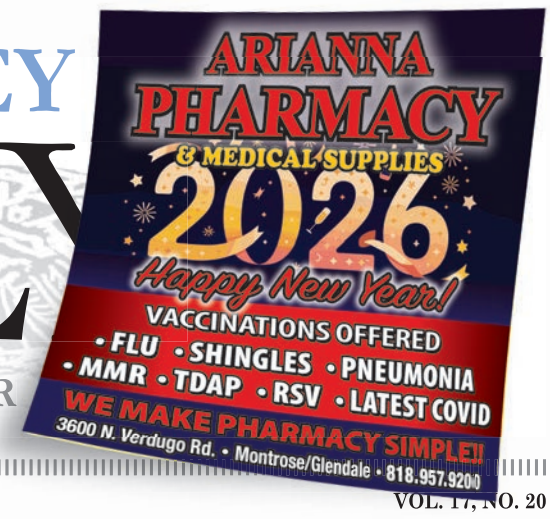
CRESCENTA VALLEY
WEEKLY
THE FOOTHILLS' COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JANUARY 1, 2026 WWW.CVWEEKLY.COM VOL. 17, NO. 20

Barger Honors LASD on 175th Anniversary

On Dec. 16, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger presented a commemorative scroll to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. in recognition of its 175th anniversary during the board of supervisors' public hearing meeting at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

The ceremony honored the department's longstanding commitment to public safety and service to communities across Los Angeles County.

"For 175 years, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. has been a cornerstone of public safety, serving our communities with courage," said Supervisor Barger. "This anniversary is an opportunity to honor the generations of deputies and professional staff who have worn the badge with pride and those who continue to put service above self every day."

Sheriff Robert G. Luna accepted the commemorative scroll on behalf of the department and addressed the board and attendees.

"This 175th anniversary belongs to the community as much as it does to the department and the dedicated personnel within it," said Sheriff Robert G. Luna. "For 175 years, our deputies, professional staff and volunteers have worked hand-in-hand with the people we serve. This remarkable milestone honors not only our rich history, but the generations of men and women whose dedication built the formation we stand on today."

The presentation took place at the start of the board of supervisors' public hearing meeting. More than 100 personnel from the sheriff's department were in attendance.

Members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. Band performed prior to the meeting and during the scroll presentation.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

LCFTRA Float 'Goes Nuts' Showing Neighbors Helping Neighbors

By Eliza PARTIKA

The LCFTRA embraces the parade theme of "The Magic in Teamwork."

Photo by Eliza PARTIKA
Volunteers with the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Assn. work "under the bridge" to put the final touches on its entry in this year's Rose Parade.

The La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association (LCFTRA) finalized its Tournament of Roses entry Monday, prepping and adding flowers, plants and seeds that will adorn the float. This year's float, titled "Goin' Nutz," is one of many this year with motifs honoring victims of January's wildfires and symbolizing the hope of rebuilding.

"Many of us lost our homes," said Pam Widenbeck, this year's LCFTRA president of Float Development. "It's very quiet under the bridge this year." LCFTRA puts the finishing touches on its entry underneath the Foothill Boulevard overpass of the 210 Freeway near the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Hampton Road.

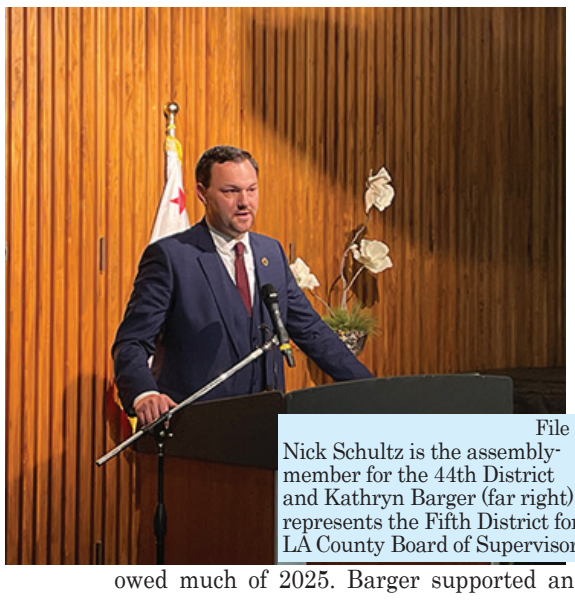
Widenbeck and her husband watched their home burn on television and have spent the last year sifting through the wreckage for cherished memories and coming to grips with what was lost. Widenbeck described how she will have to piece together her tournament parade jumpsuit that was lost in the fire, which had patches and pins from every float she has worked on in her 20 years with LCFTRA. But with that loss, she said, comes hope.

When Widenbeck and former president Ernest Koeppen were brainstorming how to create the wheelbarrow the skunk on the float will use to transport acorns to neighbors in need, Koeppen asked if he could go back to Widenbeck's house with her to retrieve her wheelbarrow from her burnt garage.

see LCFTRA *on page 18*

A Conversation with Two Leaders

By Mary O'KEEFE



File photos
Nick Schultz is the assemblymember for the 44th District and Kathryn Barger (far right) represents the Fifth District for the LA County Board of Supervisors.

This has been a pretty challenging year for a lot of us and that includes those who have been voted into office to navigate the good, and the bad, times. CVW sat down to discuss the year that was with two leaders: Kathryn Barger of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and California Assemblymember Nick Schultz.

Kathryn Barger was voted into office in 2016. Though she was re-elected in 2020 and 2024, she has been working for LA County for over 35 years beginning as a college intern and rising to the position of chief deputy with then-Supervisor Michael Antonovich. She is now serving her third and final term as supervisor for the Fifth District. In 2025 Barger also served as chair of the board of supervisors.

2025 started with extreme winds and a fire that encompassed Altadena, which is in the Fifth District. The Eaton Fire has overshadowed much of 2025. Barger supported an investigation into what happened during the fire and what needed to be changed. The report, titled "McChrystal After-Action Report: Alerts, Warnings and Evacuations," found several areas that needed to be improved. One area was county policies and protocols on evacuation warnings and orders that the report found were "outdated, unclear and contradictory." The report also found staffing shortages, and the first responders and incident commander were unable to "consistently share real-time information due to unreliable cellular connectivity,

see BARGER & SCHULTZ *on page 18*

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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Holiday Joy

As I decorated the house for the holidays (I was late this year) I stopped and looked over all of the holiday cards we received. They boasted great photos of friends and family along with wishes for happy holidays.

I am embarrassed to admit that I haven't sent out a holiday greeting in *years*. It's not that I don't wish each and every one of my friends happy holidays; I do. In years past I would take the time to sit down and address cards to friends and family. However, over the last couple of years I haven't taken the time to do that. Consequently, I find myself looking over the cards of people who despite being equally busy as I found the time to wish us a Merry Christmas.

I did discover that procrastinators (like me) are turning to sending out New Year's wishes. Keeping that in mind, to all of my friends and family who are reading this (and shame on you if you aren't) I say Happy New Year! May it be filled with health and prosperity.

This is the time of year for making New Year's resolutions. The most common appear to be exercising more, eating healthier, saving money, improving mental well-being, losing weight, learning new skills, spending time with family, getting organized, reading more and reducing social media use. These are noble to be sure and, if followed, will result in people who are less stressed and probably happier.

In Time Magazine, a neuroscientist explains that making resolutions is the brain's way "to think about our own thinking." He suggests breaking New Year's resolutions into "manageable parts." In other words, if you discover in February that you haven't hit a benchmark you've put upon yourself, don't worry about it. Hopefully you'll get around to it.

"Some of the most important options we need to recognize include changing our mind, changing our goals and even quitting things we care about," the article states. "After all, life involves balancing family, work, health [and] friends."

Being a procrastinator, these words are salve for my soul. It gives me the freedom to change my mind and reassess my goals – and just kicking some of them to the curb.

However, I also recognize the importance of getting things done. If I just sat around and *thought* about doing something rather than doing something nothing would get done. I typically don't do that.

But that leads me to a burning question: where did I put the TV remote? I'm sure there's something on TV I want to watch.

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

INSIDE

NEWS 3
RELIGION 4
VIEWPOINTS 9
YOUTH 10
BETWEEN FRIENDS 11
LEISURE 13
JUST FOR FUN 14
CLASSIFIEDS 19

» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

We should be looking at possible high winds for New Year's Day, today. The gusts are expected to be in the 15 mph to 25 mph range; however, there could be some thunderstorms that will include gusts up to 50 mph, but this would be isolated.

Rain was expected to start overnight Tuesday and through Wednesday with the heaviest rain between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. today, Thursday.

Rain will continue on and off until Friday morning, then a second storm comes in Friday night through Saturday, and linger with on and off rain through Monday, according to NOAA.

We are saying goodbye to 2025 and my feeling is … thank God. I know a lot of years lately, including the pandemic years, have tested us but seriously – I don't think I have ever dealt with more drama than during this year. There seems to be anxiety-riddled people all around us.

Standing in line at the grocery store I hear people so angry because the person in front of all of us is having a difficult time with self-checkout even if this person – like me – was raised with having actual humans helping at checkout. So yes, sometimes the human-less checkout is a challenge.

People seem to be upset at the gas station, at restaurants and at doctor offices. And the weird thing is that everything appears to be going well but if someone says the wrong thing … all h*ll breaks loose. It seems like everyone is on their "last nerve." I know news media is constantly reminding us how crazy things are and how the future looks bleak. When the only place where people seem happy is at a protest I think we are in trouble.

Now this might not be everyone's take on 2025, and if it's not yours then I am so happy for you, but for me … this will go down as the year of feeling like [thank you, Tennessee Williams] a cat on a hot tin roof.

So this is my New Year's Resolution: I am going to turn my back on the drama. I am going to look for the positive – not ignoring the negative – and at least find even a thin line of positive in every issue. I am going to work really hard to follow my philosophy of "There but for the grace of God go I" and understand that not everyone is out to get everyone else.

Now, as I deal with the science of climate in this column (and there is no doubt there is an attack of all kinds on science from leaders outside of California) it may be a bit difficult to find the positive with humans and the climate, but I will try …. and by try I mean I called my environmental scientist daughter and asked her for good news.

Let's start with the National Public Radio (NPR) article, "Green sea turtles no longer endangered as global population rebounds."

"Once endangered, the global green sea turtle population is rebounding, according to a new report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)," according to NPR. (Just as an aside, how great is it that NPR is still going strong even though the federal government cut all financial support … donate if you can.)

The report involved collating 279 papers pertaining to sea turtle biogeography and genetics, geo-referencing 959 maps and 167 distinct genetic stocks creating a custom, interactive geographic information system for collecting edits and feedback and writing, and publishing a peer-reviewed article featuring 48 updated RMU (regional management unit) boundaries, according to IUCN. (RMU is a defined area used to manage populations of species.)

The NPR interview stated that there are 20,000 endangered species in the world and – happily – the green sea turtle is no longer one of them.

see WEATHER *on page 19*

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

OFFICES CLOSED

The offices of CV Weekly will be closed today, Jan. 1, and Jan. 2 for the New Year's holiday.

ROSEMONT PRESERVE OPEN GATE MORNING

An "open gate" event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Saturday morning, Jan. 3. This is a chance for residents to visit the Preserve and wander the trail at their own pace and enjoy the tranquil setting, the wildlife and the natural beauty. Photographers: bring your camera to capture the morning light and citizen scientists, bring your iNaturalist and Merlin apps to identify birds and add wildlife sightings!

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

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

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

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

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

CITYWIDE PUBLIC ART LANDMARKS RFQ

The City of Glendale has released a public art landmark RFQ presenting three different project opportunities. The aim is to create world-class public artwork in a diverse range of mediums designed to engage the community, showcasing the cultural diversity of the City, and enhancing the various civic and public spaces.

To learn more, visit https://www.glendaleartsandculture.org/publicartrfq.

The application for the 2026 Performance Series is now open. Performance groups based in the Southern California region and made up of trios or larger are invited to apply for the Brand Summer Music Series and the Jewel City Concert Series.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Jan. 30, 2026 at 5 p.m.

GLENDALE SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON ECONOMIC STRATEGIC PLAN

The City of Glendale's Economic Development Division (EDD) is seeking community input as it updates its 3-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan, which will guide the City's economic priorities and initiatives from 2026 through 2029.

To ensure the plan reflects the community's needs, Glendale is gathering feedback from local businesses, regional partners, nonprofit organizations, and residents. Input collected through a brief survey will help the City better understand Glendale's current economic landscape and identify opportunities for future growth, strengthening the city's economic development efforts to support local businesses and attract new ones.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Share thoughts by Friday, Jan. 16, 2026.

Take the survey at Bit.ly/EDPlanSurvey (case sensitive).

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

Year In Review 2025

JANUARY

The year started with the death of former President Jimmy Carter, the nation's 39th President and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, who passed away at the age of 100. He was at his home in Plains, Georgia surrounded by his family.

The iconic senior living center Twelve Oaks shut down for a complete reconstruction. The property is an affiliate of Episcopal Communities & Services (ECS).

The City of LCF entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade 2025 earned the Crown City Innovator Award.

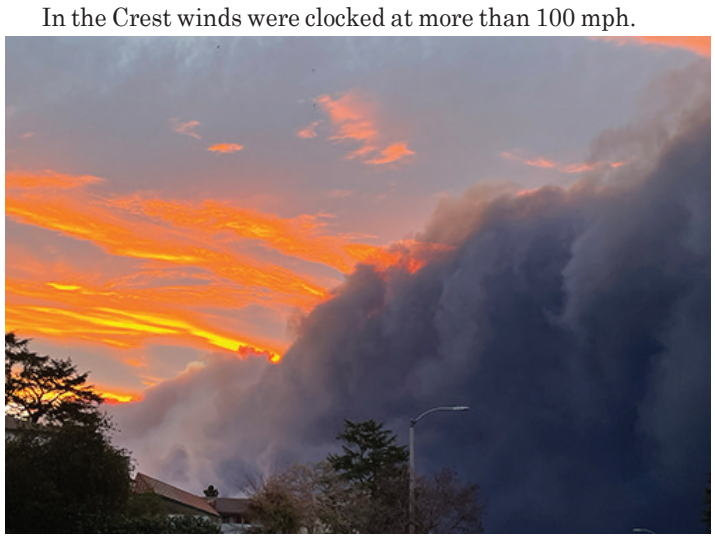
On Jan. 7 a fire broke out in the Eaton Canyon area around 6:30 p.m. Evacuations were ordered as the wind-driven fire traveled quickly through neighborhoods including those in Altadena.

