

CRESCENTA VALLEY WEEKLY

THE FOOTHILLS' COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



DECEMBER 4, 2025

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Council Hears from Glendalians Regarding CORO

By Julie BUTCHER

Dozens of Glendalians lined up to speak at Tuesday night's meeting of the Glendale City Council urging reconsideration of the city's inclusion of city-owned parking lots in its housing plans and calling on the Council to remove the parking lots from the state's list of surplus land.

"These lots are not surplus – they are essential community assets, relied on daily by residents, seniors, small businesses and local families. Keeping these parcels protected is not just sound planning; it's an act of respect for the people who built and sustain this city," said Dennis Feitosa who called in to the Council meeting, sharing that he is a candidate for Congress. "CORO [City-Owned Residential Overlay] opens the door to development that does not reflect the character, needs nor will of this community."

Rossmoyne/Mountain Homeowners Association president Lorna Vartanian also addressed the Council.

"As part of the city's proposed updates to the Land Use Element, several parking lots adjacent to the Rossmoyne and Royal Canyon neighborhoods, as well as several parking lots in Montrose, have been slated for rezoning to allow high-density residential development," she said. "These lots have also been placed on the state's surplus land list, making them available for purchase or lease by developers. This is a clear signal to the community that the city supports residential development on these lots. Over the past several months, community members have repeatedly and clearly communicated that we oppose any zoning changes to these lots."

She urged the Council to act on this now rather than waiting until the spring, further noting, "The lots near the civic auditorium and behind the Armenian church are currently zoned as 'open space – residential' –

see GCC on page 8

You Better Watch Out, You'd Better Not Cry – the Montrose Christmas Parade Is Coming to Town

By Mary O'KEEFE

This Saturday thousands of people will line Honolulu Avenue from Rosemont Avenue to Verdugo Boulevard to watch the traditional Montrose Christmas Parade.

Anyone who has lived in Crescenta Valley for more than a minute will know of the parade that began 47 years ago. The parade was started by then local resident Dennis Morgan, an actor during the Golden Age of Hollywood – the 1940s.

This year the parade's grand marshal is Disney Legend Bob Gurr. In an interview with CV Weekly, Gurr said he was "honored" to serve as grand marshal for the Montrose-Glendale Christmas Parade – his own town. Gurr moved to Glendale with his family in 1934 and stayed in the area through his tenure with Walt Dis-



A highlight of this Saturday's parade will be Santa making his way down Honolulu Avenue to wind up the parade. File photo

ney Imagineering, then known as WED Enterprises, while working on opening and then maintaining Disneyland. In the early '90s, he moved up to the Crescenta Valley and has been there ever since.

"I've been grand marshal a number of places, usually in the

Orange County area. The last one was in April about five years ago with the Bob Baker Marionettes (Theatre)," Gurr said. "So to be grand marshal of what I consider to be my local town – oh my goodness! Because [for all of] the other grand marshals it was somebody

else's town. This event, it would be my town. Wow!"

Gurr's career spanned decades with Walt Disney Imagineering where he designed many of Disneyland's original ride vehicles including the Autopia cars, the

see PARADE on page 22

An Update on Glendale's General Plan

By Mary O'KEEFE

At this point there is not a specific timeline for the Glendale General Plan and the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) should come out after the first of the year, according to a Glendale spokesperson.

The Glendale General Plan includes many elements including air quality, community facilities, environmental justice, historic preservation, housing and land use. It is the last two – housing and land use – that has filled local meetings with people concerned about the Plan and the elements shared with the public.

The proposals include city-owned parking lots in Montrose Shopping Park that could become residential developments.

"The large lot – Number Three – is zoned for R3050 and parking, so it could be both [residential and commercial]," said Bradley Calvert, director of Community Development, City of Glendale, in an earlier CVW interview. R3050 zoning means the property is zoned for moderate density, residential development.

"The other [parking lots in Montrose] have a ST3 zoning," he added. "Those are a combination of our commercial zoning.

see GLENDALE on page 22



Lawn signs are displayed throughout the Glendale area neighborhoods bringing attention to concerns surrounding the Glendale General Plan. Photo by Mary O'KEEFE





» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Happy Holidays ... And More

On Friday, my family and I headed to Montrose for the annual Christmas tree lighting and festivities to kick off the holiday season. There were so many people there! For most of the event I was seated on the outside “balcony” of Montrose Town Kitchen & Grill, enjoying a glass of wine and pizza. I had a perfect viewing spot! I easily saw the Hummingbird Conservatory singers, the Christmas tree and the antique fire engine. My granddaughter was especially interested in seeing Santa (he was posing for photos) and the “snoap” (snow plus soap) falling from the sky. I was so grateful being part of this community.

The next day was Small Business Saturday. In Montrose, several merchants contributed gift packages, gift cards and certificates to be won on the shopping park’s spinning wheel. On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. folks lined up for the free hand-led pony rides and over the weekend Santa could be found handing out candy canes along Honolulu Avenue. The horse-drawn trolley that carried shoppers (at no cost) up and down Honolulu Avenue was also found over the weekend. This staple of the holiday season in Montrose gives shoppers the chance to browse all that Montrose merchants offer. To learn more, visit <http://www.shopmontrose.com/>.

The horse-drawn trolley won’t be in service on Saturday, Dec. 6 though; the town will be preparing for the annual Montrose Christmas

Parade.

The parade is organized and run entirely by volunteers. These dedicated people make sure all participants are lined up and ready to roll down the avenue at 6:10 p.m. sharp. The list of participants is varied and includes dignitaries, chambers of commerce, Scouts, musicians and more! (Reps from the local paper may be seen as well.) Even Santa can be found along the parade route! Around 25,000 people attend the annual parade so some restrictions have been put in place. To learn about them, visit <https://montrosecristmasparade.com/>.

On Saturday morning, I was part of a car show at Albertsons on Foothill Boulevard in Tujunga. As president of the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce, I had the chance to visit with some of the folks who came out to see the more than 60 classic and vintage cars on display. I also had a chance to “talk up” the chamber and all the activities planned. In fact, the chamber is having a ribbon-cutting this Sunday, Dec. 7 from noon to 3 p.m. for GT Sim Racing at 2865 Foothill Blvd. This is its grand opening and I look forward to seeing many Crescenta Valley residents come out to support the business. There’ll be food and free racing, so mark your calendar now!

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

» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O’KEEFE

COP30 ended on Nov. 21 and there were some pretty lofty plans put forward for future climate action.

COP stands for Climate Change Conference (also known as Conference Of the Parties) and is led by the United Nations (UN). This was the 30th COP meeting, a meeting that takes place every year.

“[It is] the world’s only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change that brings together almost every country on Earth,” according to the UN. “To put it simply, the COP is where the world comes together to agree on the actions to address the climate crisis, such as limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.”

This year the world came together – but without the United States. The Trump Administration chose not to join over 80 nations to discuss what the future holds for the Earth and its changing climate; however, that does not mean there were no representatives present from the U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse from Rhode Island attended as did Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Whitehouse was there with the support of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition Institute; Newsom was there as the governor of California.

Here’s the thing: Climate change is affecting the entire Earth not just certain parts. It is important for everyone to know what the options are, what new technology is in the works to help battle changes coming our way – and from a business view, make deals that will help with the new “clean up” industry that is emerging.

In my mind’s eye, I imagine the COP30 meeting is full of people in sustainable clothing, drinking organic pesticides-free tea and discussing, in a calm and caring manner, the best way to save the planet. I see intellectuals

and Mother Earth types all realizing they may not agree but always putting the planet first: like I said, that is what I imagine. But that’s not exactly what happened.

There were a lot of reported outbursts and arguments, as one might imagine with such a diverse group of countries represented. According to reports, the summit ended with a deal that contained no direct reference to the fossil fuels ... which is one element that is heating up the planet.

The hope of the summit, which did include the United Kingdom and the European Union, was a commitment to stop using oil, coal and gas at a faster pace, according to the BBC article, “UN climate talks fail to secure new fossil fuel promises.”

But change is hard and the oil-producing nations wanted to grow their business.

“A representative for Colombia furiously criticized the COP presidency for not allowing countries to object to the deal in the final meeting on Saturday, known as a plenary.

“Colombia believes that we have sufficient scientific evidence saying that more than 75% of the global greenhouse gas emissions come from fossil fuels,” Daniela Durán González, Colombian Climate delegate, told BBC News. “So we do believe it’s time that the Convention on Climate Change starts talking about that reality,” she added, according to the article.

Instead, in the end countries were asked to voluntarily move at a faster pace to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

Yep, we all know what “voluntarily” means to big businesses that make billions/trillions of dollars from fossil fuels. Of course these countries/ businesses will choose to make less for their CEOs and stakeholders to help the Earth ... right?

“In the final meeting, a representative for Saudi Arabia said: ‘Each state must be allowed to build its own path, based on its respective circumstances and economies,’” according to the BBC article.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

ROSEMONT PRESERVE OPEN GATE MORNING

An “open gate” event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Saturday morning, Dec. 6. 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. (bathrooms also available there). 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.

