly to another city or get back to Hartford at our own expense. We picked

the least of those unattractive options and chose to fly Breeze to Providence and then rented a car to drive to Hartford.

I see several points of failure causing our issue.

First, the Breeze app and Charleston TV monitors failed miserably by not displaying current information.

Second, the gentleman who checked our bag failed to inform the gate agent that we were on-site and could have been located fairly easily in the small confines of the Charleston airport.

Third, we learned later that the announcement to find us only went in Terminal A and not to Terminal B, a short walk away, where we had innocently sat down to eat during our waiting time. In a smallish airport like Charleston, I see no

reason for the announcement not being made in both terminals.

I spent several years managing customer experience for a Fortune 20 company and genuinely hope Breeze will look into these human and systematic glitches to prevent future customers from having our frustrations. I believe Breeze should reimburse us for the \$175 rental car. Breeze offered us \$100 of Breeze points but its agent didn't seem empowered to offer more or address the underlying issues.

Can you help?

-- Joe Herman, Boston

A: Breeze should have found you in the terminal – or at least texted you before your

departure – and gotten you on your flight. And while it isn't legally obligated to help you, it shouldn't have blown you off.

Your case is a reminder that airline notification systems are imperfect. Flight schedules can change, and then change back, at a moment's notice – and sometimes without any notice. If you're waiting for a flight, stay close to your gate.

Breeze is a new airline that prides itself on fast and efficient customer service and, above all, on "niceness." But being a new airline, it is also bound to experience some turbulence on its way to customer service excellence.

In reviewing your correspondence with Breeze, I felt confident that the airline would listen to you, a former customer service manager. But the back-and-forth with the lower-level managers at Breeze looked frustrating. You're right, they were not empowered to do more and they should have been.

I recently published the names, numbers and emails of the Breeze customer service contacts on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. You reached out to them after finding them on my site.

Breeze reviewed your case and apologized for your experience – not just any apology; you received an email from the chief operating officer saying he was "extremely sorry." The airline agreed to refund your rental car, as you requested.

Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer for Elliott Advocacy. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help with any consumer problem by contacting him at <http://www.elliott.org/help>

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Edited by Timothy Parker

ACROSS

- 1) Copycats
- 6) Iraqi metropolis
- 11) One of two to a dance?
- 14) Three to one, for one
- 15) So long, in St.-Etienne
- 16) Field judge, for short
- 17) "Rock-A-Bye Baby" and others
- 19) Legendary Bobby on skates
- 20) One billion years, geologically
- 21) "The ___ in the Hat"
- 22) Seek to win over
- 23) Attribute to a writer
- 27) Domestic missions
- 29) Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, e.g.
- 30) Hockey shot
- 32) Favorable for mildew
- 33) Earthbound bird
- 34) Caesar's wardrobe
- 36) Indian lemur
- 39) Giant mythological birds
- 41) Trounce
- 43) Cancel, as a newspaper story
- 44) Worms and flies, e.g.
- 46) Roof borders
- 48) Born as, for women
- 49) Goat milk product
- 51) Lymph ___
- 52) Give a nod to, perhaps
- 53) Boo-boos
- 56) Most wealthy
- 58) Movies, Variety-style
- 59) Animator sheet
- 60) Put the food away?
- 61) Hawaiian gift
- 62) Study of lawbreaking
- 68) "A long time ___, in a galaxy ..."
- 69) Become part of history
- 70) Stir from slumber
- 71) Cash, in Tokyo
- 72) Type of leather
- 73) It may stick out of a glass

DOWN

- 1) Rainbow formation
- 2) Golf standard
- 3) Airport listing, for short
- 4) Commuter, often
- 5) Featured musician
- 6) Some undergrad degs.
- 7) "And now, without further ___ ..."
- 8) From then
- 9) Think about in a particular way
- 10) From the south
- 11) Future king
- 12) King in the Gospels
- 13) Big hairstyles
- 18) As a whole
- 23) Like a lemon
- 24) Island group near Fiji
- 25) What Jesus suffered
- 26) Tidal bore
- 28) Crazed
- 31) A hymn of praise
- 35) Enjoy, as a taste
- 37) Intestinal obstruction
- 38) February forecast, occasionally
- 40) "___ right up!"
- 42) Highway divide
- 45) Exterior wall finishes
- 47) Public and private, e.g.
- 50) Brief, insightful survey
- 53) Spread out, as fingers
- 54) Royal supporter
- 55) Bread portion
- 57) Spartan field hand
- 63) Type of wrestling
- 64) Anger
- 65) Pronoun indicating common property
- 66) Government procurement org.
- 67) Archer's wood

CR-ASH COURSE

By Kenneth Holt

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CALENDARthis

STAR STORIES – VERDUGO HILLS CEMETERY

The Friends of Verdugo Hills Cemetery invites the community to a special viewing of the night sky from high atop a Tujunga hill at the Verdugo Hills Cemetery on Jan. 1 at 7 p.m. Historical stories of the stars will be presented by History Hunter, Craig Durst.