Local area foothills communities, including La Cañada, La Crescenta, Montrose, Glendale and Burbank, were all issued a high wind warning.

These were Santa Ana, north/northeast, winds but are a "bit more widespread than a typical Santa Ana," according to NOAA. This was considered a Mountain Wave. Mountain Waves, according to NOAA, are wave-like effects that occur above and behind mountain ranges when strong winds meet the mountain's front.

"This is going to be a very strong wind event," said a NOAA spokesperson.

In the Crest winds were clocked at more than 100 mph.



Fire recovery continued with residents looking to city, county and federal officials for support.

The communities came together to help those who were affected by the fires including a group from Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Several JPLers lost their homes in Altadena. A group of employees from JPL set up drop-in centers, including one in Crescenta Valley, to help those affected by the fire. They were joined by other supporting organizations including the La Crescenta Woman's Club,

see YIR *on page 5*

Recovering from the fire began its long, long journey. A meeting to answer some questions was held on Jan. 10.

"One of the most common questions I'm hearing from residents impacted by the Eaton Fire is, 'What do I do now?'" Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger said. "Our neighbors want to know where to go for immediate help, how to get information about their home, when they can return and what long-term resources are available. This meeting will aim to answer those questions and is just the first of many more to come."

Prior to the Eaton Fire was the Palisades Fire that began on Jan. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

"Like something I have never seen before." That was a quote from Los Angeles Police Dept. Chief Jim McDonnell referring to the wind-driven fires that began with the Palisades Fire. Firefighters battled the Palisades Fire that was first reported southeast of Palisades Drive in Pacific Palisades. The fire went from covering 200 acres to 1,000 in a short time and continued to grow leaving a path of destruction in its wake. An estimated 30,000 people were under mandatory evacuation. But some faced road closures and traffic jams and at one point people in the area of Palisades Drive and some on Sunset Boulevard appeared to panic as they attempted to evacuate. They got stuck in traffic and just abandoned their vehicles – many taking their vehicle keys with them making it almost impossible for emergency vehicles, including fire engines, to get to the areas that were in need. That is when a fire department bulldozer came in and plowed a path for emergency responders.

Smoke filled the skies over Crescenta Valley. Winds continued and toppled trees.

NOTES & NODS

LCIF EVENTS

For information about activities at Lutheran Church in the Foothills, please visit the church's website: lcifoothills.org. Those who need pastoral care or are looking to join groups such as Bible study, quilting or book club, can email office@lcifoothills.org or call (818) 790-1951.

The church is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

LAKE AVENUE CHURCH PRESENTS 'SONGS OF REMEMBRANCE'

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Lake Avenue Church, 393 N. Lake Ave. in Pasadena, is having a special community memorial service titled "Songs of Remembrance: A Service of Hope and Renewal." Best-selling Christian author and speaker Philip Yancey will be speaking at Lake Avenue Church.

The 70-minute service will be led by Lake Avenue Church's Chamber Orchestra and members of the Sanctuary Choir, featuring sacred hymns, choral anthems and classical works that invite reflection, comfort and renewed hope.

The event is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Donations are welcome to support the Lake Avenue Church Fire Relief Fund at www.Lakeave.org, which continues to assist victims through financial aid, legal and pastoral counseling, and property damage recovery services.

CSL OFFERS GENTLE MOVEMENT CLASS

The Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta is offering a gentle stretch and relax chair movement with Michelle Gillette. It takes place every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is a $10 donation.

The class is at Chaffee Hall in the Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta.

The Center for Spiritual Living is located at 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information, call (818) 249-1045.

MILESTONE CELEBRATION

This year Glendale City Church celebrates 120 years of faith, community and service. Founded in 1905, the church serves as a welcoming gathering place for worship, learning, artistic expression and community care.

To commemorate this anniversary, Glendale City Church will host a public, weekend-long celebration on Jan. 30-31, 2026, highlighting its rich history and ongoing creative vitality. The program will feature music, poetry readings, visual art and a curated church history gallery with photographs, archival materials and stories tracing the congregation's journey across 12 decades.

Open to the public, the anniversary weekend invites longtime members, new friends and the wider Glendale community to gather in celebration of a living legacy that continues to shape the city.

To view the itinerary, visit https://tinyurl.com/w39frw84.

For more information, visit glendalecitychurch.org, email questions to office@glendalecitychurch.org or contact the church office at (818) 244-7241.

WALK AND WORD

Walk and Word participants will meet in the parking lot of Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale at 8 a.m. on Jan. 12, 19 & 26. Participants will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be conversation, sharing thoughts.

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

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

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

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THE FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
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YIR *from page 3*

American Legion Post 288/Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1614 and St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church. Numerous organizations, and individuals, worked together to support neighboring communities devastated by the fires.

The La Crescenta Library celebrated its 15th anniversary with a cake, cookies and a magic show.

FEBRUARY

The community gathered to pay its respects to community icon Rev. Bev – the Reverend Beverly Craig who received an honorary doctorate of divinity. She had led the Center of Spiritual Living for decades. Rev. Bev supported or founded several organizations throughout the community including LA County Sheriff's Dept./CV Station's Clergy Council.

The Prom Plus organization held its first official fundraiser with its new board. For over 30 years Prom Plus has been an organization created to keep Crescenta Valley High School seniors and their guests safe after prom. In 2024 it was thought that Prom Plus had run its course after those who led the organization for many years decided to step back from it. It was feared the organization would end but then volunteer parents stepped up and a new generation took the reins.

Community members packed the Glendale City Council meeting – most in support of requiring an environmental impact review (EIR) for a proposal to demolish the Glendale Garden Homes apartments at 1303-1315 North Central Avenue and replace them with a new 149-unit housing project. An EIR would determine if the property is or is not an historic resource and offer an opportunity for public comment and engagement.

Nick Schultz was sworn in as the 44th district assemblymember. Schultz took the seat vacated by Laura Friedman, who had been voted into the state congressional seat vacated by Adam Schiff, who was voted in as California's senator.

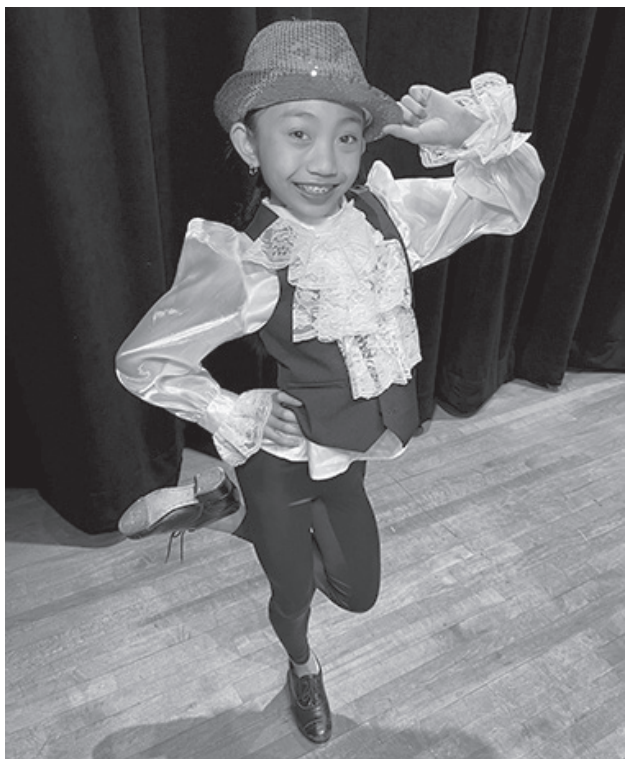
CVW was honored to visit artist and Holocaust survivor Gabriella Karin. She was hidden throughout WWII by friends and neighbors. He art reflects the images of her childhood.

LA County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger launched the formation of the Altadena Recovery Commission to organize, resource and support the long-term rebuild of the Altadena community in the wake of the devastating Eaton Fire.

The Aquarium of the Pacific launched a new education tool, the Marine Species Report Card. The main goal of the tool was to give context into what biodiversity means and what a shift in species population looks like.

"If I told you there had been a 10% decline in California marine biodiversity you would intellectually know that was bad but I'm not sure you would get passionate about it," said Dr. Peter Kareiva, president and CEO of Aquarium of the Pacific. "But if I told you that that 10% decline, what really was behind it, was that all of the sea otters along California had disappeared – you'd be angry, you'd rally, you'd be passionate about it and feel a real sense of loss."

About 500 Los Angeles Unified School District students left their schools to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids, marching first to Los Angeles City Hall then to the LAUSD offices and back.



The annual Lincoln Elementary talent show took place on Jan. 29. Lincoln first grade teachers Melinda Burkhart and Nicolas James worked with the talented students for four weeks to get the students ready for the big night.

Two Strike Park got a new basketball court thanks to the LA Clippers Community Courts program.

MARCH

Construction began on the La Crescenta Avenue Rehabilitation Project through the City of Glendale.

Glendale City Council moved forward three commissions by unanimous vote: Alex Fay was appointed to the board of the Glendale Water and Power; Daniel Paul was reappointed to the city's Historic Preservation Commission; and Talin Shahbazian was appointed to the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC). A fourth appointment – Alek Bartrosouf to the TPC – was more controversial, passing 3-2, with Councilmembers Vartan Gharpetian and Ara Najarian voting against.

JOANN Fabric and Crafts stores across the nation closed their doors including the store in La Cañada Flintridge.

Jazz Night at the Café, an evening of swing dance to live music provided by the award-winning CV jazz band, was a resounding success according to organizers. The event, which took place in the school's cafeteria, was "fabulous," bringing the crowd to its feet and dancing for hours.

At approximately 6:45 a.m., a deputy assigned to Crescenta Valley Station was preparing for his shift when his firearm discharged, resulting in an injury. He was transported to a local hospital and was in stable condition.

Local activist Ines Chessum stepped down as co-chair of the Crescenta Valley Land Use Committee after nearly 11 years of service.

Los Angeles County filed suit against Southern California Edison and Edison International (SCE) to recover costs and damages sustained by the County from the Eaton Fire. The lawsuit alleges that SCE's equipment caused the deadly blaze, requiring the County to incur massive costs responding to the fire and its aftermath.

Glendale City Council voted unanimously to move forward with getting bids for reconstruction of the Pines Cottage at Rockhaven Sanitarium.

"I want America to have a future and I want all of us to have a future in America," Crescenta Valley High School (CVHS) student protestor and Students Demand Action member "Heather" stated in her speech to the assembled CVHS student protestors. Student-led campus organizations, such as the Black Student Union, the Gay Straight Alliance, Fempowerment, the CVHS Film Club and Students Stand With Refugees, organized the walkout leading student protesters to the steps of the La Crescenta Library in protest of Donald Trump, his current administration and the Supreme Court.

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital nurses protested for the retention of nurses.

Around 100 people peacefully demonstrated on a grassy area in the middle of the mall in Glendale, just across from the electric car store, with chants of "No Elon, No KKK, No Fascists in the USA!" "Trade It In!" and "This is what democracy looks like!"

Crescenta Valley High School's Falkon robotics team placed second overall in an ocean-themed robot face-off against 51 other teams at the Ventura Regional FIRST Robotics competition.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal released maps referencing the 2025 Recommended Local Responsibility Areas Fire Hazard Severity Zone for Los Angeles County.

Quilt 'n' Things supported quilters who lost their quilts, and sewing machines, in the Eaton Fire.

Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day was held at the Vietnam War Memorial in Montrose.

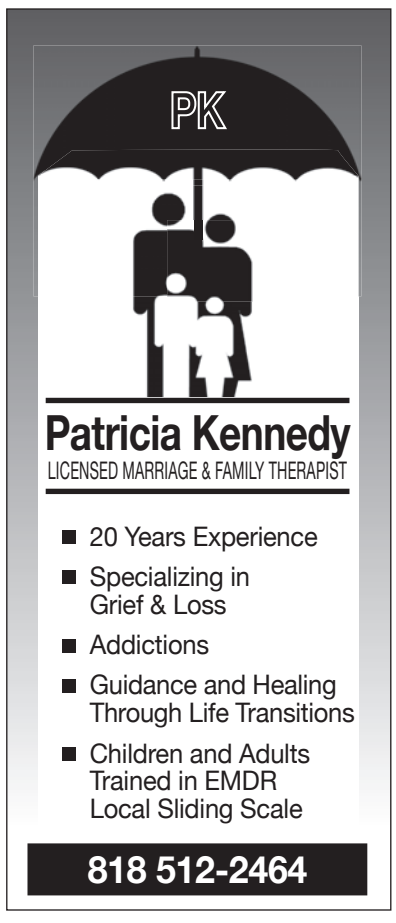
APRIL

In a surprise move, Glendale City Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian issued a public statement indicating that though he was next in line to be selected mayor, according to the operative city ordinance, he would not be seeking the office.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority recently acquired about 33 acres in the Verdugo Mountains/Mountain Oaks property.

Residents worried about trucks traveling up to Dunsmuir Sediment Placement Site near Deukmejian Wilderness Park. The trucks were carrying debris from the Altadena burn area.

see YIR *on page 6*



Residents near the Sevenhills Drive area in Tujunga also voiced concern about the truck traffic and debris headed to the Zachau Sediment Placement Site.

The 10th Annual Montrose Craft Beer Fest was another successful event, which is organized by the Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce.