SOLIS CHOSEN AS NEW BOS CHAIR

At Tuesday’s board of supervisors meeting LA County Supervisor - 1st District Hilda Solis assumed the role of chair of the supervisors. She succeeds Kathryn Barger, 5th District supervisor. Solis leads the board in her final year.

Solis assumed the role on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

ARTIST SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN FOR CITY OF GLENDALE PUBLIC ART LANDMARKS PROJECTS

The Glendale Library, Arts & Culture Dept., on behalf of the City of Glendale’s Arts & Culture Commission (ACC), has announced that submissions are now open for the next round of the Citywide Public Art Landmarks RFQ. This initiative will commission up to 10 long-term or permanent public artworks placed throughout the city to enhance public spaces, celebrate Glendale’s cultural diversity and encourage meaningful community engagement.

Applications are open through Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. This RFQ is for qualifications only and applicants should not submit design proposals at this stage. A shortlist of finalists will be selected to develop concepts and will receive a stipend for their design work.

Each location invites imaginative, forward-thinking approaches that elevate the surrounding public environment.

Artists and artist teams are encouraged to consider how their practice aligns with the needs and goals of each site. Applicants may apply to one or multiple opportunities. A shortlist of artists will advance to the next stage to develop and present full design concepts to the Glendale Arts and Culture Commission.

For more information, visit GlendaleArtsAndCulture.org/PublicArtRFQ. To apply, visit lebasseprojects.submittable.com/submit.

CITY OF GLENDALE ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM UNCASHED CHECKS AND DEPOSITS

The City of Glendale is working to return to their rightful owners unclaimed checks and deposits that have been unclaimed for more than three years. If no one claims the money within 45 to 60 days of the first notice, the funds will become the City’s property.

Some smaller amounts, such as unclaimed funds under \$15 that have been outstanding for over a year, may automatically be transferred to the City’s General Fund without public notice.

A claim has to be filed by Dec. 9 by one of the following two methods:

- Submit a claim form to the Finance Department through the city’s website.
- Submit a claim online through the unclaimed property portal.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mryvpr77>.

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CVHS Student Hosts Parol-Making Event

By Dominique ROCHA

Crescenta Valley High School (CVHS) senior Ella Trinh is bringing the Christmas spirit of the Philippines to the La Crescenta campus.

On Dec. 10 in the CVHS WellNEST, Trinh will be hosting a parol-making event during lunch. At the event, students will be given a wooden star that they can then decorate with colored tissue paper, replicating the traditional Filipino parols.

Trinh’s event will be a collaborative effort. With the help of the on campus Filipino Club, students will be able to learn a bit about Filipino traditions, eat Filipino snacks and take time for mindfulness. Supplies for the event were donated by Victoria Malone, executive director of the Impact Foundation.

“I think the event will be a fun way to educate people on Filipino culture and help them connect,” Trinh said.

Trinh is a part of the Peer Support Program at CVHS, which offers a Career and Technical Education Pathway (CTE). CTE pathways are electives that allow students to focus on career and college goals. The Peer Support Program centers on mindfulness and mental health. Each semester, Peer Support students are required to host a “personal event” in the WellNEST. For Trinh’s event, she wanted to find a way to combine her Filipino heritage with the goals of the WellNEST.

“Growing up, I wasn’t around many Filipino people,” Trinh said. “I was very disconnected from my culture.”

Parols have been a part of Christmas time in the Philippines



since the 15th century. Originally crafted from bamboo and paper, the five-point star lanterns represent the star of Bethlehem and symbolize hope, faith and the Christmas spirit. Today, parols are more intricate and made of a myriad of materials, such as shells, paper and steel, and can be found across the Philippines.

With finals just around the corner, Trinh hopes the event will serve as a way for students to relax and take time for themselves before the chaos ensues.

“I want this event to remind students to take a breather before finals and not worry about

the outcome,” Trinh said. “These lanterns can be a reminder of the hope they have for doing better the next time.”

Trinh expects attendees at her event from both the Filipino Club and the WellNEST.

“It’s important for me that people know this is my culture and that this culture exists,” Trinh said.

Photo provided by Ella TRINH
On Dec. 10, Ella Trinh will be hosting a parol-making event at CVHS. Parols were originally crafted from bamboo and paper. The five-point star lanterns represent the star of Bethlehem and symbolize hope, faith and the Christmas spirit.

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NOTES & NODS

VVLCIF ‘SINGS IN’ THE HOLIDAYS

Lutheran Church in the Foothills (LCIF) invites the community to usher in the Advent and Christmas season with a festive evening of song and refreshment. The church will host “Concert, Cookies and Carols” on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the LCIF Fellowship Hall. The evening will include a special piano concert presented by Katherine Frantsen, LCIF’s gifted accompanist. Frantsen, who has been recognized as a piano prodigy since taking up the instrument at age 6, will showcase some of the music she has performed in recent recitals. Frantsen studied piano as a child in Iowa. During her competitive high school years, she won the state championship in piano performance at the highest level of competition and secured a college scholarship in 2022. Frantsen also served

as the accompanist at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Clarksville, Iowa. She is currently a senior at Biola University, majoring in piano performance with a minor in biblical studies.

Following Frantsen’s concert, attendees will be invited to join in singing some of the season’s most beloved Christmas carols. Guests are welcome to bring family and friends and are asked to bring along a batch of their favorite Christmas cookies or dessert to share for the social following the music.

LCIF has a variety of events for the community. For information, including small group gatherings and opportunities to serve or to request/offer help, 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.

ECKLER TO PERFORM AT CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING

Brian Ecker, a local professional singer of Neil Diamond songs, will be performing at Center for Spiritual Living, 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6. Donation is \$15. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served after the concert.

Kick off the holiday with some music fun and treats. Enjoy Christmas songs from the Neil Diamond Christmas album, plus some of Neil Diamond’s favorite songs.

Brian Ecker was raised in La Cañada and has been singing professionally for several years.

RELIGION DIRECTORY



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Service at 10:00 am

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Wednesday Advent Service
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by the local members of the LDS Church at 4550 Raymond Ave. in La Crescenta, (behind Ralph’s market) on Friday, Dec. 12, Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14 from 5 - 8 p.m. Friday includes LCHS Chamber Singers; Saturday includes the Clarion Choir and Bells of Joy from Mount Olive Lutheran Church and Sunday will have the CVHS Charismatic Singers. From 6-8 p.m. each night guests can view nativities, including a live nativity, a slide show and light refreshments. There will be crafts for the children as well. All ages are welcome; admission is free.

Visit molc.org for more information about these and other opportunities for Christian fellowship and service. Email or call: office@molc.org or (818) 248-4253.

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

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS & CRECHES

Christmas Carols & Creches, a three-night community celebration, will be presented on Dec. 12, 13 and 14 at 4550 Raymond Ave. in La Crescenta, hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A musical presentation will take place from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The viewing of hundreds of Nativity displays is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event is free. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS & CRECHES

Three Night Community Celebration

December
12th, 13th, 14th
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

5-6pm: Musical Performance
Different Musical Talents each night may include Adult, Youth, Children’s Church Choirs, Professional Instrumentalists, and Soloists, including LCHS Chamber Choir (Friday) and CVHS Charismatics (Saturday)

6-8pm: Viewing of Creches by Visitors
Parents must accompany children as you view 100’s of Nativity displays and visit Children’s Crafts and Dress-Up.