Attendees should wear warm clothes and bring a chair or blankets and pillows to lay on the ground for this tour through star lore.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcomed and 100% of donations are dedicated to the construction of a Veterans' Tribute & Memorial on the Verdugo Hills Cemetery grounds.

Verdugo Hills Cemetery, 7000 Parsons Trail, Tujunga <https://friendsofverdugohillscemetery.com/>

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RELIGION

Question: Our only daughter, Lynnette, now lives on the East Coast where she has a great job. She doesn't want to come home for the holidays because of COVID. Since she's not coming home, we've decided to travel to the Holy Land where we've always wanted to visit. We've made our travel plans, are up-to-date on vaccinations and excited about our upcoming trip. Lynnette is totally against this and is insisting we cancel our travel plans.

We have no intention and feel safe about taking all precautions necessary. This is the first major argument we've ever had with Lynnette. Is there any way we can put her mind at ease and calm her fears?

~ Mom & Pop

Dear Mom & Pop,

What a fantastic way to spend the holidays! I can only imagine the sights, sounds and sensations that you'll encounter being in the Holy Land during Christmas. And you can check off one item on your bucket list.

There are so many differing opinions about this very topic. Some are pro-vaccine, while others are not. Some feel safety precautions, when responsibly applied, are enough

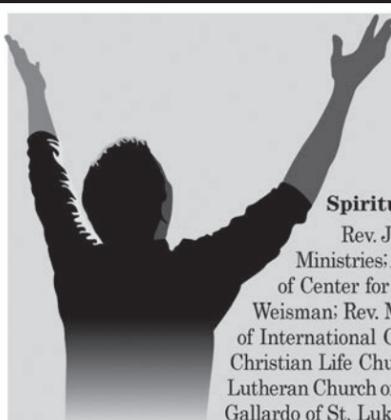
to travel securely while others are adamant about limiting activities to a minimum. You'll probably hear both supportive and antagonistic viewpoints on just about any related topic.

While I appreciate your daughter's concerns, I support your choice and ability to make rational decisions about your lives. Of course, we don't want to worry our children unnecessarily but the fact remains that we were managing our lives long before they were even on our radar.

From a faith perspective, I believe that if the Lord has placed this journey on your hearts for this time and season, I'll have to trust that He has orchestrated protective measures to keep you safe and healthy, provided you do your part. After all, He's promised to: *take care of all our needs. "And with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs." Philippians 4:19 (GNT)

*Plan for our future. "For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you," says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'" Jeremiah 29:11 (GNT)

*Care for us in the latter years.



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 of Redondo Beach Center for Spiritual Living; Rev. Dabney Beck of International Church of the Four Square Gospel; Lucinda Guarino; Pastor Randy Foster of Christian Life Church; Rev. Dr. Ellen Contente of Global Truth Center; Pastor Scott Peterson of Lutheran Church of the Foothills; Rev. Karin Ellis of La Cañada Methodist Church; Rev. Dr. Antonio Gallardo of St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church; Rev. Sharri James of UP Church; The Rev. C. L. "Skip" Lindeman of Upland Christian Church; Rev. Rob Holman of St. Luke's Anglican Church; Rev. Sharri Johnson of One Heart Retreat Center; Rev. KC Slack of Unitarian Universalist of the Verdugo Hills; Rev. Jeff Blanton and Rev. Emanuel David of Community Life Church; Rev. Karen Mitchell of High Desert Center for Spiritual Living; Rev. Kyle Sears of La Cañada Congregational Church.

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

"Even when you're old, I'll take care of you. Even when your hair turns gray, I'll support you. I made you and will continue to care for you. I'll support you and save you." Isaiah 46:4 (GW)

There are so many more promises in Scripture!