Signs appeared throughout Altadena stating "Altadena is Not For Sale." Neighbors were concerned that developers will swoop in and buy up land that was once held by individuals.

Hands Off protests took place across the nation with 1,400 plus events. Local organizer, Indivisible, gathered well over 2,000 protestors to join them for the Pasadena Hands Off protest.

The play "Survivors" by Wendy Kout was performed for students at Glendale High School. It looks at the lives of 10 survivors of the Holocaust and the way hatred escalated from derogatory comments to the deaths of 6 million Jews and millions of others, including Roma and Sinti people, disabled people, people of color, gay and transgender people and political prisoners.

The Crescenta Valley High School competitive dance team concluded its competition season and brought home two national titles: West Coast Elite (WCE) Nationals and United Spirit Association (USA) Nationals. With countless hours of practice, team work and perseverance by every dancer, each win was memorable.

LASD CV Station Captain Robert Hahnlein was promoted to commander. Lt Ryan Vienna was placed in the position of acting captain at the station.

Glendale Teachers Association and Glendale Unified School District reach an agreement on wages for 2025-2026 school year.

Ara Najarian was named Glendale's mayor.

The Annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration event was held at the Alex theatre.

The Rosemont Preserve, part of the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, created a way to capture rainwater to replenish the ever-decreasing amount of groundwater.

LASD CV Station cadet Ashar Baker, 16, was highlighted for his commitment to the CV Station Explorer Academy.

MAY

CV Water District proposed a different billing system and changed its billing calendar.

A vehicle pursuit where the male suspect/driver hit speeds of over 100 mph traveled along the 210 Freeway west of State Route 2. The pursuit ended when the driver crashed into the rear of a dump truck. The driver sustained major injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Los Angeles County reached a $4 billion agreement to settle more than 6,800 sexual abuse claims dating back to 1959.

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital reached a contract agreement with California Nurses Association, which represents nearly 260 registered nurses at the hospital.

Laurie Leshin decided to step down as director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. David Gallagher, who has been serving as the Lab's associate director for Strategic Integration, has been selected by Caltech to lead the federally funded research and development center. Caltech manages JPL for NASA.

Friends, community supporters and former employees of the Crow's Nest gathered at the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge to fundraise for former Crow's Nest owner Art Miner. Miner underwent open heart surgery that did not go well. He was in a coma for 31 days with collapsed lungs and failed kidneys and lost his fingers and part of his left foot.

About 250 Monte Vista Elementary School parents, and teachers, shared their concerns over the proposed fourth/fifth grade split next school year for the school's Korean Dual Language Immersion program at a meeting at the school. The issue focused on the proposed split classes.

On Earth Day, Michael Thelen, flight system manager for the SPHEREx Project at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and the team from SPHEREx rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

Reports of a harmful algae bloom occurring off the coast of Southern California that has affected sea lions and dolphins.

Let's Go Glendale will transform a portion of South Glendale Avenue into a car-free space. Community members were invited to explore the area on foot, bike, scooter, wheelchair or any other way that moves them.

One thousand American flags were placed on the grounds of Forest Lawn in Glendale by the Glendale Sunrise Rotary to commemorate Memorial Day. The ceremony honored first responders – specifically members of the Glendale Police Dept., Glendale Fire Dept., LA County Fire Dept. and Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.

One man was charged in connection with a missing 14-year-old boy in the Montrose area. The juvenile went missing on May 2 and was found on May 5.

Glendale police officers responded to a report of a possible burglary in the 1600 block of South Central Avenue. They found a male suspect with a Pennzoil jug containing gasoline. It appeared the suspect was planning to set fire to the location.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and law enforcement partners in California and Florida arrested 13 alleged members and associates of Armenian organized crime syndicates. Those arrested are charged with a series of crimes in five federal complaints including attempted murder, kidnapping, illegal firearm possession and thefts estimated to be in millions of dollars related to online retailer shipments.

Glendale City Council began the first of four budget study sessions.

A local resident shared his account of the aftermath of the bombing of a fertility clinic in Palm Springs. The resident, Chris Kilpatrick, was in the building next door when he heard the explosion.

David Meyerhof received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance.

After much debate and concern from residents U Matter Luxury Resort in the 3000 block of Frances Avenue apparently left the neighborhood.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Arts degree from Woodbury University.

A resident who owns a home in the 5300 block of Ocean View Boulevard reported to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Station that when he arrived at his residence he discovered that the locks to the house and the yard gate had been changed. The resident had the property up for sale and had been living outside the area for several days.

Expanded legal services were made available for Eaton Fire survivors.

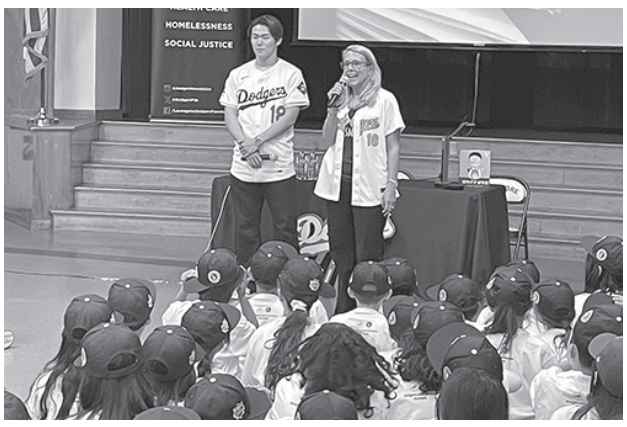
Glendale Fire Dept. responded to a fire near Brand Park. The fire, titled the Brand Incident, was in steep terrain. The fire was quickly contained.

JUNE

Musicians from Crescenta Valley High School's Instrumental Music Dept. performed their yearly pops concert with the theme of heroes and villains. The concert celebrated the achievements of 245 students making up five different groups: wind ensemble, jazz band, string orchestra, symphony orchestra and concert band.

John Camphouse celebrated his 43rd anniversary with Montrose Search and Rescue team then retired from MSAR. March marked the 2,000th rescue under his belt, a milestone only reached by one other member of the search and rescue team.

It was announced that a conditional use permit had been submitted by Planet Fitness for the 2600 block of Foothill Boulevard, the former Rite Aid location.



Dodger pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto promoted reading at the Dunsmore Elementary School Japanese Dual Immersion Program.

About 250 members of Glendale's LGBTQIA+ community, their friends, families and allies gathered at Adams Square Mini Park to celebrate PRIDE month. It was the fourth annual family picnic organized by glendaleOUT

The City of Glendale made the decision to formally terminate its agreement with U.S. Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to house federal immigration detainees at the Glendale Police Dept. facility.

The U.S. Army celebrated its 250th anniversary. Locally members of American Legion Post 288 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1614, with community members, enjoyed breakfast at the Verdugo Hills Memorial Hall.

see YIR *on page 7*

Are you a golfer that has:

- **Back Pain?**
- **Neck Pain?**
- **Shoulder Pain?**
- **Knee Pain?**

Scan the code to find out how I help golfers like you play pain free:

A public meeting was held by the Crescenta Valley Water District concerning the proposed water and wastewater rate increases and rate system change.

Rafael Quintero, formerly with Glendale Police Dept., was announced as the new Burbank chief of police. Quintero replaced retiring police chief Michael Albanese.

Longtime Crescenta Valley High School football coach and Hall of Fame member Dennis Gossard, known affectionately as "Coach Goss," died at the age of 78. His legacy, as well as the undeniable impact on the thousands of Falcons he coached over his 50-plus years at CVHS, will live on forever.

Hours prior to the protests beginning, people were streaming to the No Kings rally at Glendale City Hall to protest the actions of the Trump administration against immigrants and to lift their collective voices in favor of democracy. Protestors carried flags from all of the countries with proud heritage in the area; though American flags dominated, flags were seen representing Mexico, Armenia, Honduras, Guatemala and others.

The search continued for missing hiker Monica Reza who was last seen hiking near the Mount Waterman area in the Angeles National Forest.

JULY

"Leave it to the professionals. Watch a professional [fireworks] show. Stay away from the fireworks," advised Glendale Police Chief Manny Cid at the Glendale City Council meeting. "Enjoy the time with your family. Enjoy the holiday."

Locally the show was hosted at La Crescenta Elementary School due to renovations taking place at Crescenta Valley High School where the show was typically held.

Local non-profit organization Ascencia, whose motto is "Lifting people out of homelessness one person, one family at a time," was spotlighted as an organization in need of volunteers to lend a hand for its various activities. These include its annual fundraising gala and monthly guest chef program.

The City of Glendale announced the appointment of Jeff Brooks as the new fire chief for the Glendale Fire Dept. With over two decades of distinguished service, Brooks brought extensive experience, community commitment and visionary leadership to the role.

The city also announced the appointment of Scott Mellon as the general manager of Glendale Water and Power (GWP). With more than two decades of engineering and utility experience, Mellon brought a forward-thinking vision and deep technical expertise to this critical leadership role.

Crescenta Valley Weekly (CVW) reached out to the office of the governor and the office of the California Dept. of Water Resources regarding questions surrounding groundwater and what the future may hold for local communities.

The acting captain of the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station, Ryan Vienna, announced that the search for missing person Monica Reza was concluded though the investigation will continue by the LASD Homicide Bureau: Missing Persons Unit.

The 23rd annual Montrose Car Show zoomed into Montrose alongside the weekly Harvest Market. Roughly 350 muscle cars, hotrods, classic and vintage cars and motorcycles were on display, which car aficionado Mark Davis described as the "the babies, the kids, of the people who drive them … their passion." Davis took his souped up '72 Pontiac Trans Am to the show.

The Los Angeles County Health Officer issued a heat advisory as high temperatures were forecast in local areas.

The City of La Cañada Flintridge hosted community town halls to help residents and businesses prepare for the upcoming transition to Clean Power Alliance (CPA) as the City's new electricity provider.

Beginning in October, La Cañada Flintridge customers automatically received electricity through CPA as part of the City's ongoing partnership with the locally controlled energy provider.

A plan adopted by the Glendale City Council will renovate Pines Cottage for use as a museum and will allow for accessibility improvements including off-site parking, "a comprehensive effort to enhance the site's historical and functional value," senior project manager Arthur Asaturyan told the council.

The 29th Annual Glendale Police Awards Luncheon was held at the Hilton Hotel. The awards ceremony was hosted by the Glendale Police Foundation and presented trophies and certificates to various officers and civilians for their exceptional service.

Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) conducted its annual restructuring of the school board. Board member Ingrid Gunnell was named president of the board of education. Shant Sahakian, immediate past president of the board, announced he will not seek re-election for a third term on the GUSD Board of Education, or any other elected office, in the upcoming 2026 election.

The popular community event Silent Movie Night was held at Two Strike Park.

It is sponsored by the Historical Society of Crescenta Valley (HSCV), the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors chair Kathryn Barger and LA County Parks and Recreation. Silent film projectionist and historian Joe Rinaudo restores copies of old silent films and plays them for interested groups. He projects these films on a 100-year-old, hand-cranked projector.

Thousands made their way to Brand Boulevard for Cruise Night, a chance to see over 350 vehicles and learn all that Glendale has to offer by visiting information booths that lined the boulevard.

Crescenta Valley Water District partnered with the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley for a tour of the District's reservoirs and facilities. Joining the tour were members of the CV Town Council, Friends of the Rosemont Preserve and staff members and interns from the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the County's first-ever historic district and landmark designation in Altadena.

CVW began a multi-week series on the safety of e-bikes and e-scooters as the subject was discussed among school districts and law enforcement as riders of the electric vehicles were injured or injured people.

The non-profit organization Home Again LA held a back to school shopping spree for 25 young students. Each recipient received $100 for back to school clothes and supplies from Target in Glendale.

AUGUST

The City of La Cañada Flintridge took a step in wildfire prevention by reintroducing one of nature's oldest vegetation management tools: grazing animals.

Through funding from CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grant Program, the City launched a targeted grazing project to reduce wildfire risk across 58.7 acres of City-owned land in the Gould Canyon area. The project involved the use of goats and sheep to manage vegetation in the Wildland Urban Interface – the area where homes meet undeveloped, brush-heavy terrain.

Community members gathered to honor and celebrate first responders at National Night Out (NNO). Celebrations were found at several places around town including the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station. NNO fosters fellowship between residents and those who protect and serve, such as local law enforcement.

The events were open to the public and gave residents the chance to familiarize themselves with various local organizations and converse with friends and neighbors.

Bradley Calvert, the director of Community Development, addressed the Glendale City Council responding to rumors and concerns regarding the City's review of the Land Use Element in the City's general plan.

"The plan is far from done. Today we open the 45-day comment period and there is a lot more to do. We welcome the input," Calvert told the council.

California has the highest number of national parks and national forests of any state and tackles an equally high number of search and rescue calls. Answering between 115 and 161 calls a year, Montrose Search and Rescue (MSAR) serves the heavily trafficked Angeles National Forest, the Angeles Crest Highway and surrounding areas.

Like the majority of United States search and rescue teams, the MSAR team is volunteer-run and its members are first responders.

Planet Fitness, which hopes to occupy the former location of the La Crescenta Rite-Aid, received approval of a minor parking deviation by the Crescenta Valley Land Use Committee.

At the Land Use Committee meeting, representatives from Hirsch Green Transportation Consulting and Planet Fitness were in attendance to ask the committee to approve the deviation. The parking deviation would allow Planet Fitness to operate with fewer parking spaces than typically needed for a lot of that type.

The monthly meeting of the Montrose Shopping Park Association (MSPA) was very well-attended by people eager to hear a presentation concerning a possible housing complex that the City of Glendale proposes be built on the parking lot between Honolulu Avenue and Florencita Drive – specifically on the large parking lot behind the businesses in the 2200 block of Honolulu (behind Tom's Toys).

The presentation was made by Vilia Zemaitaitis, deputy director of Community Development/Long Range Planning at the Glendale Community Development Dept. (CDD), and Teresa Santilena, principal planner with the City.

see YIR *on page 8*

Taking over for former LASD-CV Station Captain Robert Hahnlein, Ryan Vienna officially accepted the position of captain.