4550 Raymond Avenue, La Crescenta
(Behind Ralph’s Market)

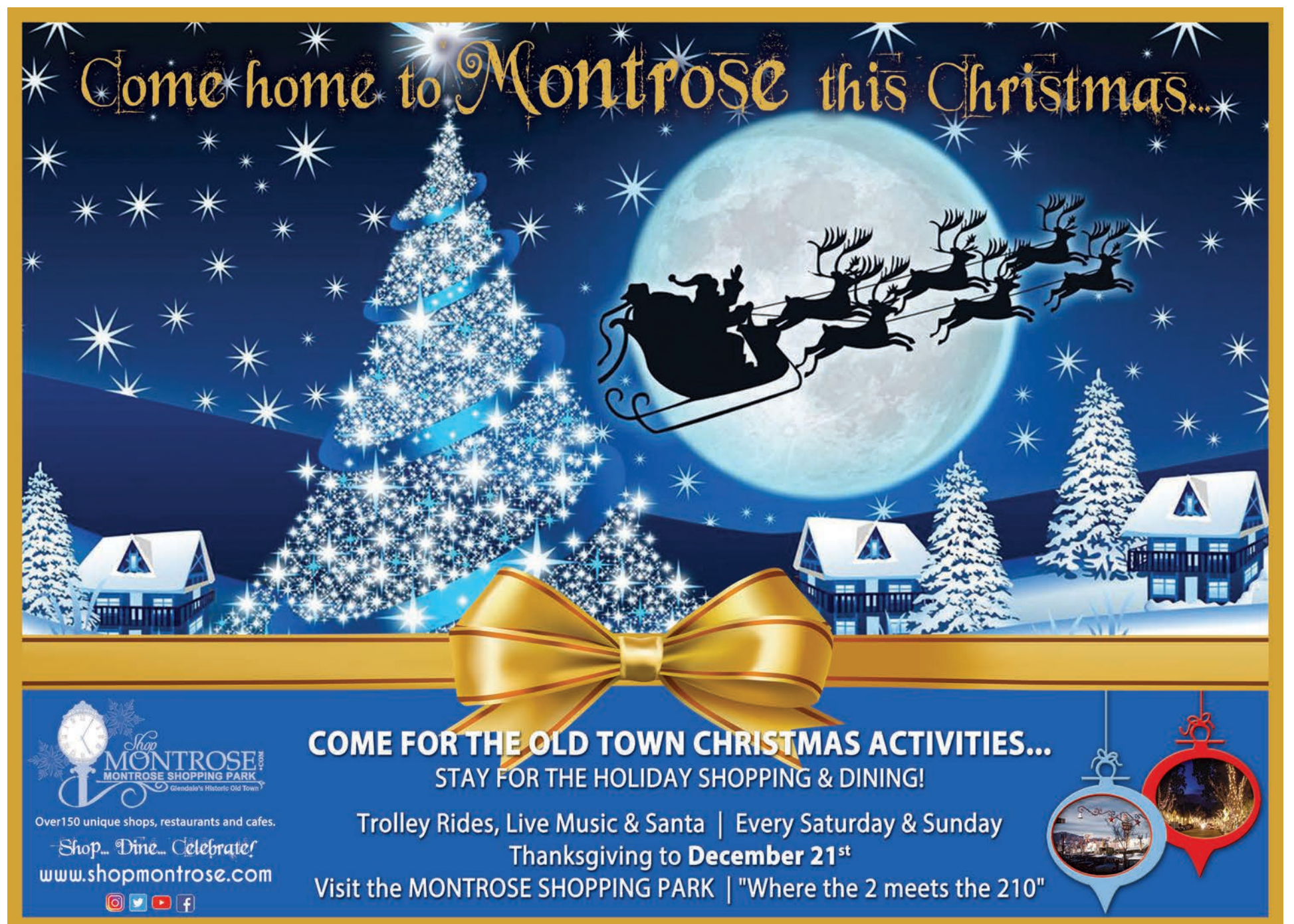
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Hosted by local members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

By Mary O'KEEFE

Photos by Robin GOLDSWORTHY and Mary O'KEEFE





Classic, Vintage Cars Found at Albertsons

On Saturday car enthusiasts had a great day at Albertsons in Tujunga as over 60 vintage and classic cars were on display in the market's parking lot. Albertsons, in partnership with the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce, hosted the event.

Some of the convertibles that were seen on Saturday will be participating along Honolulu Avenue in the Montrose Christmas Parade on Dec. 6.

Photos by Mary O'KEEFE



Barger Provides Open Letter Regarding Briggs and Foothill Proposed Project

From Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Nov. 6 community meeting on the proposed La Crescenta Apartments Project at Foothill Boulevard and Briggs Avenue. I deeply value your feedback and clearly heard your concerns.

In response, I have formally communicated the community's concerns to the project developer, Abode Communities.

Additionally, I want you to also know exactly what I am advocating for on your behalf. I have asked the developer to address four key issues:

- 1. Building Height and Scale:** A five-story structure is significantly taller than the one- and two-story buildings that define this section of Foothill Boulevard. I've requested a reconsideration of the building's height and density.
- 2. Parking Impacts:** More on-site parking would limit the potential impacts of overflow onto nearby neighborhoods and small businesses.
- 3. Traffic Safety:** Incorporation of traffic-safety improvements are requested to improve safe vehicular ingress/egress from Foothill Boulevard.
- 4. Clarity on Future Tenants:** I have requested clear information regarding the intended population, eligibility criteria, lengths of stay, on-site services and transition plans.

It was unclear at the outcome of the community meeting how these services and operations were intended to be provided.

I have also urged the developer to maintain communication with the Crescenta Valley Town Council and local stakeholders to ensure transparency throughout this process.

I also want to acknowledge the broader state laws shaping housing development and the limitations placed on the County's ability to enforce these developments locally.

Under SB 9 and State Density Bonus Laws, certain housing developments can proceed "by right," without local government approval if they meet state requirements. This statewide shift limits local control and makes it difficult to enforce orderly development in neighborhoods, which makes transparent communication and voluntary responsiveness from developers even more critical.

I remain committed to supporting affordable housing while protecting the unique character and quality of life in the Crescenta Valley.

Kathryn Barger, Supervisor
LA County Fifth District

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CRIME BLOTTER

NOV. 27

4000 block of Forest Hill Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, a woman reported finding the front passenger side window of her vehicle had been smashed and items stolen. Surveillance footage revealed that a great Volkswagen Jetta with damaged driver's side quarter panel was seen parking directly in front of the victim's car. A man, wearing a white sweater, black joggers with white stripes and black shoes, is seen walking away from the grey Volkswagen Jetta and toward the front passenger side window of the victim's vehicle. The male suspect is soon seen walking back towards the grey Volkswagen with a maroon-colored purse in hand, apparently belonging to the victim.

He got into the Volkswagen and drove away from the area at 12:16 p.m.

Angeles Station 11 on Angeles Forest Highway, a man reported that he parked his vehicle on the shoulder dirt parking lot of the U.S. Forest Service Angeles Station 11, secured his vehicle and then he and his girlfriend left to hike in the area. When they returned to their vehicle they noticed the front passenger side window was shattered.

The woman's purse was missing from the car. The vehicle burglary occurred between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

300 block of Flintridge Oaks Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, deputies responded to a call concerning a residential burglary in progress. A witness reported seeing an unknown person breaking the glass door of a residence. When deputies arrived they saw the broken glass door and entered the home to conduct a "protective sweep," however they found the home empty. There was no evidence of ransacking or rummaging in the residence. Nothing was reported stolen at the time.

The incident occurred between 5:50 p.m. and 5:55 p.m.

Angeles Crest Highway/Gould Mesa Mountain Way in La Cañada Flintridge, a woman reported parking her vehicle on the dirt parking lot along the Angeles Crest Highway. She locked her vehicle and left for a hike; when she returned she discovered the rear driver's side window of her vehicle had been shattered. She noticed that a large black bag that had been on the rear driver's seat when she left the vehicle was now unzipped. She did not notice anything missing.

The incident occurred between noon and 2:15 p.m.

NOV. 26

4300 block of Commonwealth Avenue in La Cañada Flintridge, a man returned to his vehicle to find the center console and glove box were left ajar. He did a quick inventory and discovered his wallet, which he had left in his car, was missing.

The theft occurred between 7 p.m. on Nov. 26 and noon on Nov. 27.

Editor's note: Details included in the crime reports are taken directly from the reports on file. The Crescenta Valley Weekly is not responsible for the incompleteness or inaccuracies in the original reports.

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Holiday Moratorium on La Crescenta Avenue Rehab Project

Construction Schedule
The La Crescenta Avenue Rehabilitation Project has made major safety improvements, including the realignment of intersections and enhanced pedestrian accessibility, in the last few months.

While most improvements are expected to be completed by December 2025, certain key elements — including the installation of traffic signal poles, final paving, striping and decorative crosswalks — are scheduled for completion by March 2026, barring any additional unforeseen circumstances.

The revised schedule is due to unforeseen conflicts encountered during underground utility work and longer-than-anticipated lead times for the delivery of traffic signal materials. Installation and commissioning of traffic signal poles must be completed before paving and striping improvements can begin, as the new striping layout incorporates additional crossings to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The City of Glendale remains committed to delivering a high-quality project that meets the long-term needs of the community and appreciates the public's continued patience and cooperation throughout the construction process.

Tentative Construction Schedule:

- **January 2026:** Installation of traffic signal poles, cabinets and gear
- **February 2026:** Final paving and adjustment of utilities
- **March 2026:** Striping installation including lane reconfiguration to establish one travel lane in each direction, a center turn lane, and bike facilities such as buffered bike lanes and protected bike lanes throughout the corridor. Installation of decorative crosswalks and cool pavement on Paloma Avenue.

Impacted Streets
During the construction period,

detours, intermittent lane closures, and traffic delays are expected on the following streets:

Location and Dates


- **La Crescenta Avenue between Roselawn Avenue and Urquidez Avenue:** Travel lanes may be closed intermittently through Dec. 19 (excludes weekends and holidays)
- **La Crescenta Avenue at Piedmont Avenue, Shirlyjean Street, and Midblock between Arlington and Las Palmas:** Travel lanes may be closed intermittently through Dec. 19 (excludes weekends)
- **La Crescenta Avenue at Roselawn Avenue and Oakmont View Drive:** Travel lanes may be closed intermittently through Dec. 19 (excludes weekends)
- **La Crescenta Avenue between Roselawn Avenue and Urquidez Avenue:** Travel lanes may be closed intermittently between Jan. 5 thru Jan. 16 (excludes weekends and holidays)

- **La Crescenta Avenue at Piedmont Avenue, Roselawn Avenue, Shirlyjean Street, Oakmont View Drive, and Midblock between Arlington and Las Palmas:** Travel lanes may be closed intermittently between Jan. 5 thru Jan. 16 (excludes weekends)

Description of Work

- Contractor performing sanitary sewer main upgrades and repairs.
- Contractor performing installation of traffic signal poles.
- Contractor installing ADA compliant curb ramps and repairing damaged sidewalks. Please observe posted construction signage and drive safely near construction zones.