You may offer your daughter insight into your faith in the promises of God. Maybe continue to assure her, noting that you are not entering into this trip lightly or without considering the safety issues. Perhaps share your plans and strategies with her regarding your health measures.

It's tough to be at odds with our children and this, being your first encounter, [is] all the more important to establish your ability to care for yourselves. Finally, remind her how much you love and care for her, asking for her support and prayers for traveling mercies.

Please have a wonderful trip, and be sure to give Lynnette periodic updates and lots of pictures!

Be well & be blessed!



Lucinda Guarino
lucindaguarino1@gmail.com

Dear Mom and Pop,

I am sorry to hear about the argument that you had with Lynnette about your upcoming trip. Your concern about putting her mind at ease, and her insisting that you cancel the trip, are both expressions of the love that you have for one another. There are times when love does not manifest in the best way possible, and this is especially true when there is fear involved.

It seems that Lynnette is fearful about what could happen to you, and that is justifiable because she is your only daughter. It also seems that her own experience with COVID is enhancing her fear as manifested by the fact that she herself is not willing to travel. As you may have experienced with friends and family, all of us have had a different experience with this pandemic. Some of us are moving forward reassured by being boosted and still continuing to be careful while others are still very fearful about their lives and the lives of those they love. It seems that you

and Lynnette are at both ends of this spectrum.

I have parent figures who recently told me, after sharing that they had gone out for a nice dinner, "We have been careful all along and we will continue to be careful. We are boosted and we can't stop living our lives." I did not ask them for any explanation and I assume they needed to tell me what they told me to reassure me that that they are fine, and that they are being careful. That does not make me less concerned about their risk but it makes me understand how they feel, and gives me peace of mind.

I am not sure that there are words that you can tell Lynnette that will put her mind at ease, and I invite you – if you haven't [already] done so – to openly ask her what she is fearful about (even when you know the answer). If she is able to articulate her fear then you can acknowledge it and let her know that you understand her. You can share with her how much you love your lives to the point that you don't want to risk them, especially because you would like to continue enjoying your wonderful times with her. Then, like my parental figures did, you can reassure her that you will be taking every precaution possible during this trip and that you will do it out of your love for your own lives and your love for her.

It is obvious that there is love in your family and at this time that love is clouded by fear. I invite you to be instruments of the understanding and reassuring love, and hopefully that will give Lynnette some peace of mind.

Enjoy your trip, be super careful, and may the God who created you out of love protect you.



Rev. Antonio Gallardo
agallardo@stlukeslacrescenta.org

Question: My wife and I have been neighbors with a man (I'll call Paul) for 40 years. We both bought our houses at the same time and became good friends. We attended the same church and our kids were friends as well.

Three years ago, Paul's wife passed away from cancer. Now Paul

won't go to church, even though his adult children have urged him to on several occasions. Paul's reasoning is he's mad at God for letting his wife die. She was the love of his life.

Even though we think we understand his grief and feelings, we believe going back to church will help him. Please give us some ideas on how to talk to him.

~ Sympathetic Neighbors

Dear Sympathetic Neighbors,

It's wonderful that your neighbor has such caring friends such as yourselves. It's only natural that when we see our friends going through sadness we want to help them move through it quickly and get on with life. A church community can be a wonderful way to find meaning and belonging and thereby help us get beyond a sense of loss and hopelessness that we are facing; but remember, supporting a friend means loving them exactly as they are, not as we want them to be. We may think we know what is the best for them but they may need to go through the phases of grief that they are experiencing in order to grow into a sense of peace about losing their loved one. If you have ever seen a butterfly struggling in a chrysalis, you know that the struggle helps them build the strength necessary to get to their next realization.

In the book, "On Death and Dying," Elizabeth Kubler Ross defines the five stages of grief – denial, anger, bargaining (guilt) depression and acceptance. In it she explains that there is no time limit to the grieving process and that each person deals with the various stages of grief in their own way. You might suggest this book to your friend to give him insight into what he is experiencing and to know that he is not alone in his feelings. Anger is not only a normal reaction, but also a part of the healing process. His argument with God is a personal one and growing beyond his anger is one that he alone will have to come to terms with. The love and support of his friends and church community will be helpful but a relationship with God is an inside job. No one can find God for us.