Hahnlein accepted a promotion to commander of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.

Glendale Unified School District welcomed students back to school, which meant back to school traffic.

Law enforcement was out in force to make certain drivers are following traffic laws and pedestrians are safe. In the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County-La Crescenta Montrose drivers saw units from the California Highway Patrol.

A labor of love turned bittersweet when a refurbished Wedgewood stove was stolen that housed grad student Natalie Freeman's Little Free Library.

SEPTEMBER

Bradley Calvert, director of Community Development (CD) for the City of Glendale, faced questions from concerned residents and business owners at a meeting of the Crescenta Valley Community Association (CVCA).

The topic of concern was the general plan, which the CD staff was researching and working on. Calvert's presentation to the CVCA was part of a larger effort to reach out to communities worried about the language it has heard, and the proposals it has seen, regarding several aspects of the plan. Of particular concern was the possibility of parking lots within the Montrose Shopping Park being listed as areas where housing could be developed.

A proposed development at 2413 Foothill Blvd., the La Crescenta Motel, is a five-story, 80-unit residential project that includes four studio units, 52 one-bedroom units and 24 two-bedroom units. Of that, one studio, three one-bedroom and two two-bedroom units will be restricted to extremely low income households. One one-bedroom unit will be reserved as a manager's unit.

The Crescenta Valley High School (CVHS) track and field, which was closed for repairs and to add stadium seating and lighting, reopened to the public.

The track and field was closed during the 2023-24 school year as construction began on stadium seating on the campus. Unfortunately there were construction delays – several of them – but the school finished installing the new track and field, and new tennis courts.

The Patriot Day Motorcade, sponsored by the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce, returned to the community without missing a beat – or a cheer – on Sept. 11. The motorcade featured more than 50 hot rod and classic vehicles that drove through La Crescenta and La Cañada Flintridge.

Super Scoopers, amphibious firefighting aircraft designed to repeatedly scoop water from large bodies of water to drop on wildfires, arrived in the southland. In addition to the Super Scoopers on loan from the province of Québec was a Coulson Group Chinook CH-47, known as a Helitanker 55.

A ribbon cutting for a new track and field, bleachers and lights at Crescenta Valley High School was held that was attended by an assortment of dignitaries. These included members of the Glendale Unified School District board of education, the GUSD superintendent, members of the GUSD Citizen Bond Oversight Committee and Representative Judy Chu, who represents the 28th District of California.

Construction began at the former site of Rockhaven Sanitarium. A plan adopted by the Glendale City Council will renovate Pines Cottage for use as a museum and will allow for accessibility improvements including off-site parking.

OCTOBER

Los Angeles County sheriff deputies from Crescenta Valley Station responded to See's Candies at 1133 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge concerning an armed robbery.

Despite it being a little rainy animals lovers were on hand to celebrate Neighborhood Pet Store Day at Andersen's Pet Shop in Montrose.

Glendale Armenians and supporters gathered at Verdugo Park to celebrate Armenian independence at its annual festival.

The City of Glendale Design Review Board approved a new project at the site of the Glendale Garden Apartment Homes, 1303 N. Central Ave., a 149-unit complex with affordable units, despite concerns about height and massing, citing limited discretion due to state laws and density bonus incentives required by AB130.

Community members attended the Crescenta Valley Town Council-sponsored Wildfire & Emergency Preparedness Fair at Two Strike Park in La Crescenta. Representatives from Los Angeles County Fire Dept., LA County Sheriff's Dept., California Highway Patrol and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) were just some of those on hand at the event.

An independent report was released regarding the alerts and evacuations that happened during the January wildfires.

The After-Action Report was commissioned by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and completed by McChrystal Group. It didn't find a specific point of failure, but instead several areas of concern including "County policies and protocols on evacuation warnings and orders are outdated, unclear and contradictory and do not clearly spell out roles and responsibilities for issuing directives."

The Glendale Police Dept. hosted an open house and Touch-A-Truck event in front of the main station at 131 N. Isabel St.

The Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce held its annual Oktoberfest celebration on Honolulu Avenue. An estimated 20,000 visitors came to celebrate all things German.

It was noted that Ralphs Market placed a sign on the side of the cart return corral that states, "Attention. We use Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology to collect license plate information for security purposes…."

The privacy policy states: "At the Kroger Family of Companies ('Kroger,' 'we,' 'us,' 'our') your safety and trust are important to us. For that reason, we are committed to handling your information in a way that is transparent, fair and worthy of your trust. This Automated License Plate Recognition ('ALPR') Usage and Privacy Policy describes how we use, maintain and disclose information collected by ALPR technology at select retail locations in California."

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

THE 2025 MERRY & BRIGHT HOLIDAY LIGHT AND DISPLAY TOUR!

Share your merriment and brighten the spirits of your community this Holiday Season! From December 19th – January 4th drive past identified houses that have been decorated festively for the season. Judging will be done between December 20th and 29th. The winners will be announced in the January 8 issue of the CV Weekly!

STREET ADDRESS	AREA	ZIP	NOTE
10411 Wheatland Ave	Sunland	91040	
10531 Mather St.	Sunland	91040	
9916 Provo Ave.	Tujunga	91042	
3601 Honolulu Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
4021 Willalee Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
3452 Mary Ann St.	La Crescenta	91214	
4012 New York Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
1523 Val Verde Place	Sparr Heights	91208	
3436 Buena Vista Ave.	Sparr Heights	91208	
3429 Rosemary Ave	Sparr Heights	91208	
2200-2400 Honolulu Ave.	Montrose	91020	**Montrose Shopping Park**
2229 Crescent Ave.	Montrose	91020	
2812 Alabama St.	La Crescenta	91214	**Light Show Nightly 5p-11p**
2653 Orange Ave.	La Crescenta	91214	
3014 Paraiso Way	La Crescenta	91214	
3113 Pontiac St.	La Crescenta	91214	
4849 1/2 Ocean View Blvd.	La Cañada	91011	

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

Scenes From the New Year's Flood of 1934

It was 92 years ago on this very day that the valley suffered its most traumatic disaster. A fire on the San Gabriels in November 1933 set the stage for mudslides at the first rain. The rain that came in late December proved to be a downpour of historic magnitude that came to a crescendo on New Year's Eve.

The American Legion Hall then stood at the corner of Rosemont and Fairway avenues. The Red Cross had set up a refugee center in the hall for people flooded out of their homes. The Red Cross volunteers, headed by Myrtle Adams and Vera Kahn, supplied blankets and warm coffee for people who were coming in drenched and cold.

Near midnight the rain intensified and the slopes of the mountains gave way. In the blackness of night, gigantic slugs of mud and rocks accelerated down the mountain and into the valley, huge waves 20 feet tall moving at 30 miles per hour, tearing straight through homes.

About 20 people were gathered in the hall that night as the rain poured down. At midnight a little girl was carried into the hall, covered in mud. She and her family had been washed out of their home moments before. She was wrapped in a blanket. She spotted her father and brother and called out to them.

Tob Lamar, the head of the American Legion, could hear over the sound of the pelting rain a roar like the sound of a freight train. He went out the front door onto the porch of the hall to see what it was and heard it getting louder. Myrtle Adams stood in the open doorway and began to pray. The roar was getting really loud now and the ground began to shake.

Lamar heard a tremendous rending crash in the hall behind him. He didn't know it at the time but a wall of mud and rocks hurtling down the Pickens Canyon Wash had hit the back of the building and caved it in, funneling the debris flow into the interior of the hall. From inside the hall, Lamar could hear screams and the sound of rocks crashing together. The terrifying sound was coming toward where he stood on the porch.

He knew there was a small tree just to one side of the building. Panicked and filled with adrenaline, he took a mighty leap in the dark to where he thought the tree was. He connected, grabbed a branch and swung his gaze to where he had been standing. Even in the dark, he saw Myrtle Adams get pushed by mud through the doorway and off the porch. Sludge began to pour out the front door. Next he saw the little girl that had been brought in moments before. She too was pushed out the door by the mud. She grabbed the front railing of the porch, holding on for a couple seconds, then was torn away by the increasing flow.

With a tremendous crash the floor of the hall and part of the front wall gave way to the heavy rocks and mud. It all came crashing and gushing out, carrying all the people from inside. They disappeared into the darkness.

Lamar held onto the tree for several minutes. The rain slackened and stopped. Save for the sound of water flowing around the destroyed hall and down Rosemont, it was quiet. Lamar lowered himself to the ground. What had been the neighborhood around the hall was now a moonscape of mud and rocks.

This all happened in a few seconds just before midnight on New Year's Eve. Dozens of people were killed and hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed. Twelve of the people from inside the hall perished. The Legion Hall was afterward patched up and moved to its present location on La Crescenta Avenue. The tree that saved Tob Lamar still stands in front of a newer home at 2537 Fairway Ave. A flood control channel was built where the flood waters came and over the channel on the landscaped corner of Rosemont and Fairway is a memorial to the events of that night.

VIEWS FROM THE VALLEY » SUSAN BOLAN

Those Who Indulge – Bulge

About 20 years ago I saw a greeting card with a photo of a large hippo on the front that said, "Those who indulge, bulge." I thought it was funny so I grabbed it up without thinking about who I would give the card to and for what occasion. It turns out there really is no occasion for the inappropriate card, not even to tease my sister. I think it's still sitting in a drawer among other cards I've collected such as, "Do people who run marathons know they don't have to?" and "Leftovers are for quitters."

I guess I am beginning to come to terms with the reality that trying to maintain a healthy body weight is no joke. I have hit that age where every morsel of food or drink that I put in my body must be carefully considered and throwing caution to the wind and just eating whatever I want will only bring huge consequences – and guilt. Food is incredibly delicious. It doesn't seem fair to have to choose between enjoying it and having good health.

When I was growing up, my parents taught us good eating habits through their dinnertime rituals. The family was expected to be home every night at 6:00 and we were required to eat everything that was put in front of us. All of the food was homecooked and there was no waste. I wasn't fond of vegetables but I was made to eat every piece before I left the table, which by then the food was pretty cold. My dad always said that vegetables would "put hair on my chest," which was a confusing message for a girl.

As a family, we seldom ate out. On occasion, we would go to Jack in the Box for a burger or get Ming's Chinese take-out, and I think maybe twice we sat down at Los Arcos for Mexican food. My only food extravagance during those years was the treks I took with my friends to Hober's Pharmacy where we would buy fistfuls of candy then eat it while sitting on our bikes in the parking lot. Our parents never guessed what we were doing – and we never told them.

I was a tall skinny kid with a good appetite. During my childhood, I could eat anything I wanted and not gain weight. I chalk this up to having inherited a good metabolism and being active. The neighborhood kids and I played hard in the wash and hills surrounding our homes. As a young adult, I remained thin by attending the new aerobics classes that became a thing in the 1980s. Despite my efforts to stay fit people still referred to me as skinny, which sounded like a bad word.

"You are so skinny!" This caused me to feel "less than" and I desperately tried to gain weight but couldn't. I eventually adopted a careless style of eating since it didn't matter anyway. Looking back at the photos of myself in my exercise leotards and leg warmers, I was just the right size for my height and shouldn't have listened to anyone but my inner voice.

It was after I had given birth to three children when my eating habits caught up with me and my body remained big in the middle. The weight started piling up due to the lifestyle change and no one called me skinny anymore. I no longer had the luxury of eating anything I wanted and abandoning exercise. But as a parent, how do you find the time to work out and eat right? It's not easy. And did I mention that food is delicious?

My children are now grown adults and I have a grandchild on the way. I have become a heavy person because I did not take care of my body as I aged, which has contributed to my high blood pressure and pre-diabetes. The first step to healing is to admit and take responsibility for that. The second step is to decide to get back on track. By putting this in writing, I am challenging myself to do better. I haven't forgotten that exercise is important, so I do Pilates every week and walk some. I also enjoy all food including vegetables. Thanks, Dad.

Now … I just need to realign my balance by increasing my physical activity level while reducing my food intake, especially the high-calorie, poor-quality stuff. I will check back in and let you know how it's going.

Susan Bolan
susanbolan710@gmail.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tattered Flag = Poor Confidence

Has anyone reading this noticed the U.S. Flag flying above the headquarters building of the Crescenta Valley Water District? For the past while I have noticed that the flag is faded and tattered.

This is not a look that instills confidence. One may ask if there are other places in their operations to which they are not paying attention.

Looking at the building it is mostly obscured by vegetation. It kind of reminds one of the reclusive neighbor on the street that does not keep the yard very neat.

Of course, this is just my opinion; you may have a different opinion.

Greg Hiscott
La Cañada Flintridge

GOT GOOD FOOD?

CV Weekly can promote your restaurant or food service! For details, call Rachelle at the CVW office at (818) 248-2740

YOUTH

Peter James Achieves the Rank of Eagle Scout

Peter James of Troop 319 has earned the rank of Eagle Scout – the highest achievement in Scouting. James celebrated this milestone with his family, friends and fellow Scouts during a heartfelt Eagle Scout court of honor held at Lincoln Elementary School's auditorium – the very place where his Scouting journey first began.

Dylan McLemore opened the event by calling the colors, followed by an inspiring invocation from James' parish priest, Fr. Gary Kyriacou. His former Scoutmaster, David Owens, returned as master of ceremonies and current Scoutmaster Zack Alvarado had the honor of presenting James with his Eagle Scout Award and neckerchief.

For his Eagle Scout project, James raised over $1,500 and dedicated his efforts to improving the grounds of Lincoln Elementary School. His project included refurbishing the school garden, creating a bird sanctuary and hummingbird garden, and building a new pathway and outdoor reading center – a peaceful space for students to gather, reflect and read.

James expressed gratitude to all who supported him throughout his Scouting journey, especially his scoutmasters, assistant scoutmasters, teachers and parents. Their encouragement and guidance helped him reach the accomplishment on his path to Eagle.