*Construction activity and closures are subject to change.



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New Shop Local LA County Gift Cards Available for Fire-Impacted Small Business

To kick off the holiday shopping season the Los Angeles County Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is launching a new Shop Local LA County Gift Card Program — part of the Shop Local. Dine Local. Recover Local. — that helps local consumers spend their dollars with fire-impacted, brick-and-mortar food, retail and service businesses in LA County and contribute to the region's recovery and resiliency.

As part of this program, consumers can now purchase gift cards at shoplocal.la, valued at \$20, \$50 or \$100, and receive a corresponding bonus gift card worth \$10, \$25 or \$50. Both the purchased and bonus cards are redeemable exclusively at eligible, verified fire-impacted small businesses listed in the Recover Local Business Directory. Corporations are also encouraged to support by purchasing gift cards, without an added bonus card, for their employees throughout the holiday season and beyond.

To become a listed business on the Recover Local Business Directory, they must have fewer than 100 employees, meet program eligibility criteria, and be located within the fire-impacted areas of the Eaton and Palisades fires, including in the communities of Altadena, Palisades, Topanga, North Pasadena, Malibu and West Santa Monica. All eligible businesses located in designated fire-impacted zones may apply to be listed by completing a brief online form at bit.ly/ShopLocalBizForm or by visiting shoplocal.la.

After registering their business, if they qualify based on the information provided they will be contacted with directions on how to apply to participate in the

Shop Local LA County Gift Card Program. Businesses that register will also access promotional materials for their brick-and-mortar sites, marketing and promotional support, invitations to Shop Local events, and technical assistance from the County's Office of Small Business and partners.

"As we give thanks this holiday weekend, I encourage everyone to consider shopping locally, particularly in fire impacted areas like Altadena. Our small businesses are the lifeline of the economy and provide needed jobs and services to our community. I was proud to introduce this program for fire impacted communities to encourage all in LA County to shop at local impacted businesses who have lost their customer base, their homes, and their community," said Kathryn Barger, chair of the LA County Board of Supervisors.

The Shop Local LA County Gift Card Program is made possible through a public-private partnership with Yiftee and Southern California Grantmakers and catalyzed by a generous \$100,000 contribution from L.A. Care. It is part of the County's Shop Local. Dine Local. Recover Local. The campaign launched in July 2025 by Supervisor Kathryn Barger with her motion to stabilize brick-and-mortar businesses in Altadena — many of which lost their spaces or continue to face declining traffic and revenue and remain uncertain in their ability to fully recover. It also builds upon the original Shop Local LA County Campaign, which was first launched in 2023 to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19

by encouraging consumers to enter a sweepstakes drawing and sign a pledge to support local businesses at shoplocal.la/pledgetoshoplocal.

This campaign marks a significant milestone in the County's commitment to stimulate the local economy — through consumer incentives, targeted marketing support for small businesses, proactive business attraction to drive job growth and enhanced tourism. The County has further joined the City of L.A. and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) in the newly launched "LA is Open" initiative, signaling to local, national, and global audiences that the region is open for business. With more than 1.3 million small businesses across 88 cities and over 120 unincorporated areas, LA County is well positioned to welcome worldwide visitors as it prepares to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Super Bowl, and LA28 Games.

For any issues or questions with sign-up or broader support in their recovery, businesses can connect with the County's Office of Small Business by visiting:

Altadena One-Stop Permit Center
464 W. Woodbury Rd., Suite 210, Altadena, CA 91001
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
East LA Entrepreneur Center
4716 E. Cesar E. Chavez, Los Angeles, CA 90022
Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Phone 844-432-4900
Email osb@opportunity.lacounty.gov.

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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

The Overell Murders – A Two-Part Tale of Innocence or Guilt

La Cañada Flintridge was the source of a horrible murder in 1947, which went on to become the trial of the century. As such, it was finally eclipsed by the O.J. Simpson trial, which had many similarities. The crime involved a young heiress to her parents’ fortune, the wealthy Overell family. She and her boyfriend were accused of killing her parents. The evidence was all there to convict them. Just like the O.J. trial, it seemed an open-and-shut case. In this first installment I’ll present the damning evidence of their guilt.

Walter Overell was the wealthiest man in Flintridge in the 1930s and ’40s. In his hilltop mansion he and his wife raised their only child, a girl named Beulah. She was obviously spoiled ... but she was more than that. She was thought of as just plain weird by locals and there are even stories of the Overells paying people to bring their kids to her birthday parties.

When she was 17 she decided she wanted a boyfriend. It was just after the war and there were lots of eligible veterans available. She hooked up with a 19-year-old vet named Bud Gollum for a torrid love affair. Beulah was not attractive but she was rich and apparently that was good enough for Gollum. The two talked about marriage.

Walter Overell and his wife were horrified. They hated Bud Gollum. They forbade the relationship and if she stayed with him even threatened to revise their will to cut out Beulah as the heir to their huge fortune.

In March 1947, Bud and Beulah drove to Chatsworth and bought several sticks of dynamite, easily purchased in those days for removing tree stumps. The next night, Bud and Beulah went down to Newport Harbor to pay a visit to the Overells on their 47-foot yacht. After a short visit, Bud and Beulah left the yacht. Moments later, a huge blast erupted on the boat where the Overells were, tearing apart the bodies of the couple and blasting holes in the boat, which immediately sank.

On the wreckage of the boat, police investigators found electrical tape, wires, a clock and other evidence of a home-made bomb. They also found 31 sticks of unexploded dynamite. It was surmised that the bomb maker was an amateur and didn’t understand that each stick needed its own blasting cap to go off. If the entire bundle of dynamite had gone off the boat and the bodies would have been completely destroyed.

Autopsies on the Overells’ bodies showed blunt force trauma to their heads. Mrs. Overell’s wounds matched a ball-peen hammer found on board the wreckage of the boat and Mr. Overell’s wounds matched one of the boat’s removable stanchions. As well there was no water in their lungs, indicating they were dead before the boat sank.

When Bud and Beulah went to pick up her parent’s car the next day, they were arrested. In Bud’s car trunk was more dynamite, the receipt for the dynamite, the same electrical tape used in the bomb and a small screw of the same type that was in the clock used in the bomb.

The Overells maid told the newspapers that on the night of the explosion, Bud and Beulah came back to the house and made love on the bed of the parent’. After they were arrested, they wrote lurid, sexually-charged love notes to each other in jail. The letters were passed back and forth by a guard who was also feeding the letters to a newspaper. The letters talked of suicide, murder and plans for a jail break. (Not sure why they weren’t out on bail. Maybe considered a flight risk?)

So Bud and Beulah had a strong motive. Beulah stood to inherit the equivalent of \$15 million in today’s dollars. They were in possession of the murder weapons. It was an open-and-shut case. Everything pointed to their guilt. But just like the O.J. Simpson case, lawyers counted for everything in a trial of this magnitude.

In two weeks, I’ll give you Part 2: what happened at the trial.

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

VIEWS FROM THE VALLEY » SUSAN BOLAN

Strength in Sisterhood

I come from a long line of strong women. My mother, grandmothers, and family before them, were born with a powerful survival instinct that carried them through the most challenging moments of adversity – moving to foreign lands, scraping to get by, adjusting to war and dealing with the premature losses of their husbands. These independent ladies stepped up, tackled each problem as it came and fiercely protected their families from harm. They were fighters.

Over the last century, amazing women such as these not only became strong and capable in their own households but formed community groups to help others or to support a cause. Traditional women’s clubs were created as social outlets but were also places to show leadership, use acquired skills and promote charitable giving to those in need. Women’s clubs showed that you can do much more for your community when you work together.

I had the pleasure of visiting the La Crescenta Woman’s Club (LCWC) last week during its 100th anniversary celebration of the completion of their clubhouse. It’s a charming historic building and I was greeted by the delightful members dressed in period clothing. Through an informative slideshow I was fascinated to learn the history of women’s clubs throughout California and the strong women who established them. There were also many historic photos of the Crescenta Valley. Today, the LCWC continues to contribute a great deal to the fabric of our community through programs, support and scholarships. Learn more at <https://lacscentawomansclub.org/>.

Another amazing group of women (and some gents) are the Friends of Rockhaven; they are dedicated to preserving the history of Rockhaven, the last remaining sanitarium in the Crescenta Valley. In 1923, entrepreneur and founder Agnes Richards established the mental health facility for women, which was the first of its kind to focus on health and well-being through respectful treatment. Since 2008 when the City of Glendale purchased the property, Friends of Rockhaven, led by President Joanna Linkhorst, have pushed for the site to be protected from decay with a plan to use the 3.5 acres as a park, community space and museum. This effort has been difficult but finally there is some restoration work being done. Friends of Rockhaven will continue to tell the stories of the ladies who stayed there and conduct tours when allowed to return to the site. More at <https://www.friendsofrockhaven.org/>.