In Religious Science, the formula for moving beyond a problem is to detach from the issue – take your mind off the problem and put your mind on God, knowing that your faith will bring you out of any darkness you are experiencing. Our

see RELIGION on next page

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YOUR AD HERE

RELIGION from previous page

thoughts create an energetic vibration that brings to us experiences at the level of our thinking energy. That does not mean don't feel what you're feeling, but don't dwell on it. There is a spirit that resides in each of us, the knower, which provides a spiritual solution to every problem. When we center ourselves in both thought and feeling to realize the divine presence within we will find peace.

Let your friend know of your loving support and be available to listen to him exactly where he is. Remind him that it is important to remember our loved ones who have died with more love than pain. Let him know that when he leans into the divine presence within, despite the anger, sadness and turmoil he is experiencing, the God he is wrestling with will bring him peace the moment he seeks it.

In Light,



Rev. Mary Morgan
mormari@aol.com

Dear Sympathetic Neighbors,
Paul is fortunate to have a neighbor like you. God clearly brought you together certainly for such a time as this. People get mad at God all the time. God understands this. He thinks the heartaches we suffer in this life are real and difficult. Since you've asked for some ideas, let me give you several: 1) Invite your old friend over regularly. Have dinner. Show God's love to him. God has not left him alone. He sent you! 2) Connect Paul with other widowers at the church. They can play golf or cards or have regular lunches together. There are lots of men who are going through what Paul is going through. 3) Losing a life-long spouse is so very

hard; often professional help is in order. There is nothing in the world like a skillful Christian grief counselor. Encourage Paul to make an appointment today! Do some homework and supply Paul with some names and numbers. 4) It might be wise to have a conversation with Paul and ask him if staying away from church is what his wife would have wanted. I suspect we all know the answer to that. 5) We recall on Good Friday the death of a famous Son. God also knows what it's like to lose a loved one. But God knew that his grief would be temporary because Jesus would be raised from the dead. This is at the core of what church is all about. Doesn't Paul share the same resurrection hope for his wife? In the prayer of Jesus before his crucifixion in John chapter 17, He says something no one ever talks about. He says He wants those who are His to be with Him where he is, that they might see His glory. Paul's wife was with him for a long time. Now, for a while, Paul and his wife are separated but Paul's wife is seeing the glory of Jesus in paradise. How wrong is it that Jesus should now enjoy the sweet fellowship that He has been waiting for, for so long? Paul and his wife will be reunited soon enough. For now, could Paul share his wife with Jesus in paradise for a while?

God's view on the death of his believers is different from ours. We find in Psalm 116 a wake up call on the subject of death: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." Life in this world is not all about us. It's about God and his glory. And that's what Paul's wife now enjoys, the glory of God.



Rev. Jon T. Karni
pastorjon@lightonthecorner.org

NOTES & NODS

This Week at LCIF

Lutheran Church in the Foothills invites the community to worship at a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. and a Christmas celebration on Sunday, Dec. 26 at 10 a.m. Interim Pastor Chuck Bunnell will lead both times of worship. The service will also be live-streamed on the church's YouTube channel. For those unable to attend or watch live, the videos will be available on the website, Facebook page and YouTube channel later in the week.

Visit the church's website at lcifoothills.org for details on all of the events happening including small group gatherings and opportunities to serve.

The church office is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge and is generally open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact the office via email at office@lcifoothills.org or call (818) 790-1951 for details, information, offering help or requesting help.

Walk and Word

In December, 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. They will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

Participants are asked to bring something to write with, anything wanted to eat or drink, and a chair to use for the writing part of

the morning. Because people will be outdoors and social distancing will be practiced, masks will be optional.

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

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

Christmas Season at La Crescenta Presbyterian

Celebrate the Christmas season with joyful music and messages of hope at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church.

On Friday, Dec. 24, bring the entire family to the LCPC Christmas Eve worship service featuring music, prayer and an uplifting message, along with live Nativity animals in front of the church.

During each Sunday of Advent explore the themes of hope, peace, joy and love at the 10 a.m. worship services or online at lcpc.net. Visit the website for a new Advent family devotional each week.

And every evening in December, La Crescenta Presbyterian will light up for Christmas. At 5 p.m., a 12-foot tree, Nativity scene and lights along the front of the church will be illuminated and instrumental Christmas music will play until 7 p.m.

La Crescenta Presbyterian is located at 2902 Montrose Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information on Christmas programming and its COVID-safe practices, visit lcpc.net or call (818) 249-6137.