Submitted by Nicolas JAMES

Preschoolers Donate to Spark of Love Foundation

Preschoolers from Valley Vista Preschool in Montrose donated nearly 100 new toys and books to the Spark of Love Foundation's toy drive, hosted by Glendale Fire Dept. – Station 29, on Friday, Dec. 12.

Every year students at Valley Vista Preschool, located around the corner from the Montrose firehouse, collect new toys and books then take the short walk to the station to drop off items. Since 2012, the school has practiced this tradition of giving back to its community and teaching the gift of service to its students. During the field trip, classes took pictures in front of the fire truck and with firefighters. Parents and family members also attended the field trip.

Valley Vista Preschool has been serving local families with children 2-6 years old since 1999, although the facility has been an operational preschool since the 1970s.

Contributed by Tyler LONGPRE

Photo provided by Valley Vista Preschool
Students from Valley Vista Preschool with firemen at Station 29.

BETWEEN FRIENDS

Register for ALFie Company Workshop of Disney's "Moana JR."

Calling all ocean explorers! Registration is now open for Action League of the Foothills' ALFie Company winter production of Disney's "Moana JR." Student actors in grades 5-10 will learn singing, choreography, and stage presence while telling the story of this beloved Polynesian adventure. All skill levels are welcome!

ALFie Company offers this team-building theatre workshop, which will culminate in a fun musical performance for friends, family members, and the general public to enjoy. ALFie Company productions from previous years include "Singin' in the Rain JR," "Shrek the Musical JR," and "Aladdin JR." Rehearsals for "Moana JR." will begin January 13 and will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:45 to 5:30 P.M. The final week of the nine-week session, "Tech Week," will be held Monday through Friday afternoons, leading to an exciting performance on Friday, March 13 at 7:00 P.M. at Lanterman Auditorium in La Cañada Flintridge.

For more information and to register, visit the ALF website at ALFoothills.org or contact ALF at Drama@ALFoothills.org or (818) 790-2211.

Local DAR Women Soar High

Members of the Don José – Verdugo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, NSDAR/DAR worked on the Rose Parade float "Soaring Onward Together for 250 Years," designed by Fiesta Productions. They joined DAR members from across the country, members of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and other volunteers, headed by local Carole Curran, the volunteer coordinator of the Rose Parade float.

2026 brings the celebration of the nation's semiquincentennial (250 years). The design of the float features three bald eagles soaring high above the beautiful landscape of America, representing the past, present and future of the United States of America.

Photo provided by Beverly de LUCIA
DAR Don José Verdugo chapter members Beverly de Lucia, Amy Odell, Sherry Setoda and Mattie Odell.

WWW.CVWEEKLY.COM

New IR/Cardiac Cath Lab

Best-In-Class Care For Your Heart

You don't have to go far to get best-in-class heart care. The new IR/cardiac cath lab at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital brings state-of-the-art imaging technology close to home — making it easier to diagnose and treat cardiovascular conditions.

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Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

Financial Planner Urging To Sell

Dear Phyllis,

I'm a big admirer and would appreciate your insight on a personal financial matter. I'm a widow, and my late husband used to handle all our finances. Since his passing, I've hired a financial planner to help guide me.

My assets include some stocks, Social Security, and a few CDs. However, my most significant asset is my home, where I currently live and feel very comfortable. I have intended to stay here as long as I'm able.

The dilemma is this: my financial planner is strongly encouraging me to sell the home now and rent instead. He believes housing prices have peaked and that I could buy again later, once the market corrects. I'm conflicted. I'd value your perspective—what do you think of this strategy?

— Torn

Dear Torn,

If the only reason you're considering selling your home is because you're betting that prices will drop, I think that's a mistake. There's no certainty that home values will decline. Trying to time the real estate market is unreliable. Prices may remain stable or even continue to increase.

Another important consideration: if you're out of the market for more than two years, you risk losing your current low property tax base under California's Proposition 13. That could mean significantly higher property taxes if you decide to buy again in the future.

I understand that maintaining a home as a single homeowner can be a challenging task. Repairs, yard work, and general upkeep take time, energy, and money. These are valid concerns. If your home is starting to feel like a burden or if you're dealing with physical limitations, considering senior housing or purchasing a smaller, lower-maintenance property might be a wise move.

But that's very different from selling to rent while you wait for prices to fall. Renting doesn't offer stability. Rent can increase, and landlords can decide not to renew your lease—both of which can be stressful, especially as you age. Additionally, moving multiple times in a short period can take a real emotional and financial toll.

If your home still suits your lifestyle and physical needs, and you're comfortable there, I'd be cautious about giving that up based on a financial advisor's market speculation. Stability, comfort, and the security of a fixed housing payment are invaluable, especially in retirement.

Warm regards.

Phyllis

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National Charity League, Inc., Glendale Chapter Announces Annual Membership Drive

The Glendale Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. (NCL), the nation's premier mother-daughter volunteer organization, has announced its annual membership drive and has begun accepting applications from women with daughters currently in (sixth through eighth grade). The Glendale Chapter is comprised of about 300 members who reside in the Glendale, La Cañada, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Burbank and surrounding areas of Los Angeles.

Glendale Chapter mother-daughter teams volunteered more than 11,000 philanthropy hours in the 2024-25 year for 20 philanthropic organizations in the community, including the YWCA of Glendale, Twelve Oaks Senior Living, Monte Cedro Senior Living, Union Station Homeless Services, Southern California Special Olympics, Door of Hope, and the American Red Cross.

"National Charity League is a great opportunity for mothers and daughters to work together volunteering with local philanthropies. The NCL Core Program teaches our girls valuable leadership skills that last a lifetime," said Keisha Wilcox, Glendale Chapter president.

For more information, prospective members are encouraged to visit the Glendale Chapter's website National Charity League, Inc. or send an email to membershipglendale@nclonline.org.

Applications for membership are only accepted during the annual membership drive from Jan. 15 – March 1.

A prospective member shall reside within the Glendale, La Cañada, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Burbank and surrounding areas of Los Angeles, and have a daughter currently in grades six through eight.

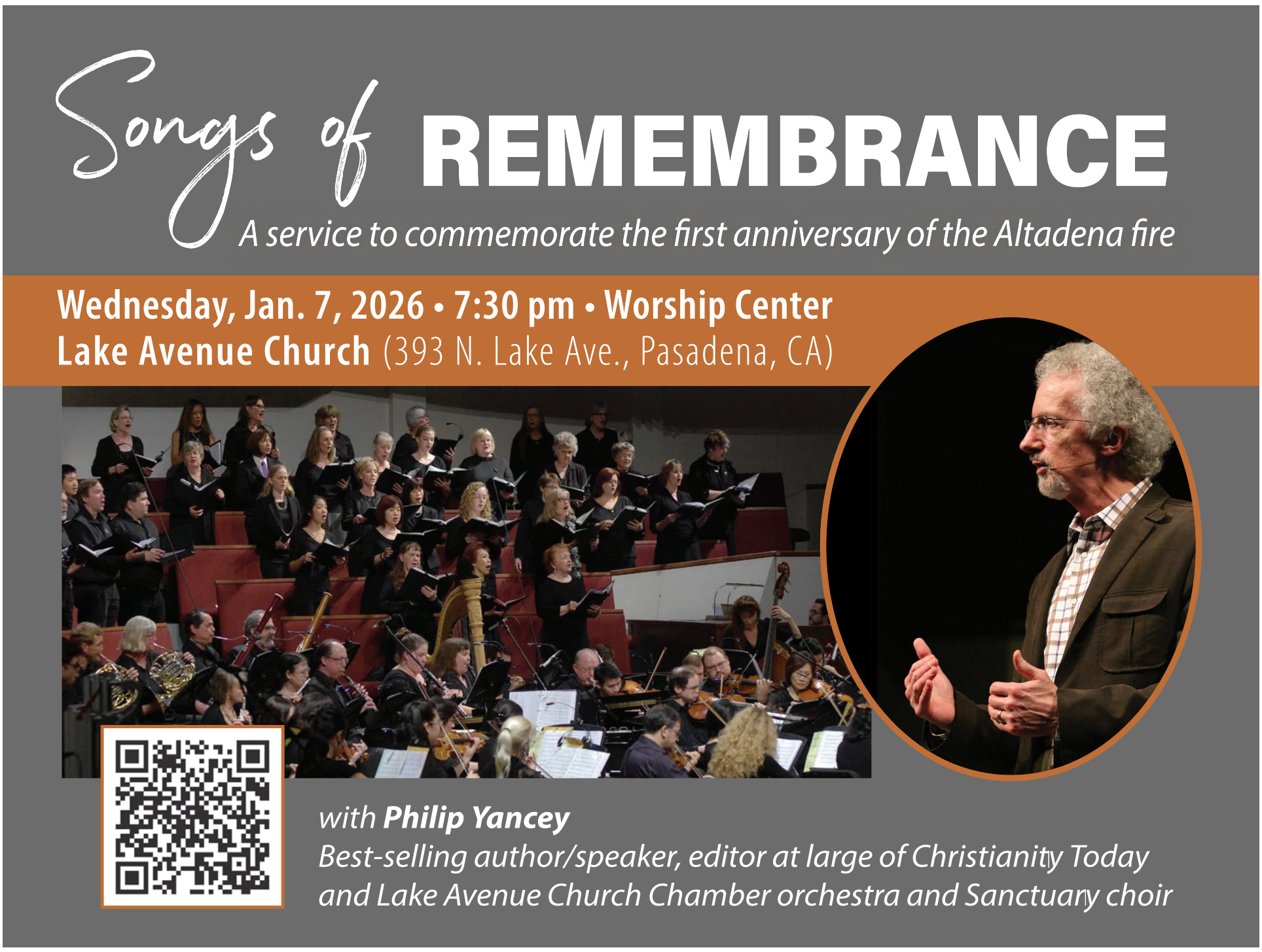
Interested mothers are encouraged to attend one of the prospective member meetings in February 2026. To receive an invitation, contact the chapter at membershipglendale@nclonline.org.

Completed applications are due by March 1.

Established in Los Angeles, California in 1925 and incorporated in 1958, National Charity League, Inc. is the nation's premier mother-daughter non-profit organization. By incorporating mission-based programming, National Charity League develops socially responsible community leaders and strengthens the mother-daughter bond through philanthropy, culture and leadership. National Charity League recognizes the importance of diverse perspectives and experiences to meet the needs of the communities it serves.

Currently, the philanthropic organization has over 200,000 members and alumnae in hundreds of chapters across the nation. Last year, members contributed more than 2.7 million volunteer hours to more than 6,000 local philanthropy partners and their chapters, resulting in a $68.7 million fiscal impact.

Visit www.nationalcharityleague.org to find more information on how to get involved.



TRAVEL & LEISURE

Scene in LA January 2026

By Steve ZALL and Sid FISH

Welcome to a brand-new year, which means it's time to go out and enjoy one or more of these fabulous shows playing currently in our local theaters!

COVID protocols continue to be dictated by each individual venue so bring a face mask to wear during the show in case the venue requires it. It's a good idea to check with the theater before attending a show to find out what is their current policy.

The information presented in this column is the latest available at the time of printing; however, it should be verified with the theater before definite plans are made.

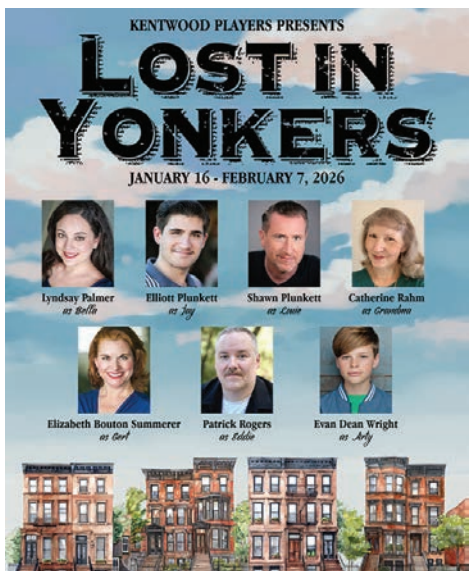
Here are the shows that have announced opening dates for this month or are already running:

"An Inspector Calls" Theatre Forty moves its production of "An Inspector Calls" to the beautiful, historic Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills for a strictly limited engagement. This play occurs when a young woman meets with an untimely demise and a respectable family is subject to a routine inquiry in connection with the death. An inspector calls to interrogate the family and it is revealed that each member of the family is implicated lightly or deeply in the woman's undoing. The friendly and close-knit family at the beginning of the evening is shown to be selfish, self-centered and cowardly. Good fellowship turns to acid and dislike. A surprising revelation turns up in the end that makes this thriller one not to be missed.

Written by J.B. Priestley and directed by Cate Caplin, it runs Jan. 8 through Jan. 18 at the Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills. For tickets, call www.theatre40.org.

"What Opa Did" follows Kate, a young New Yorker, as she confronts her Jewish grandparents' past in Germany where they were forced to hide with their baby during the war. As Kate uncovers the truth about her Opa leaving the family to fend for themselves for three years and the choices that he and her Oma had to make to survive, she grapples with the moral complexities of their actions and the impact of secrets on their identities.

Written by Christopher Franciosa and directed by James Paradise, it runs Jan. 15 through Feb. 15 at the Theatre Forty, in the Mary Levin Cutler Theatre in Beverly Hills. For tickets, call (310) 364-0535 or visit www.theatre40.org.



"Lost in Yonkers" Two brothers, Jay and Arty Kurnitz, are left with their father's estranged family while he hits the road to work off his debt to loan sharks. Little do the boys know that they're about to get a crash course in complex, heartbreaking and hilarious familial relations in classic Neil Simon style. This Pulitzer Prize winning comedic drama takes the boys – and the audience – on a journey through the laughter and tears that only family can provide.

Written by Neil Simon and directed by Jeremy Palmer, it runs Jan. 16 through Feb. 7 at the Westchester Playhouse in Los Angeles. For tickets, call (310) 645-5156 or visit www.kentwoodplayers.org.