The most impressive group of community activists that I have ever worked with was the No 710 Action Committee. Beginning in 1947 when the State of California proposed a new Route 7 extension from Long Beach to Pasadena a group of women, mostly mothers, opposed the project and the City of South Pasadena agreed that adding another major highway would destroy its small town. What followed was decades of resolutions and lawsuits against the project with women and children marching in the street in protest. The state ultimately seized the houses along the proposed route through eminent domain. I joined this dynamic group of “Freeway Fighters” in 2009 when the project developed into a massive underground freeway tunnel with tolls. By then, all the surrounding cities were involved. The tunnel was projected to move 180,000 cars and trucks each day from the ports in Long Beach and dump them onto the already congested 210 Freeway.

In 2017, after 70 years of opposition, the Metro Board voted to defund the freeway extension and it was removed from further consideration. The Freeway Fighters that I volunteered with were men and women from every walk of life who brought their own collection of skills to the cause. They were brilliant, strategic, forward-thinking and never gave up. I pulled strength from my ancestors and proudly fought alongside them to protect our way of life. Thanks to dedicated women like Mary Ann Parada, Joanne Nuckols, Clarice Knapp, Claire Bogaard, Wayna Kato and so many others, we won this fight for our children. Full history at <http://no710.com/index.html>.

Susan Bolan
susanbolan710@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CVWD’s Money-Saving Tactics

In business school, the student learns that organizations can “externalize costs of operation” by acting to pass off their costs to the community or to the ecosystem. For example, Acme Chemical could dump the byproducts of its chemical factory in the nearby creek instead of building tanks to capture those byproducts and then building facilities to further process the byproducts into harmless materials to be taken away.

CVWD is externalizing a portion of its costs on its neighbors by using

the Williams Reservoir plot located on Ocean View [Boulevard] as a materials depot and materials yard. The CVWD should lease or buy an appropriate parcel that is not located within a quiet residential neighborhood in the Sagebrush portion of La Cañada Flintridge. That neighborhood is now suffering from constant double dump truck traffic running up and down Ocean View, round-the-clock operation of heavy equipment on the reservoir property and heavy congestion of trucks hooking up and dropping off trailers on narrow streets. This neighborhood used to be a quiet residential section

where kids walk to school and people walk their dogs.

The CVWD is saving cost and bringing its pipe replacement activities in-house. Sure, the CVWD is saving money because the CVWD does not have to pay premium prices to have contractors do its pipe replacement work. The CVWD is shifting some of those costs onto the La Cañada Flintridge community because the consequences of the CVWD’s shortsighted decisions are being borne by the Williams Reservoir neighbors.

*Greg Hiscott
La Cañada Flintridge*

BobSmith

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there is no requirement that these parcels be transitioned to development sites. As open space becomes increasingly sparse in urban areas, it is essential that we protect this rare zoning designation and ensure it is preserved for its intended purpose.”

“Tim” introduced himself as a relatively new three-year resident of the Rossmoyne neighborhood, with two small children.

“We love the neighborhood. It provides unbelievable value to our family and we think that adding high-density housing to the area will add traffic through Mountain Street that’s very dangerous near Nibley Park as well as at lights up and down Verdugo,” he said. “We are asking that you consider taking that off the table. As you know that neighborhood is kind of historic – we’ve committed to not changing the residential structures of the homes there and to add a significant structure of new homes goes against what the feeling of the neighborhood is -- so we ask that you don’t do that.”

Representing Glendale realtors, Greg Astorian recalled a recent poll commissioned by the downtown business association that showed that 48% of Glendale voters believe residential development is going “too fast.” Thirty percent felt the rate is about right and 18% deemed it too slow.

The poll shows that, regarding commercial development, 49% of people think it is about right; 35% consider it too fast and 11% rate it as too slow.

Astorian cited statistics from housing policy and housing financing experts determining that using the growth metric of number

of units per 1000 residents per year rates of 0-2 are considered very low or stagnant; rates of 2 – 4 are moderate/insufficient; and that 4-6 would be healthy, “necessary for stability.” California’s current rate using this scale is 2.5 and Glendale’s is 2.1, “just a tad above Burbank and Pasadena.”

Mayor Ara Najarian pointed out that if 48% believe growth is too fast that means 52% find it about right or too slow.

Paul Karapetian, board member of the Royal Canyon Property Owners Association, said, “For months now our homeowner associations – along with many others – have voiced our overwhelming opposition to the CORO and the designation of certain public parking lots as surplus land – five different associations, including the Montrose Park Shopping Association, have all voiced opposition to the plans to develop those parking lots into dense, affordable housing. In the case of the Verdugo lots, you’re taking land that’s zoned for open space and recreational use and zoning it for high-density housing. We’d like you to listen to the 5,000 petitioners who’ve signed two petitions and bring this back.”

Councilmember Vartan Gharpetian asked that the matter be agendized for the next Council meeting, specifically calling for the removal from the CORO and from the state surplus land the list of parking lots 30, 31, 32, 34, 35 and lots 3 and 7 in Montrose. Mayor Najarian asked for historical records of previous plans developed for Montrose including his recollections of interest in creating opportunities for more robust foot traffic. The mayor also

wondered if there is a property owners association in Montrose or just a business organization.

In other Council business, Councilmember Gharpetian queried city staff about actions that could be taken to alleviate complaints from residents of fast driving and marijuana smoking near a Kenneth Village parking lot near the intersection of Sonora and Grandview.

Gharpetian commended the Montrose tree lighting ceremony as another successful event, noting that his family has always attended “since the kids were very little; they’re not little anymore.”

Councilmember Gharpetian also requested a report on “condo fees” and possible incentives for the development of condominiums.

Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian asked that the Council adjourn in the memory of Vanes Martirosyan, who was born on May 1, 1986 in Yerevan, Armenia, and grew up in Glendale to become one of Glendale’s few Olympians, a boxer nicknamed “The Nightmare.” Martirosyan represented the United States in the 2004 Olympics.

Mayor Najarian announced the lighting of the city’s Christmas tree, which is scheduled for Wednesday night, Dec. 3 starting at 6 p.m., just outside city hall in Perkins Plaza, 141 N. Glendale Ave.

“There’ll be carolers and hot chocolate,” the mayor reported, and “You may even see Santa.”

On Saturday, Dec. 6 beginning at 7:45 a.m. Glendale Public Works Dept. and Caltrans have organized a community clean-up meeting at the Holly Drive off-ramp of the 2 North freeway. RSVP to join the effort by

emailing AOganesyan@GlendaleCA.gov.

The Montrose Christmas Parade starts at 6:10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, Mayor Najarian reminded, noting that the best seats are near Ocean View Boulevard and Honolulu Avenue. He added that folks can bring a chair and a blanket to enjoy the historic parade down Honolulu Avenue, which starts at Rosemont Avenue and continues to Verdugo Boulevard.

Finally, the mayor reported that the waiting list for Pioneer Village, which provides new high-quality affordable apartment homes for seniors and families on Pioneer Drive near Pacific, is open through Friday, Dec. 12. More information or to apply is available at <https://nationalcore.org/communities/pioneer-village/>.

Councilmember Elen Asatryan celebrated the city’s receipt of an EDDY Award from the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation in the category of most business-friendly city and she urged residents to shop small and to shop locally – in Glendale and Montrose.

“Sixty-eight percent of every dollar spent at a local business stays in the community,” she noted.

Dr. Jackie Gish announced that the Glendale Environmental Coalition is hosting a webinar on Monday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. regarding the new air conditioning/heat pump ordinance. RSVP at <https://gec.eco/gec-ac-to-heat-pump-webinar/>.

Gish further reported that 25 volunteers participated in a recent community clean-up around Fremont Park and that folks should be reminded to properly dispose of cigarette butts. Mayor Najarian

suggested the city’s office of innovation take note of experiments in Denmark where crows have been trained to pick up butts and exchange them for bites of food. [According to the internet, a Swedish company called Corvid Cleaning is running a pilot program to train crows to pick up cigarette butts in exchange for food rewards. The project uses the crows’ intelligence to reduce litter clean-up costs, and the company believes it could lower costs by up to 75%. The crows drop cigarette butts into a special machine that dispenses a food reward for each item deposited.]

Early in Tuesday night’s meeting, the Council adopted a proclamation marking December as Elder Wellness and Connection Month, recognizing the lifelong contribution of older adults and the importance of promoting health and connectedness, highlighting programs that support active aging, reduce isolation and strengthen engagement between generations.

At a meeting of the Audits Committee on Tuesday morning, the Council reviewed and adopted an annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR) prepared as part of the city’s required annual audit.

As of June 30, 2025, the city shows \$3.5 billion in assets and a net position of \$1.9 billion, indicating overall financial stability. The city took in \$995 million in revenue and expended \$891 million during the fiscal year. Read the report at <https://glendaleca.primegov.com/api/compilemeetingattachmenthistory/historyattachment/?historyId=748f344f3b4641f2ad611aae3f64d118>.

The Council will meet next on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

SPARR HEIGHTS ESTATES

SENIOR LIVING

A Haven in the Foothills: Sparr Heights Estates Senior Living, Where Care Meets Community in Montrose

On Honolulu Avenue, nestled between the Verdugo Hills and Angeles National Forest, lies an unassuming two-story building where seniors don’t just reside – they thrive! One can find them drinking coffee and reading the paper in the Bistro or playing poker and bingo in the Activity Room. Live entertainment, movies, exercise classes and more are available for the residents to choose from.