Christmas Eve Services for All Ages

La Cañada Presbyterian Church will celebrate Christmas Eve with three services and a community sing-along. A family-friendly worship service at 4 p.m. will feature congregational singing of familiar carols, LCPC's children's choirs and a children's lesson in lieu of a sermon. Contemporary worship with candle lighting will be at 7:30 p.m. led by LCPC's Praise Band and held in the Worship Arts Center. Traditional worship with candle lighting at 10 p.m. will feature LCPC's Chancel Choir with organ. All three services can be live-streamed at live.lacanadapc.org.

At the last two services, Interim Senior Pastor Gareth Icenogle will reflect on the miracle of light and angels appearing to shepherds in the open country keeping watch of their sheep.

At 5 p.m. on the LCPC upper patio, at nearby public spaces, and throughout the community wherever the LCPC bell tower carillon can be heard, all are invited to sing Christmas carols. Lyrics can be found here at lacanadapc.org/lyrics.

Following Christmas, on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, there will be one service each Sunday at 10 a.m. The regular schedule of traditional worship at 9 a.m. and contemporary worship at 10:30 a.m. will resume on Jan. 9. All are welcome to join in celebrating the miracle of Jesus Christ's birth through Christmas Eve services, the community sing-along, and throughout the year. For more information visit lacanadapc.org.



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SCHIFF from page 10

like – despite the fact there are more than 20 years of data showing that calculating bite rates for specific breeds is virtually impossible and no evidence to show these restrictions make housing any safer.

Reasonable alternatives can be hard to come by. More than 70% of pet owners who participated in the survey reported that pet-friendly housing is difficult to find, and 59% reported that it is too expensive.

The consequences can be dire. Hundreds of thousands of pets have

been surrendered to animal shelters at a real cost to taxpayers because they violate restrictions and their owners fear eviction. Some owners may be forced to choose a less stable or safe housing option because they understandably don't want to part with a member of their family. And, at worst, families that are most vulnerable to housing insecurity, including those who live in public housing, are faced with yet another barrier to keeping a roof over their heads.

That's why I recently introduced the "Pets Belong with Families Act," which would prohibit public housing from implementing these vague and sweeping pet restrictions. Dangerous individual animals can still be excepted, but no docile and loving shepherd or Husky will be discriminated against solely because of their breed or size.

Solving California's affordable housing crisis means making it easier to site, finance, and build more units and making the ultra-

wealthy pay their fair share, yes – but it also means eliminating the more individual barriers that stand between families and desirable places to live.

It means alleviating food deserts so families can access abundant, nutritious groceries. It means building more public transportation options so workers can easily and reliably get to their jobs. It means funding our public schools so parents don't have to compete for their children to get a quality education.

If we invest in these things equitably, and in the communities that could benefit the most, not only will more housing options inevitably follow – but the people who occupy them will be better positioned to succeed and thrive.

And it means allowing them to bring their pets ... because affordable housing should be more than just a roof over your head. It should be a safe, stable and loving home – and for many families, nothing makes it feel more like home than a beloved pet.

CV WEEKLY IS ONLINE!

DESCANSO from page 14

handpan. Not all the music is original, but it was all chosen just for the event."

Fifth grader Alisha Singh attended Enchanted Forest of Light.

"I loved the tulip garden. It was really pretty and nice to see all the colors," she said. "It is my first time going to the Enchanted experience, but I have been to Descanso Gardens before. It was fun to see it in a different light at night with all the lights."

People traveled far with friends and family to experience the Enchanted Forest of Light at Descanso Gardens. Nancy Morrow, Brian Morrow, AJ Rodriguez and Christian Rodriguez came from Orange County.

"The Flower Power light display is beautiful," said Nancy. "It looks like a field of tulips. We have never been [to Descanso Gardens] before. I always wanted to see [the Gardens] and the Enchanted experience gave a perfect opportunity to explore Descanso Gardens with family. The Enchanted Forest of Light is a wonderful event that shows holiday spirit."

Kelly Bock also made the trip to La Cañada to experience the Enchanted Forest of Light.

"I liked the snowflake walkway, which was beautiful, and the tulip garden, which was lovely," said Bock. "This is my first time going to the Enchanted experience and my first time going to Descanso Gardens. I came from San Diego."

The Descanso Gardens Enchanted Forest of Light is a perfect outdoors setting to share with friends and family. The Enchanted Forest of Light experience will be open from 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m. until Jan. 9 (closed on Dec. 24 - 25). Tickets cost \$25-\$28 for Descanso Gardens members and \$32-\$35 for non-members. Some dates are already sold out, so it is advised to purchase tickets soon to ensure an enchanting evening.