"Kid Gloves" This world premiere musical comedy dives into the candy-colored chaos of a reality-TV competition where children's entertainers compete for the chance to win their own show. Fast-paced, hilarious and sneakily poignant, "Kid Gloves" skewers the utter depravity of reality TV and how it can corrupt even the most wholesome element of humanity.

Written by Matthew Leavitt, with music by Nathan Wang, lyrics by Matthew Leavitt, and directed by Richard Israel, it runs Jan. 17 through Feb. 15 at the Skylight Theatre in Los Feliz. For tickets, visit www.kidgloves.ludus.com.

"Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground" brings the remarkable life of the 34th president Dwight D. Eisenhower to the stage in an extraordinary way. Through captivating storytelling and deep historical insight, the performance immerses audiences in Eisenhower's personal reflections on leadership, war and peace. With emotional depth and powerful nuance, it unpacks the complexities of a man who shaped the course of history during one of America's most pivotal eras. A must-see theatrical experience.

Written by Richard Hellesen and directed by Peter Ellenstein, it runs Jan. 18 through Feb. 1 at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach. For tickets, call (949) 497-2787 or visit www.lagunaplayhouse.com.

see SCENE LA *on page 14*

MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME!

Crescenta Valley LITTLE LEAGUE CVLL

DIVISION AGES
Tee Ball ages 4-5
Machine Pitch ages 6-7
Farm age 8
Challengers 10-21
Minors ages 9-10
Majors ages 11-12
Juniors ages 13-15

SIGN UP TODAY!
Online registration required prior to skills evaluation.

Season starts February 27, 2026

Come join Crescenta Valley Little League for the 2026 Spring Season! CVLL celebrates such core values as leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and teamwork.

CRESCENTA VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON! EVALUATION DAY & TIMES

Montrose Community Park
Skills Evaluation Saturday January 3rd and 10th.
Montrose Big Baseball Field
No evaluations Tee Ball and Machine Pitch Divisions

DIVISION	Time
Farm	8:30 am
Majors	10:30 am
Minors	1:30 pm
Juniors	4:30 pm

Online registration at WWW.CVLITTLELEAGUE.COM

Little League Official Community

Feves, Stehney Performing for GNC

On Wednesday, Jan. 7 from 12:10 to 12:40 p.m., the Glendale Noon Concerts will feature the bassoon duo of Julie Feves and Jonathan Stehney. They will be performing works by Sofia Gubaidulina, François Devienne and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Julie Feves is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music. She performs extensively as a soloist, chamber music performer and orchestra principal in music ranging from the baroque to the avant-garde. The New York Times has praised her "virtuosic flair" and The San Francisco Examiner admired "the sureness of her pitch and the tenderness of her phrasing." Feves has appeared with numerous orchestras throughout the United States, including the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the American Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Aspen Festival Orchestras. She served as principal bassoonist with the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra. She has performed contemporary music with the CalArts New Century Players, Speculum Musicae and the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. Performing on early instruments, she has worked with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra, the Mozartean Players and the Pernucio Ensemble. As a chamber music artist, Feves has appeared with Chamber Music Northwest, Music from Angel Fire and the Bravo Colorado Music Festival. She has been a guest artist with the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society. She has recorded for Delos, Columbia Records, Nonesuch, Harmonia Mundi, Leonarda, Nine Winds and the AudioQuest labels.

Jonathan Stehney's expertise ranges from performing Renaissance music on period instruments to performing the most challenging contemporary and experimental music. He has traveled widely performing new works for bassoon and contrabassoon. Stehney has worked with such notable composers as Sofia Gubaidulina, Pierre Boulez, Péter Eötvös, Olga Neuwirth, James Tenney, Mark Menzies, Karlheinz Stockhausen and others. He has studied with Pascal Gallois, Paul Riveaux, and the Ensemble Intercontemporain as well as Julie Feves, Stephen Paulson and Frank Morelli.

He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in bassoon performance from CalArts, his Master of Music and Performance Certificate from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from SUNY Stonybrook. He is currently a freelance musician in the greater Southern California region and frequently is in recording sessions for John Williams, Jeff Russo, John Debney, Kris Bowers and numerous others. Stehney can be seen with numerous orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Long Beach Symphony, Redlands Symphony, San Bernardino Symphony, assorted chamber ensembles and more. He is currently on faculty at CalArts, University of Redlands and Cal State San Bernardino. In addition to performing, Stehney also arranges and orchestrates for chamber ensembles and pit orchestras.

Attendance to the concert is free.

Glendale Noon Concerts is celebrating its 18th year. Learn more at http://glendalenoonconcerts.blogspot.com/.

SCENE IN LA *from page 13*

"Jewish for Dinner" Ruth Cohen finally finds the perfect man to love, marry and, above all else, bring home to her conservative family. But she neglected to ask one small question: Is he Jewish? Or can he at least fake it?

Written by Lou Borenstein and directed by Jeff Jackson, it runs Jan. 18 through March 1 at the Santa Monica Playhouse in Santa Monica. For tickets, call (310) 394-9779 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com/Jewish_for_Dinner.

"Kind Stranger ... a memory play" depicts

the poignant journey of Tennessee Williams as the legendary playwright recounts his life, art and love affairs. Witness his wit and unflinching honesty as he writes his last chapter revealing how his plays were his life and his life was his plays. Adapted directly from his memoir and using only his words, "Kind Stranger" could be the last original Tennessee Williams play.

Written by Rick Simone-Friedland and directed by Steven Simone-Friedland, it runs Jan. 23 through Feb. 8 at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles. For tickets, visit www.theatreplanners.stagey.net/projects/13051?tab=tickets,.

"Sweet Air" Robbie and Galen, two complete strangers on completely different paths in life, have both had a miserable Valentine's Day. They're both broke, lonely and stranded in a deserted subway station on a freezing cold New York City night waiting for a train that never seems to be coming. With seemingly nothing to lose, they strike up a conversation, commiserate, bond, unravel the mysteries of the universe and romantic comedies and find a connection in this cruel and heartless world in this post-pandemic, platonic Valentine's Day comedy.

see SCENE LA *on page 15*

THEN & NOW

American Legion Hall

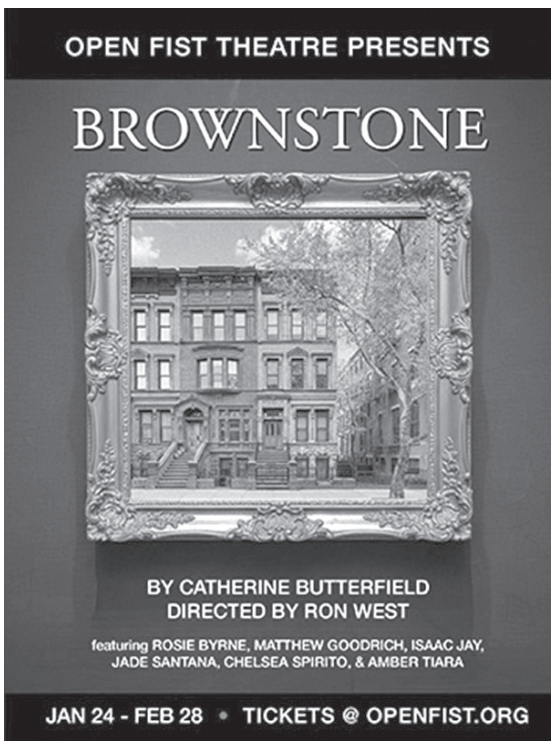
Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV

Then: The American Legion Hall was built in 1924 on the corner of Fairway and Rosemont avenues as the home of Verdugo Hills Post 288 of the American Legion. This was a true community center and in times of crisis an emergency staging area and refugee center. In the 1934 New Year's Flood the raging torrent went through the building killing 12 people there who had sought shelter. One man saved himself by jumping into the tree next to the hall.

Now: After the flood the building was patched up and moved to the corner of La Crescenta and Manhattan avenues, where it still remains. Here's a view of its original site on the northeast corner of Fairway and Rosemont avenue, where a flood control channel and a newer home is today. The tree the man saved himself in is still there and much grown now. On the site today is a memorial plaque commemorating the tragedy that happened here in 1934.

SCENE IN LA *from page 14*

Written by Matt Morillo and directed by Katie Oliver, it runs Jan. 23 through Feb. 15 at the McCadden Place Theatre in Hollywood. For tickets, visit www.sweetairplay.com.

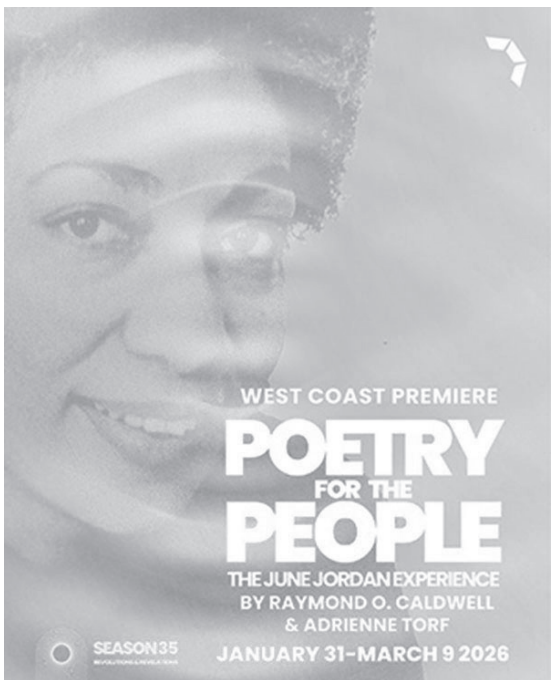


"Brownstone" Unfolding on the second floor of a classic New York brownstone at three distinct moments in its history, "Brownstone"'s structure is as striking as the architecture that inspired it. Three poignant often funny stories set in 1978, 1937 and 1999 take place in the same building, linked through time. Deena and Maureen (Rosie Byrne and Amber Tiara) are a pair of starry-eyed aspiring actresses, newly arrived to New York in the 1970s and struggling to get their big break. We meet Stephen and Davia (Matthew Goodrich and Chelsea Spirito), a pampered, rich young couple of the 1930s who long to move to Paris. Striving for success, Jason and Jessica (Isaac W. Jay and Jade Santana) are a chillingly self-absorbed "power couple" of the new millennium.

Written by Catherine Butterfield and directed by Ron West, it runs Jan. 24 through Feb. 28 at the Atwater Village Theatre in Atwater Village. For tickets, call (323) 882-6912 or visit www.openfist.org.

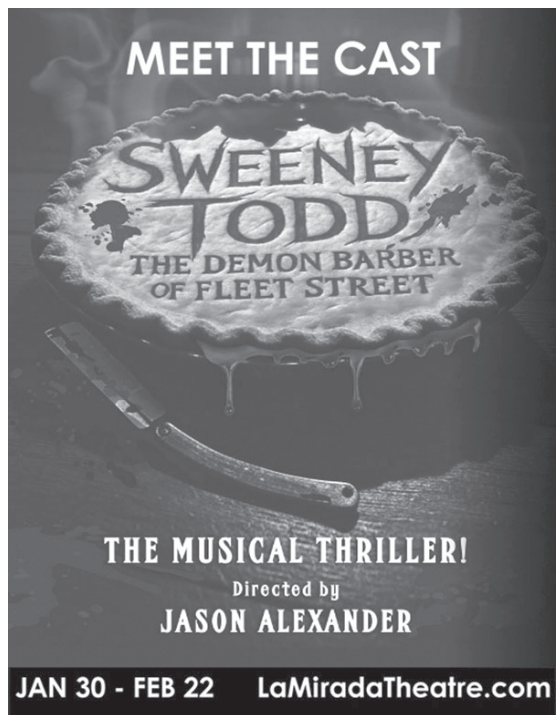
"Punish Me" A screenwriter who is struggling to make it in Hollywood becomes trapped in an increasingly abusive relationship with a narcissist who threatens both his career dreams and his legal status in America. The play explores the complexity of toxic relationships, narcissism and obsession. It includes adult themes and simulated sex. Inspired by true events.

Written by Michael Dukakis and directed by Monique Sorgen, it runs Jan. 28 through Feb. 25 at the Hudson Backstage Theatre in Los Angeles. For tickets, visit www.onstage411.com/punishme.



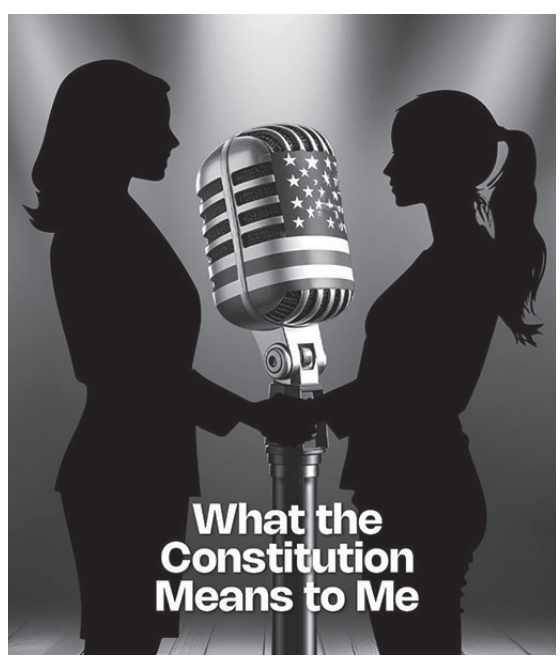
"Poetry for the People: The June Jordan Experience" Born in Harlem in 1936, Jordan shattered boundaries as a poet, essayist, teacher and activist. Fiercely committed to civil rights, women's rights, LGBTQ+ visibility and freedom from oppression in all its forms, she authored 27 volumes across genres and contributed to The Progressive, The Village Voice, The New York Times, Ms., Essence and The Nation. With language that embraced both the lyrical and the vernacular, Jordan insisted that poetry belong to the people. In 2019, her legacy was honored with induction on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor within the Stonewall National Monument. She died from breast cancer in 2002.