Nutritious meals are a large part of their program and Chef Anthony and his Team provide delicious food to choose from each day in the restaurant-style dining room. Family and friends are always welcome to join our residents for meals and holiday buffets!

The feeling within the community is casual and homey because this IS their home! All residents have their own private Studio or One Bedroom apartment but the most important feeling is **peace of mind**. Peace knowing that they are surrounded by their peers and are never alone...even at night. Sparr Heights Estates provides 24/7 onsite Caregivers and Medication Managers to provide peace of mind in case of an emergency or if a resident is just not feeling well. Personal Care Management can be as simple as managing their medications or providing full support (bathing, toileting, dressing, etc). “My mom immediately felt at home here. The care is amazing – she’s more independent than ever and the staff checks in on her without hovering.”

For those navigating advanced cognitive challenges, Sparr Heights Estates’ Memory Care program is well-known in the industry which is why there is usually a wait list to move in! Their full activity program provides joy and mental stimulation in a secure, confusion-reducing environment. “Lots of fun and hands-on activities for memory care



residents – my sister is getting a lot of personal care and isn’t bored anymore.” Singing and dancing along to their favorite rock band documentary or enjoying a birthday celebration together solidifies the friendships they make...not only amongst themselves but also with the Caregivers and Activity Directors.

Sinceri Senior Living is the management company that took over Mountview Senior Living three years ago. With new management and a name change to Sparr Heights Estates Senior Living, this community has been transformed and renewed with beautiful updates throughout but, more importantly, a loving and devoted staff has been born. In fact, this community has a high staff-to-resident ratio that they are very proud of. “They have wonderful activities and a nice camaraderie between the staff and residents,” says another family member, who appreciates the homey vibe.

In an era where senior care can feel impersonal, Sparr Heights Estates reminds us that home can be located within a warm, senior community. For those in Montrose and beyond, this foothill gem isn’t just a place to live – it’s a community to thrive in. To learn more or to schedule a quick tour, call Linda Bussiglieri at 818-248-6737 or email at linda.bussiglieri@sincerisl.com.



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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Curtain Up For ‘Love Letters’ Starring Barbara Eden and Hal Linden

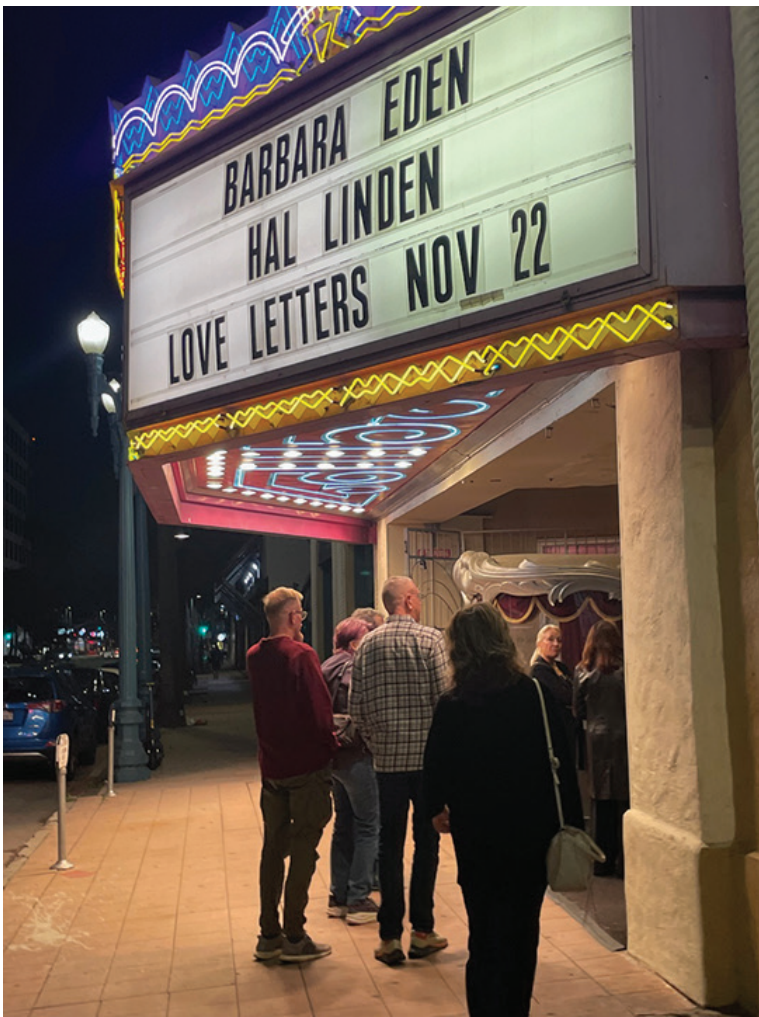
By Ruth SOWBY

It's not every day that big stars like Hal Linden and Barbara Eden come to the nearby community and give each audience member a chance to be professionally photographed with them. That's what happened on Saturday, Nov. 22 at a sold-out one-night-only performance of "Love Letters" at the North Hollywood El Portal Theatre.

Eden and Linden received a standing ovation at the end of their performances before audience members went on stage for photographs. Granted, that opportunity cost \$150 plus the ticket price. But the money paid went to a good cause – The Thaliens. The Thaliens raises money for mental health-related causes.

"Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney centers on two characters, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd. The actors sit side-by-side at a table and read notes, letters and cards they received over 50 years. During that time they discuss the dreams and disappointments that passed between them during their lives.

The play starred Barbara



Eden, 95, whose most notable role was that of 2,000-year-old Jeannie who falls in love with an astronaut played by Larry Hagman. The series "I Dream of

Jeannie" ran from 1965 to 1970. In 1974, Hal Linden, 94, took on his best-known role as the title character in the TV comedy series Barney Miller.

Having played opposite Linden in the past, Eden said, "It was a joy to return to the stage with Hal Linden."

Photos by Ruth SOWBY
LEFT: The El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood draws a sold-out audience for 'Love Letters' starring Barbara Eden and Hal Linden.
RIGHT: North Hollywood resident Catherine Jacoby shows off the El Portal's flyer for Eden and Linden's performance.

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Bob Gurr**

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The Parade will be taped and the video will be available to view on-demand from the MyGlendale YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/myglendale>),

and will replay on Glendale TV throughout December. Check the

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For more information, email info@MontroseChristmasParade.com or visit the Parade website www.montrosechristmasparade.com

Overcoming the Odds: CVHS Performance Garnerers Win

The road to this year's Division Finals was a difficult one. The fact that Crescenta Valley High School now has a lighted field has made availability for practice somewhat limited. The rain the week of Nov. 17-21 caused Division Finals to be rescheduled to Saturday, Nov. 22. While preparing for the road trip the giant truck that holds instruments and gear wouldn't start. Though attempts were made to fix it and jump start it nothing worked.

An army of parents descended to help. Plans were made to rent two 15-foot U-Haul trailers from US Self Storage as students hurriedly unloaded the entire CV Instrumental Music truck. Then they quickly reloaded the instruments and gear into the two U-Haul trucks – but not everything fit. Several band parents stepped up to transport in their SUVs marimbas and xylophones.

Due to the delays, arrival was late at Division Finals meaning that the students had a shorter warmup than anticipated. But they stayed calm and focused and their determination and grit allowed them to rise to the occasion and perform well. They won Division Finals defending last year's Division Finals 5a championship and securing a coveted berth in the state finals grand champs, which will be held on Dec. 6 at Colony High School in Ontario. There they will compete against bands of multiple sizes from all over California.

A community performance is being held at the CVHS field on Friday, Dec. 5 at 5:45 p.m. so family, friends and the community can have a chance to see their field show Uncaged without having to travel to Ontario.

Submitted by Ameri RAMIREZ



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Holiday Magic Found at the YMCA of the Foothills

The annual tree lot is officially open, bringing festive cheer and community spirit to the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA, 1930 Foothill Blvd. In partnership with J's Maintenance and proud sponsors Gomez Landscaping, Kiwanis Club of La Cañada and Red Sea Tile & Stone, Inc., this year's tree lot promises an unforgettable holiday experience for all.

Buyers will step into a winter wonderland and explore a spectacular selection of ultra-premium Christmas trees – perfect for creating cherished holiday memories. Every tree purchased directly supports the Y's Youth and Teen Programs, making this event not only joyful

but deeply impactful for the community.

And that's not all! For the second year in a row, the YMCA is hosting festive holiday events including a hands-on ornament-making workshop and a lively Tree Lot Marketplace. These activities invite families and friends to come together and celebrate the season in true holiday style.

"This is truly my favorite time of year," said Debbie Pile, Membership administrator and longtime tree lot lead. "The joy on children's faces is priceless. With our free workshops, everyone can join the fun. Many families return year after year to capture their Christmas photo at the tree

lot – I can't wait to see who comes back this season!"

The tree lot opened the day after Thanksgiving and will remain open while supplies last.

Hours:

- Mon–Thu: 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Fri–Sun: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Each purchase helps fund transformative programs like Youth & Government, Model United Nations, and PILOTS, which empower teens to discover their passions and become strong community leaders. This year, 125 teens participated – and even more are eager to join in 2026. Every tree makes a difference!