TREE from COVER

tree lighting.

"It is good to be back in front of this library celebrating the lighting of the Christmas tree," Barger said. "There's no question that La Crescenta is a unique, incredible community - a small town with a big heart - and I'm just so thrilled to be a part of this."

Barger said she thinks of the holiday season as a time to have renewed joy and reflect on what accomplishments have occurred but also to look forward to what's ahead.

"I hope that, during this holiday season, with everything that has gone on over the last two years, we can all take the time to give ourselves grace, to be thankful for what we have and to continue to give back," Barger said. "You all give back each and every day and I want you all to know it truly is an honor to represent such an amazing - unincorporated - part of LA County."

ALG from page 11

perform volunteer services and, in this instance, provided gifts for the seniors, a Christmas mug and candy canes. The Senior Neighborhood Fellowship

program luncheon also celebrated December birthdays with gifts and seniors and guests played bingo for holiday prizes.

The seniors' lunch from Dinah's Chicken.

The next Assistance League Glendale Senior Neighborhood Fellowship luncheon will be on Wednesday, Jan. 12 and will be from Mario's Italian Deli. There is a \$3 charge per senior.

The Assistance League welcomes all senior citizens to join in the fun afternoon. Those who would like to know more about the luncheons or make a reservation to attend can leave a message for Judy Rezvani, the committee chair, (818) 247-4296.

Submitted by Danette ERICKSON

STUDENT LOANS from page 4

"I hope the delay means they are working on it," she said. "I still support President Biden and still appreciate all he has done; I just want to see [this issue] addressed."

President Biden is asking all student loan borrowers to use this time to take full advantage of the Dept. of Education's resources to help prepare for when payments resume and to look at options to lower income-based repayment plans.

Student loans take an average of 20 years to repay. The average student loan for an education at a public university is about \$30,000, according to The Education Data Initiative. This average does not include food and

housing, or some labs required for specific majors.

California State universities cost an average of \$6,600 per year for credentialed programs but for medical, legal and other professional careers the price can increase dramatically.

The average physician pays \$365,000 to \$440,000 for an educational loan plus interest. A \$200,000 debt can double in 10 years, according to Dec. 9,

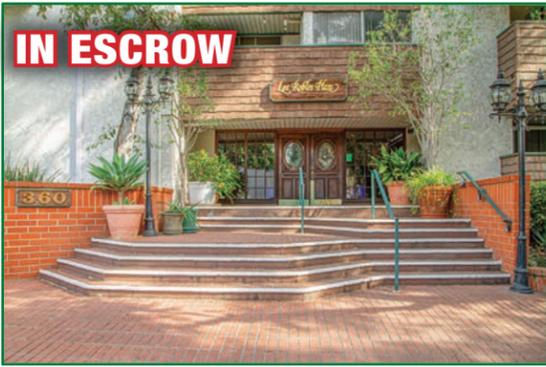
2021 interest rates.

About 76% to 89% of medical school graduates have educational debt; 43% of medical school graduates have premedical educational debt. According to NerdWallet, since President Biden took office in January 2021, relief for specific student loan borrowers has been extended rather than broad forgiveness given for all.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The best part of the holiday season, no matter what you celebrate, is remembering those who make our lives happy and meaningful throughout the year. We at J's Maids wish you all the love and happiness this season can bring, and may it follow you throughout the coming new year.

Happy Holidays From Our Family To Yours



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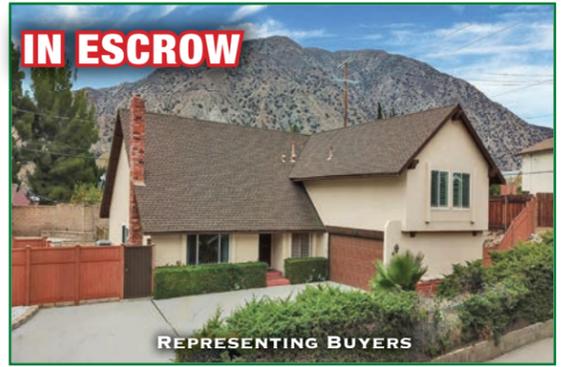
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Sold a Single Family home in 2020 in Tujunga, CA.

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