Written by Raymond O. Caldwell and Adrienne Torf, with music by Adrienne Torf, and directed by Raymond O. Caldwell, it runs Jan. 31 through March 29 at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles. For tickets, call (323) 663-1525 or visit www.FountainTheatre.com.



"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" Attend the dark, witty and Tony Award-winning tale of love, murder and revenge set against the backdrop of 19th century London. The story follows an unjustly exiled barber (Todd) as he returns to London to seek vengeance against the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. The road to revenge leads Todd to Mrs. Lovett, the resourceful proprietress of a failing pie shop above which he opens a new barber practice. Mrs. Lovett's luck sharply shifts when Todd's thirst for blood inspires the integration of an ingredient into her meat pies that has the people of London lining up for more … and the carnage has only just begun!

Written by Hugh Wheeler from an adaptation by Christopher Bond, with music by Stephen Sondheim, and directed by Jason Alexander, it runs Jan. 31 through Feb. 22 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts in La Mirada. For tickets, call (562) 944-9801 or visit www.LaMiradaTheatre.com.



"What the Constitution Means to Me" is the award-winning and thought-provoking play that explores the profound relationship between the U.S. Constitution and the lives of American women.

Written by Heidi Schreck and directed by Christian Wolf, it runs Jan. 31 through Feb. 1 at the Theatre West in Studio City. For tickets, call (323) 851-4839 or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/what-the-constitution-means-to-me-tickets,-1920026794829.

Steve Zall, Publisher, Scene in LA
Sid Fish, Co-Publisher & Editor, Scene in LA

JUST FOR FUN

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com December 29, 2025 - January 4, 2025

ARIES *March 21 - April 19*
Life seems to be getting easier and more fun, but this period could be difficult. You might feel ill for no real reason. This doesn't appear to be anything serious, but it could knock you off your feet for a day or two. You could be slightly accident prone, too. Don't rush - take your time and stay alert. The Universe encourages you to research new ways to stay healthy.

TAURUS *April 20 - May 20*
Now that you feel more grounded, you might also be in the mood to exercise and transform your diet. Get back into shape with a regular routine. Don't try too hard all at once. You could end up injuring yourself. It might be all too easy to catch a cold now, so give your immune system a boost. None of this has to be hard work.

GEMINI *May 21 - June 20*
Whatever has been troubling you should be getting better now. You might still need to visit the doctor for a while longer if you've been having any problems with your health. The worst seems to be over, but you need plenty of time to recover. If you're in good health, you'll feel energized. There's a chance of minor accidents if you rush.

CANCER *June 21 - July 22*
It's time to get started on a new health regimen, especially if you've lapsed. The cosmos reveals that you have an excellent opportunity to get active and show off your muscles. If you get into all the right habits now, you'll be really pleased with yourself in no time. You could be inclined to laziness, but stay determined!

LEO *July 23 - August 22*
Don't get angry and force your blood pressure up. There could be delays, frustration, and confusion. If you stay calm, you'll save your body a lot of unnecessary problems. If other family members have coughs or colds, you could catch one. Start taking vitamin C and zinc. It may help. The cosmos encourages more competitive sports. Get out and show what you can do.

VIRGO *August 23 - Sept. 22*
It's important that you get enough sleep since your body needs deep rest. If you're tossing and turning all night, you won't get the benefits brought by proper sleep. Begin to practice some form of relaxation exercise before bed. It will be worth it. More vigorous exercise will also help, because the tension ebbs away as you move. Keep taking vitamins and minerals daily.

LIBRA *Sept. 23 - Oct. 22*
Wired would be one way to describe your condition if you're rushing around and not getting anything done. The first thing to do is relax, no matter what the problem. Worry affects the body by increasing tension. Check your muscles now and then. If they're tense, consciously relax them. It comes down to body awareness.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your mind is going to be working overtime, which won't help you feel good. Whatever is attracting your focus must be very interesting since it seems to be consuming you. In order to keep your energy up, try to disengage and get out for some good walks or aerobic exercise. This will rebalance you. Watch how you eat. Don't act unconsciously.

SAGITTARIUS *Nov. 22 - Dec. 21*
Keep to a fairly pure diet by cutting out the junk food and caffeine for a while. You might be prone to overindulgence, so at least go for the things that are good for you. You need to channel your available energy. The worst thing to do is sit at home. Even if you have a health problem, try to stay as active as you can.

CAPRICORN *Dec. 22 - Jan. 19*
If there is conflict in your life, so there will be conflict within your body. Watch out for strained muscles, particularly in the lower back. This is where the tension is likely to manifest. It might start as a slight problem, but it could get worse if you ignore it. Make sure you deal with the inner conflict as well as the physical pain. Listen to what your body is trying to tell you.

AQUARIUS *Jan. 20 - Feb. 18*
Your social life may be taking a toll on your body, especially if you have a hectic schedule. Find help to relieve any stress. It will give you a chance to feel more relaxed and supported. Try to keep up your vitamins and mineral supplements if you're prone to infections. Above all, give yourself a chance to catch up on sleep.

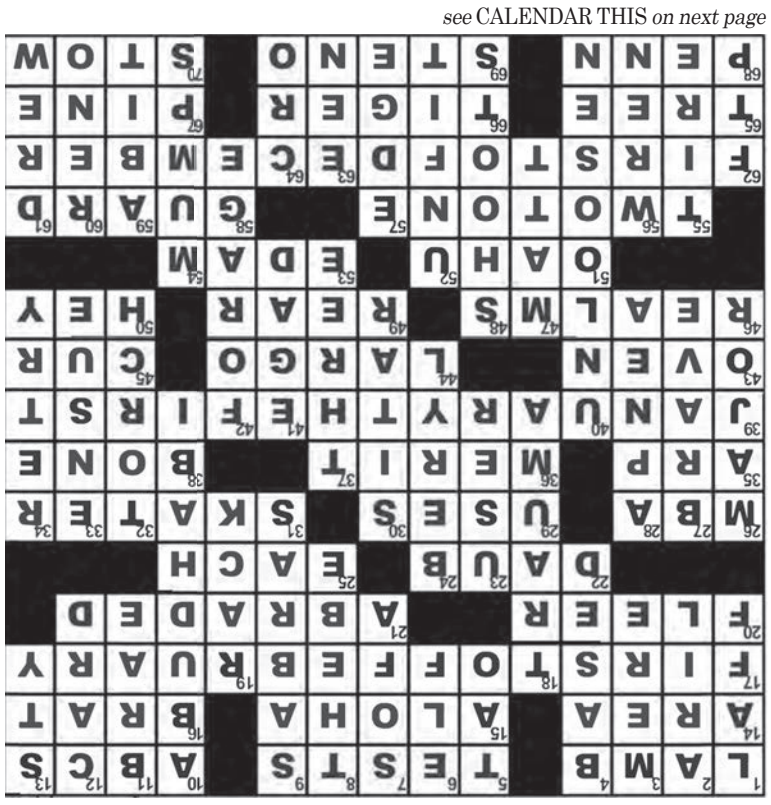
PISCES *Feb. 19 - March 20*
You're in a more positive and proactive frame of mind regarding your health. If you're under pressure, you need to maintain your program. Exercise and a good fitness routine are great ways to help you feel psychologically fit. The benefits far outweigh any inconvenience. Avoid accidents, and don't lapse into bad habits.

PET OF THE WEEK

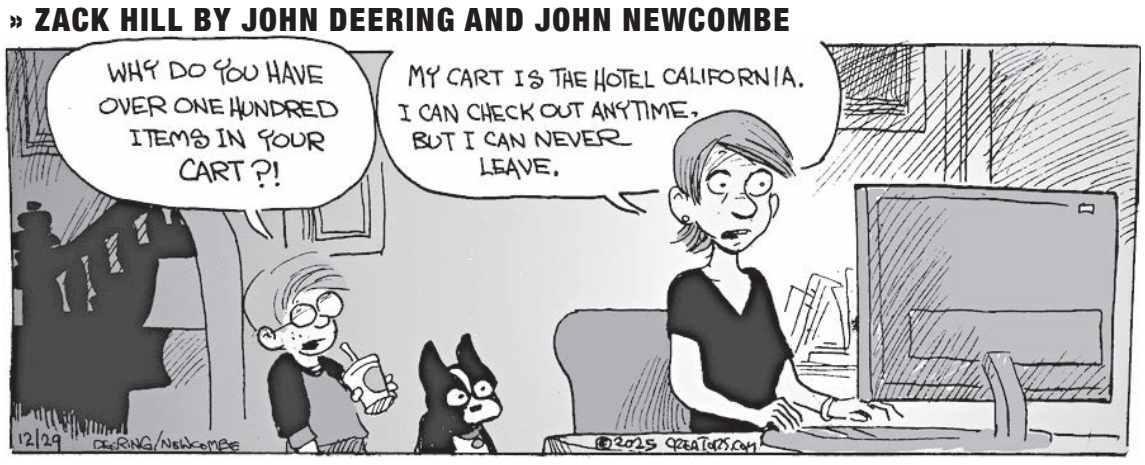
Olakai (left) and Banjo Laughrey exchange some holiday hugs.

CV Weekly loves to hear about your pets!
Send a pic and small caption to steve@cvweekly.com
to share your lovable pets with the community!

see CALENDAR THIS *on next page*



» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



1.1.26

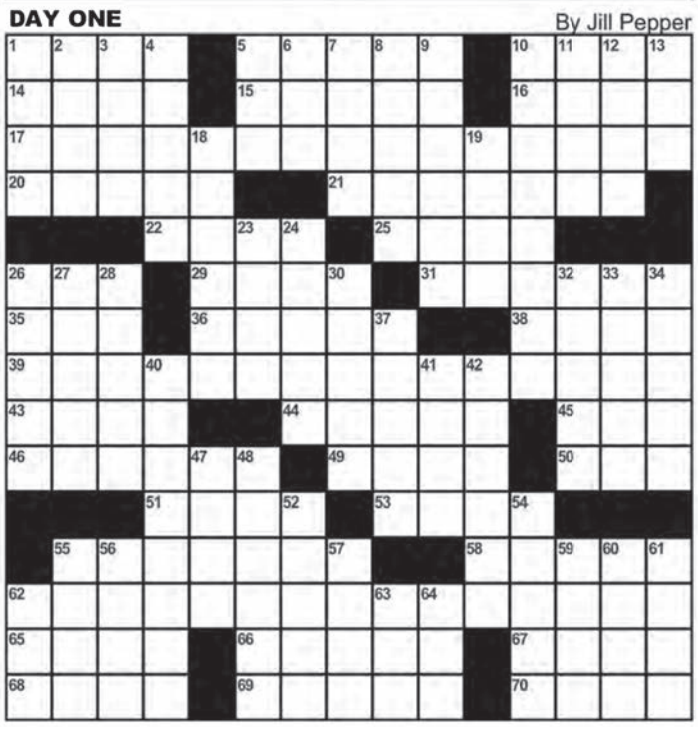
ACROSS

1) Baby bleater
5) Blood and acid, for two
10) Preschool lesson
14) Field of expertise
15) It may accompany waves on 51-Across
16) Tantrum-prone kid
17) One month after New Year's
20) Topps rival, once
21) Scraped
22) Apply crudely, as paint
25) Per
26) Degree for a CEO, often
29) "1,001 ___"
31) Ice Capades performer
35) Dadaist Jean
36) Deserving praise
38) Archaeological find
39) New Year's Day
43) Bakery appliance
44) Largest of the Florida keys
45) A start for "few"
46) Kingdoms
49) Spot for Hitchcock's "Window"
50) "You, over there!"
51) Hawaii's "Gathering Place"
53) Dutch cheese
55) Like some cars, colorwise
58) NBA position
62) One month before New Year's
65) Place for a nice apple
66) Princeton athlete
67) Furniture wood
68) Sean in Hollywood
69) Dictator's helper
70) Put in a hold

DOWN

1) Joke response, in entertainment mags
2) Seed covering
3) "A ___ formality"
4) "___ on a true story"
5) Guiding principle in Chinese philosophy
6) Worker up north?
7) Parlor perch
8) Monetary unit of Botswana
9) Israeli natives
10) Capital on the Persian Gulf
11) Scottish hill
12) Hand part
13) Porky pen
18) Severe emotional shock
19) Scrabble tiles holder
23) End ___ (ultimate customer)
24) Emerald, for one
26) Thatcher's successor
27) Atlanta player
28) Snorer's disorder
30) Guitar relative
32) Weight for Miss Liberty
33) Follow logically
34) Take another crack at
37) Little-pigs complement
40) Free from restraint
41) "Ods bodkins!"
42) Search for food
47) Actor LeBlanc
48) Photo opportunities
52) Out of shape
54) Illness that is a swell time?
55) Become bored
56) "Beau Geste" author
57) Perimeter
59) "This won't hurt ___"
60) "Divorce capital," once
61) Obtained water
62) Modern way to transfer documents
63) Poet's dusk
64) ___-Magnon

DAY ONE By Jill Pepper



PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Service Animal Hair In A Rental Car: Can Hertz Demand $500 To Clean It?

Alex Cashman-Rolls faces a $500 cleaning fee from Hertz after returning a rental car he used with a registered service animal. Hertz claims the charge is for "excessive" hair but Alex argues it's unreasonable under federal law and lacks proof of actual costs. Will Hertz back down?

Q: *I rented a Hertz vehicle recently, which I used for just 90 minutes with my registered service animal. After I returned the car, Hertz charged me a $500 cleaning fee, claiming I had left "excessive" hair in the car.*

The rental contract vaguely mentions pet hair fees but doesn't define "excessive" or disclose costs upfront. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are medical equipment, not pets, and reasonable debris is considered normal wear and tear.

Hertz provided no time-stamped photos, detailed invoices or proof of loss of use. Two employees admitted the charge seemed unfair but lacked the authority to reverse it. I've disputed this for weeks. Can Hertz legally impose this fee?