For details on the tree lot and upcoming holiday events, visit ymcafoothills.org/tree-lot.

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

Benefits Of A Pre-Inspection

Dear Phyllis,

I look forward to your real estate advice and have great respect for your knowledge. After a long illness, my father passed, and I am the trustee of his estate. He has a home in La Crescenta to sell. He was very close to a woman he knew from church, and in respect for that relationship I will be listing the home with her. My dad's house has not been updated in years; it's not just remodeling, things like the roof and HVAC are old. It's pretty evident just from looking at the house from the street. When I met with my dad's friend, she suggested we get an inspection, which doesn't make sense because the home needs major updating. Can you give me your thoughts on the benefits of a pre-inspection.

— SB

Dear SB,

First, let me say how sorry I am to hear about your father's passing. I know how difficult it is to navigate a loved one's estate, especially while carrying the responsibilities of being the trustee. Thank you for your kind words—I appreciate your trust and confidence in my experience.

I understand your situation regarding your father's home in La Crescenta clearly. It's thoughtful and admirable that you honor his relationship with his friend by listing the property with her. That said, your concern about whether a pre-inspection is necessary is a good one, and I'm glad you asked.

The home needs updating, and it's evident from the street that the roof is old. So why bother? Because in my 30+ years selling

homes in La Crescenta and La Cañada, I've sometimes seen buyers use their inspections to reopen negotiations—often aggressively. Even when a home is sold "as-is", buyers may request costly credits or repairs.

By doing a pre-inspection, you control the narrative. It allows you to anticipate and address objections from a position of strength. Even if you're selling the property "as-is," having the facts documented can prevent misunderstandings later.

In short, while a pre-inspection might seem unnecessary for a home that clearly needs updating, it is a strategic tool to manage buyer expectations and avoid costly last-minute negotiations. I believe it's well worth considering.

Warm regards,

Phyllis



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TRAVEL & LEISURE

Dancing Lights and Calorie Bombs: A Night at Knott's Merry Farm

By Charly SHELTON

It's that time of year again – “snoap” falling from the sky, a beagle dressed as Santa Claus and more calories than any one person should ingest in a single day. It's time for Knott's Merry Farm.

Heading to Knott's with the kids has become an annual tradition. Living in LA, with little to no snow, the snoap (snow plus soap) falling from the sky between palm trees is a quintessential holiday experience. And Knott's doesn't disappoint. The Snow and Glow nightly show that happens several times throughout the evening brings Ghost Town to life with dancing lights and holiday decorations set to music and blanketed by snowfall. Of course there's also the tree lighting and the strolling carolers and the stage shows, but the snowfall is really why I'm there. Well, that and the food.

What would a holiday celebration be without 8,000 calories? For a theme park built on food, every year brings a new opportunity to wow crowds with its culinary concoctions fit for the season. And this year is no different – from the maple glazed pulled pork to the holiday pizza with Alfredo and prosciutto to the Thanksgiving cupcake comprised of turkey, stuffing and cranberries baked into a cupcake shape (with a dollop of mashed potatoes instead

of frosting) – I was hooked. I thought I enjoyed a normal Thanksgiving dinner until I tried this and this is now my preferred way of taking all my meals: in cupcake form. And if those decadent offerings don't sound like enough, go for the big ones – The Roofus is a giant chicken sandwich the size of a pizza, meant to be shared among five or six people, or one very hungry dad after a day at the theme park. There's also the Bird's Nest, which is a chicken and biscuit plate the same size as The Roofus; and the gigantic turkey club the size of a yule log. There are plenty of offerings throughout the park reflecting the holiday season, but these ones bring that “wow factor” that will look great on Instagram while sitting well in the belly.

Whether it's the holiday decorations or meeting Santa Snoopy or the snoapfall or the food, Knott's Merry Farm is a favorite holiday destination for everyone's interests. It's got a genuine feel that is less commercial than some of the other theme parks in Southern California. Not necessarily magic, but it feels like coming home for the holidays.

Knott's Merry Farm continues through Jan. 4, 2026.

Photos by Charly SHELTON
TOP: Knott's Merry Farm has become a holiday tradition for many in the southland.
RIGHT: A little boy is fascinated by the 'snoap' blanketing the park.



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Scene in LA December 2025

Whatever the season, it's always a great 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:



"DIE HEART: The Director's Cut" This holiday season, the Troubies leave no stone unturned and no glass un-shot when they blow off the roof the Colony Theatre and hold the audience hostage with the classic Christmas film "Die Hard" combined with the music of Heart – in a newly revised

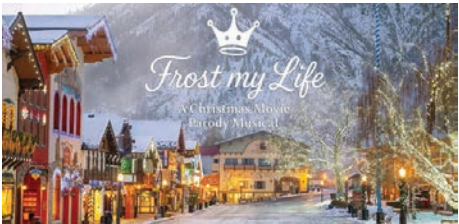
version of "DIE HEART: The Director's Cut" with new songs, previously deleted scenes left on the rehearsal room floor and actual director's commentary! Don't spend the holidays "Alone," run barefoot to the Colony Theatre and see the Troubies "Kick it Out" – but remember, don't be late-comers or we'll go "Crazy on You!" Hans Gruber and his "Bara-crewda" will be gunning for laughs in Burbank as they take on that tempestuous "Magic Man" John McClane in this can't-miss Troubie extravaganza!

Written and directed by Matt Walker, with music by Ryan Whyman, it runs Dec. 5 through Dec. 21 at the Colony Theatre in Burbank. For tickets, call (818) 558-7000 or visit www.troubie.com.



"A DIY Holiday Musical starring Rex & Friends" A remarkable performance ensemble of uplifting neurodiverse and disabled artists led by musician Rex-Lewis Clack, the 28-year-old blind and autistic pianist and vocalist hailed as a musical savant. This spirited, joyful musical celebrates creativity, community and the magic of the holiday season featuring Christmas and Hanukkah favorites performed live, both a cappella and acoustic, with humor, storytelling, DIY stage magic, and audience sing-alongs!

Written and directed by Laurie Grant, with music by Laurie Grant and Devin Weitz, it runs Dec. 5 through Dec. 7 at the Blue Door in Culver City. For tickets, visit www.artsupla.org.



"Frost My Life" Equal parts irreverent and heartwarming, this new holiday musical comedy delivers nonstop laughs, catchy original songs and just enough Christmas spirit to melt even the frostiest hearts. It's a festive fever dream filled with small-town charm, big-city burnout and a whole lot of yuletide mayhem. Julie, a "high-powered marketing exec" whose life falls apart faster than Santa's sleigh on black ice, flees Los Angeles after losing her dream promotion. She resigns herself to visiting her mother for Christmas in Small Town, Ohio. There she meets a handsome, widowed doll maker and his knife-juggling daughter, and things take a delightfully chaotic turn. Cue love songs, Christmas clichés, death by reindeer, demonic dolls and a Greek chorus that won't stop singing carols about capitalism. A send-up of every holiday movie you've ever hated to love to loved to hate, "Frost My Life" is a frosted cocktail of camp, chaos and Christmas cheer. Expect pop-infused show tunes, inappropriate jokes, absurd twists and a surprisingly sweet message about love, loss and letting go. The show runs Dec. 5 through Dec. 21 at the Wisteria Theater in North Hollywood. For tickets, call (818) 237-4643 or visit www.wisteriatheater.com.

"Mrs. Christmas" This heartwarming, irreverent, laugh-out-loud musical offers

a relatable holiday experience for adults seeking fresh, festive entertainment – just don't bring the whole family! It explores the journey of a woman who inherits the holiday traditions of her recently deceased, estranged mother. Known in their small town as Mrs. Christmas, her mother left behind a legacy of festive cheer and complex emotions for her daughter. Through an evening of song and over-the-top stories, the daughter navigates the complexities of their relationship, delving into themes of tradition, loss, legacy and questioning how we begin to heal the complicated relationships with our families.

Written by Tom Jacobson and directed by Karole Foreman, it runs Dec. 5 through Dec. 21 at the Aurora Theatre in Long Beach. For tickets, visit www.buytickets.at/signalhillsandboxinc.



"A Snow White Christmas" Experience the magic of "A Snow White Christmas!" This festive panto from the Lythgoe Family blends timeless fairy-tale charm with dazzling pop tunes – from Lady Gaga to Bruno Mars – in a laughter-packed, interactive journey. With Muddles the Jester guiding the fun – complete with zany audience banter – and a wicked
SCENE IN LA on page 18

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SCENE IN LA from page 17

Queen to boo and hiss, every moment is a riot of song, slapstick and sparkle. Add in awe-inspiring dancing, the playful puppetry of the dwarfs and sing-along moments perfect for all ages, and you’ve got a joyous holiday treat. Don’t miss the mirth, magic and merry-making – grab your tickets now for a Christmas full of enchantment!

Written by Kris Lythgoe, with music by Michael Sobie, and directed by Bonnie Lythgoe, it runs Dec. 7 through Dec. 28 at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach. For tickets, call (949) 497-2787 or visit www.lagunaplayhouse.com.