–Alex Cashman-Rolls, Rochester, New York

A: Yes, Hertz can impose a cleaning fee, regardless of the cause. But should it? That's another question and I think the answer is "no."

The ADA prohibits treating service animals as pets and the bill you received mentioned excessive "pet hair" in the vehicle. But pet hair is just a term Hertz is using to describe animal fur of any kind, regardless of the animal's purpose.

To be clear, you are responsible for cleaning up after your service animal – and Hertz can charge you a reasonable cleaning fee.

What I found more problematic was that the car rental company didn't provide documentation that the $500 charge reflected its actual costs. When I reviewed the charge, it seemed arbitrary – an inflated version of its actual costs.

We've been seeing a lot of car rental cleaning cases lately. These fees may represent a significant source of revenue to some car rental companies, so it's something to be aware of the next time you rent a car.

How do you avoid a cleaning fee? First – and obviously – don't leave a mess. If you have a dog or cat that sheds, you'll want to travel with a lint brush so that you can remove the fur, or vacuum the interior before returning it. And second, and equally important, you'll want to always take a picture of the interior of your rental car before and after your rental.

Illustration by Dustin ELLIOTT

Although the ADA doesn't necessarily protect you in this case, it's a special circumstance, which is probably why the Hertz employees you spoke with said they thought the charges were not warranted. But you can't demand a refund based on these conversations so it's always best to get a refund promise in writing.

You did the right thing by requesting a full explanation of the fee up front and citing ADA protections during your initial dispute. Always keep a paper trail, as you did, and escalate unresolved issues to executive contacts like Hertz's customer care team. I publish the names, numbers and email addresses of the company's executives on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org.

I contacted Hertz on your behalf. The company reviewed the case and reversed the charge.

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

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CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. The Club will be dark on Jan. 2 in observance of the holidays. On Jan. 9 it welcomes Dr. Ryan Corrner of Glendale Community College who will give an update on the college.

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

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

DANCING AS EXERCISE

Dancing As Exercise is a free weekly event sponsored by the Los Angeles County Park program for seniors (50 plus), which were dark during summer. It is now active!

There is live music every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Park's building at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. Light refreshments and water are provided along with socialization and information about other park activities.

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

CCLCF EVENTS

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge (CCLCF) hosts a variety of events for the community. Among them:

• Registration is open for winter programming. Classes to run from Jan. 5 to Feb. 28 (eight weeks).

• The Community Center is closed for the holidays, reopening on Monday, Jan. 5.

• Financial expert Annelise Li will have a free one-hour workshop that will focus on Organizing Your Financial Life and building a budget. The workshop is on Wednesday, Jan 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sign up today at cclcf.org.

• The Glendale Woodturning Guild will be hosting an open house at CCLCF on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come see what you can learn to make with wood!

• A Valentine's Cards Volunteer Event is on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to noon. Make Valentine's cards for local nursing care residents. Register/learn more at cclcf.volunteerlocal.com.

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge is located at 4469 Chevy Chase Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, (818) 790-4353.

B.D. JACKSON, AN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER, PART OF BOLTON HALL MUSEUM PROGRAM

Experienced professional photographer, B.D. Jackson, moved to SoCal from Michigan in 1901 seeking a healthier climate. For the next 30 years, he documented the growth of Los Angeles with special focus on the foothill communities where clean air and rugged beauty were manifested.

The presenter for the Jan. 10 program is local filmmaker and award-winning author and director John Newcomb, who uses the latest AI technology and B.D. Jackson's photographs to present a look at Los Angeles as it was in Jackson's time.

Newcomb has been the speaker for several 2nd Saturday events and his Jan. 10 presentation promises to be interesting and well-crafted.

This event on Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. is free and open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Bolton Hall is located at 10110 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga.

COME LEARN MODERN SQUARE DANCING

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

Meet new people while getting exercise for both the body and mind. Learn the steps to fun!

For information, email illi313@yahoo.com or visit www.setsinstep.org.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Those who can, do; Those who can do more, volunteer. Author Unknown

Little Landers Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help support its mission, "To preserve and maintain Bolton Hall Museum and the historical record of Rancho Tujunga."

Positions on the Bolton Hall 2026 board of directors are open. Other opportunities to volunteer include museum docents, committee members for ongoing projects, special event and exhibit coordinators, administrative, archival or library assistants, facilities maintenance and more.

Potential volunteers are asked to reach out with questions. Email LittleLanders@BoltonHall.org, phone (818) 352-3420 or send a letter so P.O. Box 203, Tujunga, CA 91043.

MONTROSE LIBRARY EVENTS

• The Montrose Library hosts canasta on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• The Back Alley Painters is a vibrant group of adult artists who gather to create, share their work, offer constructive feedback and enjoy each other's company.

Participants are asked to bring their own art supplies – whether watercolor, acrylic, ink or pencil (no oil paints). Meetings are every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

• Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy, calculation and a degree of chance. Players of all levels are welcomed! Players meet every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Montrose Library.

The Montrose Library, 2465 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose

(818) 548-2048.

NATURE JOURNALING PROGRAM AND GLENDALE OUTDOORS! (GO!) COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AT DEUKMEJIAN

Nature Journaling Program and Glendale Outdoors! (Go!) Community programs continue at Deukmejian Wilderness Park. To learn more about the Glendale Outdoors! (GO!) Community Program visit https://tinyurl.com/kjv88w6a.

To learn more about the Nature Journaling Program visit https://tinyurl.com/2b5u6p6x.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES AT SUNLAND SENIOR CENTER

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

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

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surrounding Areas

LCFTRA *from Cover*

They went together to retrieve the wheelbarrow and to salvage tools that were still in working condition to help build this year's float.

"So that's my wheelbarrow the skunk will be holding," she said.

Widenbeck said she has seen incredible teamwork in the volunteers this year, embodying the Tournament of Roses' 2026 theme "The Magic in Teamwork."

"Something magical has happened this year. When something needs to be done, volunteers will jump in and do it. There is no 'that's my job,' 'that's your job.' I want to bottle it like fairy dust," she said.

LCFTRA partnered with The Bunny Museum in Altadena to create the bunny rabbit on this year's float, which co-founders Candace Frazee and Steve Lubanski named Robbie-Rah.

"We chose Robbie-Rah because he looks like one of our previous bunnies (brown with a white tummy)," said Frazee. "And he appears to be the leader on the float, so we added -Rah to his name. In Watership Down by Richard Adams (1972), a 'prince' or 'chief' has '-rah' added to a leaders' name."

Frazee and Lubanski decorated Robbie-Rah's fur with soft, light brown bunny tail grass and ornamental bunny tail seed heads and proudly displayed it on their Instagram.

Jennifer Lazo, Decorating co-chair, said Robbie-Rah will be donated to the museum at the conclusion of this year's parade. The float bunny will be on display at the museum's new location.

Lazo said she is excited to be able to help The Bunny Museum rebuild.

"They got to come and visit us a couple of days ago and take a look at the bunny, help decorate the bunny and give us some pointers on accurate bunny looks, which was fun," said Lazo. "The whole point of this float is neighbors helping neighbors. [On our float] the local animals are helping their neighbors who are hungry with emergency nuts. And so we wanted a sort of actual representation of helping our neighbors."

Frazee added, "The Bunny Museum had 10 Rose Parade float bunnies before the fire. After the fire we have 5 ½ – all without their organic materials.

"Receiving Robbie-Rah with his brown fur made of bunny tail ornamental grass and the white cotton tummy will be our first Rose Parade float bunny with its original coverings on display in The Bunny Museum when it is rebuilt. It is a long and expensive process which will take three to four years."

Careful craftsmanship has gone into the meadow neighborhood and the woodland inhabitants, particularly with the owl, which will be directing the acorn distribution. Lazo and long-time deco lead Hannah Wade found, stripped and cut by hand the palm bark for his wings, separating the pieces that could shape the wings from the naturally-occurring white fuzz that would form the wings' down.

"So we had to figure out how to simulate … the feathers of an actual owl's wing. So I spent half a day testing shapes and sizes, that sort of thing," she said.

There are about 37 floral arrangements throughout the meadow – purples, yellow, orange, and pink themes – including roses, delphiniums, mums, buttons, bells of iron, stock, snapdragons and asparagus fern, decorating the meadow in patterns of orange, pinks, blues and yellows.

Lazo said that while the design shows the simpleness of a meadow and the silliness of their "goin' nutz" concept, it also shows the incredible heart of neighbors helping one another.

"They're going nuts in the silliest ways possible. These are not very efficient animals in their nut-movement strategies. You know, one is the baby possum on a zip line, zip lining across the lake, and the lake will make it clear that possums don't always get a good grip on the acorns they carry. Every time [the possum] goes across the slingshot onto the raft is also not … the most effective way of moving the acorns across the float but they all have good intentions and good hearts and are bringing those emergency acorns to their neighbors," she said.

Wade said her favorite part of her yearly pilgrimage from Scottsdale, Arizona is getting to be part of something in the place she grew up, alongside friends.

"Being able to see something from start to finish that is so closely tied into the identity of where I'm from [is my favorite part] … because I grew up in Pasadena as well, and I get to see the same people every year – year after year. And that really keeps me coming back because we all get to catch up and we are all doing something that we really love. So it's kind of like coming home to your family a little bit," Wade said.

"It is an exciting honor to donate to the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association float's bunny," said Frazee. "It is a hop(eful) sign of the museum hoppin' back up again."

BARGER & SCHULTZ *from Cover*

inconsistent field reporting methods and the use of various unconnected platforms."

When asked what was the one thing she took from the report, Barger replied, "We need to do this now. We need to put in play an Office of Emergency [Management] that really does represent 10 million residents." She added that though the county Office of Emergency Management has done an incredible job there is room for improvement.

"I worked closely with [the Office] during COVID-19, but the Eaton and Palisades fires really highlighted what a true disaster looks like. There are a lot of lessons learned as it relates to how we do notifications," Barger said. "We need to invest in the latest technology as well as personnel to make sure that we are prepared for the next emergency, and that could be an earthquake … My takeaway is that this study really shed light on areas that we need to focus on as a county."

That focus would be to create a strong infrastructure that will support a disaster in the magnitude of what was seen during the Eaton Fire.

Barger made a motion to begin that infrastructure.

She has been praised by Altadena residents on how quickly and responsive she has been with issues resulting from the fire.

Next week the interview with Supervisor Kathryn Barger will continue.

CV Weekly readers: You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

LEGALS & CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

FT SECRETARY POSITION
La Crescenta-based property manager/contractor is looking for a full-time / secretary to run office. Should be knowledgeable in Microsoft Office Desktop & Excel. Organizational skills a plus and take charge. Flexible hours -Retired OK. Please send resume to Ganpat4@sbcglobal.net.

ARE YOU A GO-GETTER?
CV Weekly, the community's favorite newspaper, is expanding its sales force. Commission-based opportunity. Please submit resume to rachelle@cvweekly.com

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FOR SALE

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All vintage items: signage, toys, glassware, plates, plushies, etc. Call (818) 381-2000.

RARE FOREST LAWN PLOTS AVAILABLE
Selling 4 cemetery plots at Forest Lawn Glendale in the beautiful Triumphant Faith Terraces. These gardens are secluded, pristine and close to Walt Disney himself! These are being sold privately and will only come around once in a lifetime. Call or text for more detailed information and photos of the area. (818) 381-2000.

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WANTED/NEEDED

WANTED
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SENIOR GENTLEMAN SEEKS ROOM
Quiet, responsible tenant, references available. Can help w/errands, chores etc. in household. Call Donald for more info (818) 445-6180.

WANTED
Disneyana, all types: animation cels, employee awards, employee items, promo, etc. Autographs, Blu-rays, DVD, CDs. All types of memorabilia, military, historical items, fine men's watches. Call Arthur at (213) 235-5585..

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WEATHER *from page 2*

The green sea turtles are coming back from the brink thanks to decades of conservation action from IUCN.

"The species' latest assessment was carried out in December 2024 and showed that the global population has increased since the 1970s, leading to its reclassification on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species from 'endangered' to 'least concern,'" according to an article, "Green Sea Turtles No Longer Endangered Species in Major Conservation Win" in earth.org.

And there is a search engine that you may not have heard about: Ecosia, which was launched on Dec. 7, 2009. It is known as the tree-planting search engine and was founded by Christian Kroll.

This search engine states "We dedicate 100% of our profits to the planet. That means you can plant trees, protect endangered animals and uplift communities around the world simply by browsing."

According to its website, ecosia.org, in the month of October it spent $1,194,204.96 on tree planting. You can visit the website and see where profits go from operational costs to taxes paid.

The owners have also just deposited $1 million with a notary in Berlin, reserved solely to help create a new Climate Nobel Prize, according to its website.

"Why? Because the climate crisis is accelerating and many of the ideas that could reshape our future do not yet have the global visibility needed for widespread, rapid adoption," according to ecosia.org.

"The special thing about Ecosia is that the company uses part of its advertising revenue to plant trees. By using Ecosia, users therefore indirectly support environmental protection projects worldwide …. The Use of Ecosia is simple and uncomplicated. The search results are provided via Bing so that users can expect a similar quality to other search engines. At the same time, Ecosia helps to finance tree planting projects by displaying advertisements …. So if you have an environmentally friendly alternative to the major search engines and want to do something good at the same time, Ecosia is an interesting option. In addition to the positive impact on the environment, the search engine also [has] a transparent display of tree planting projects so that users can see exactly what their use of Ecosia is being used for," according to Wolf of SEO.

If this search engine interests you I would advise you to do your own research.

Keeping in mind concerns about data protection, a great article to review about Ecosia is an article by Wolf of SEO at https://tinyurl.com/ywksf9ha.

Just a reminder – always research everything you read or hear. AI has a way of giving us information we want instead of information that is true, so it is always important to look at all sources, not just the ones AI may send you.

And here are a couple more positive things about the climate and Earth's inhabitants:

CV Weekly readers: You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

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