“Holiday Soirée & Cabaret” celebrating theater, music and community.

Written and directed by Imani Branch, it runs Dec. 12 through Dec. 14 at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles. For tickets, call (323) 663-1525 or visit www.FountainTheatre.com.



“Kinky Boots” Based on true events, “Kinky Boots” follows the journey of two people with nothing in common ... or so they think. Charlie Price reluctantly inherits his father’s shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to live up to his father’s legacy and save his family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. As Charlie and Lola work together to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they realized and discover that you change the world when you change your mind.

Written by Harvey Fierstein, with music by Cyndi Lauper, and directed by Jerry Mitchell, it runs Dec. 12 through Dec. 14 at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks. For tickets, visit www.BroadwayInThousandOaks.com.



“Santasia” This Los Angeles sensation and off-Broadway New York hit critically acclaimed musical sketch comedy show

features Broadway musical parodies, classic Rankin and Bass inspired Claymation movies, and heartfelt sentiment. The popular and celebrated live stage show has run in Los Angeles for the past 25 years, playing to sold out audiences.

Written by Brandon Loeser and Shaun Loeser, and directed by Shaun Loeser, it runs Dec. 12 through Dec. 27 at the Whitefire Theatre in Sherman Oaks. For tickets, visit www.santasia.com.

“A Sleighful of Songs” Come on, it’s lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with songs made famous by Michael Buble, Harry Connick Jr., Nat King Cole, Mariah Carey, Eartha Kitt, Jessie J, John Legend, Kelly Clarkson, Paul McCartney, the Jackson 5 and more ... giddyup, let’s go! Featuring the same amazing cast from “The Age of Aquarius,” including Constance Mellors, Scottie Nevil, Meg Lin, David Mingrino, Anibal Silveyra, Michael Van Duzer, Donald Moore, Harleigh Ford, Cody Kelepolo, Roni Williams, Auriana Chisholm, Vertreace Sanders, Preston Simon and Aaron Gillis.

Written by John A. Goux and directed by Victoria Lavan, it runs Dec. 12 through Dec. 14 at the Theatre West in Studio City. For tickets, visit www.theatrewest.org/tickets.

“The Wonderful Winter of Oz” is a holiday version of America’s favorite modern fairy tale in the style of a traditional British family panto. On Christmas Eve, Dorothy gets swept away by a “freak” Kansas blizzard and lands in a world of munchkins and witches. With songs from Lady Gaga to Earth, Wind and Fire, “The Wonderful Winter of Oz” is the perfect family experience at the holiday time. No rainbows will be hurt in this production.

Written by Kris Lythgoe and directed by Becky Lythgoe, it runs Dec. 12 through Dec. 28 at the Scherr Forum Theatre at the



“Irving Berlin’s White Christmas” Veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis have a successful song-and-dance act after World War II. With romance in mind, the two follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters enroute to their Christmas show at a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Bob and Phil’s former army commander. With a dazzling score featuring well-known standards including “Blue Skies,” “I Love a Piano,” “How Deep Is the Ocean” and the perennial title song, “White Christmas” is an uplifting, wholesome musical that will delight audiences of all ages.

Written by Irving Berlin, with music by Irving Berlin, and directed by Actors Repertory Theatre of Simi, it runs Dec. 18 through Dec. 21 at the El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood. For tickets, call (818) 508-4200 or visit www.elportaltheatre.com.

Christmas Jazz Vespers at LCPC Lessons & Carols with Jazz

La Cañada Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas-themed Jazz Vespers on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. both live in-person and live-streamed online.

This session features the Jack Lantz Sextet (Lance Rickman, saxophones, Jeff Kaye, trumpet and Ido Meshulam, trombone,

plus Zac Matthews, bass, Dave Marks, drums, and Jack Lantz on piano) improvising on a wide range of familiar Christmas carols. Everyone will recognize every song and enjoy following how the jazz musicians embroider the musical tapestry. The liturgy for this Jazz Vespers is based on the traditional Lessons & Carols format.

No charge (free will offering received) and no reservations required for this hour-long event, held in the church’s sanctuary. It will be a time for extraordinary celebration of joy, energy, meditation and liberation as folks

take an hour out of their busy run-up to Christmas to reflect on the story of Christmas through jazz carols.

Those who cannot attend in-person can follow this link to watch: live.lacanadapc.org.

Jazz Vespers will also be live-streamed via the church’s pages

THEN & NOW



Then: The 1946 Frank Capra movie “It’s A Wonderful Life” starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed is an undisputed holiday classic. Most of the filming for the movie took place on RKO’s Encino Ranch but the scenes of Bailey Park were filmed in a new housing tract in the fast growing suburb of La Cañada. In this scene we see beyond the Bailey Park sign, the truck carrying the poor immigrant family – the Martinis – to their new home that George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) has helped them purchase.

It’s A Wonderful Life – Bailey Park Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Now: The same scene nearly 60 years later, looking up Viro Road at the intersection of Viro and Lamour Drive, one block up from Foothill, across from La Cañada High School.

JUST FOR FUN

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. On Friday, Dec. 5 the City of Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian will give a presentation on the state of the city.

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 hosts a variety of events for the community. Among them are:

- The Annual Holiday Ceramic Sale is on Dec. 6 and Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Looking ahead to winter

programming, registration opens Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. Classes to run from Jan. 5 to Feb. 28 (eight weeks).

- CCLCF is having a holiday family brunch. The community is invited on Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to enjoy live carolers, winter crafts, a delicious brunch and pictures with Santa. Tickets available (adults & teens: \$15; kids 12 and under: \$10). Tickets are limited; visit cclcf.org/events for more info.
- Looking ahead to winter programming, registration opens Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. Classes will run from Jan. 5 to Feb. 28 (eight weeks).

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

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.

HOLIDAYS AT THE STONE BARN

The community is invited for a family-oriented evening of holiday entertainment on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Stone

Barn Nature Center in Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road, Glendale/La Crescenta. Featured entertainment includes: The Léss String Quartet, The Baroque to Folk Recorder Ensemble and The Charismatics Chamber Choir of Crescenta Valley High School. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Seating is limited. RSVP after Nov. 17 at <https://tinyurl.com/47ed62mv>.

FOOTHILLS DANCEMAKERS COMING TO PASADENA

Foothills Dancemakers, founded in 2019 as a vibrant consortium of modern dance companies in the shadow of the San Gabriel Mountains, announces their fourth concert in December. Benita Bike's DanceArt, Pennington Dance Group, Nancy Evans Dance Theatre and Lineage Dance will present a joint concert Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at A Room To Create in Pasadena.

see CALENDAR THIS on next page

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com

December 1, 2025 - December 7, 2025

ARIES March 21 - April 19

You'll be detoxing naturally on one level or another. It might be a good idea to help the process along by leaving out fatty or sugary foods, drinking more water, and eating more fresh fruits and vegetables. Slow down and try to cut out unnecessary tasks. Focus on the essentials. If you feel under the weather, rest and take things a little easier.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

Health matters look good now. You may feel on top of the world and ready for anything, but don't overdo it and tip the balance. Many of your health issues are about keeping your body and inner rhythms in balance. Don't feast and then go on a strict diet. Keep your meals moderate and nourishing. It's important not to burn out. Know when to rest!

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

Health issues lie in your body and deep in the recesses of your subconscious. You'll do best if you make daily forays into your inner self. What you're looking for is a doorway that takes you into your processes without the interference of mental noise. Explore any image or fantasy that comes to you. You can learn to follow the energy behind physical symptoms. They have surprising things to tell you.

CANCER June 21 - July 22

You're being encouraged to listen to your body and take note of what it's trying to tell you. Don't ignore signals of hunger, pain, or fatigue. Ignoring them can work for a short time, but to what end? There needs to be a harmonious integration so you can learn to pinpoint areas of tension and efficiently release them. Listen to your body's natural wisdom!

LEO July 23 - August 22

You should be feeling good. You get a chance to develop a strategy to keep your energy level high, but your pessimism may interfere. You can't be bothered at times. Get ready to motivate yourself and get really fit. If you want to achieve good results, you need to alter your mindset and think about the pleasure of feeling really well.

VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

There isn't too much to worry about. In fact, don't worry at all. Your mind is going to have a significant effect on your body. You may experience highs and lows as far as your overall energy and well-being are concerned. As you're very much aware of your health, this is the perfect time to come up with a few new health goals.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You may not be eager to try more conventional approaches to health and well-being. You find alternative methods more appealing because they work on holistic and inclusive levels. You may try one of these treatments and find that it really does have something to offer you. You're ready to experiment and discover what works for you.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Your energy level is high, especially when you're passionate about your activities. You can expect some frustration to cause tension or increase your blood pressure now. Your health has everything to do with your state of mind, so it helps not to get mad. If you're going out, let your hair down a bit. It will help you relax.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

An emphasis on your financial zone may coincide with a renewed interest in spending money on your health. You know your weaknesses and strengths, and you want to improve the balance and harmony of your body. It looks as though you're going to discover some fascinating ideas. Choose the ones that resonate most strongly with you.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Do what you love and enjoy the feelings that result. Your health is associated with your nervous system, ability to breathe deeply, and peace of mind. You may notice that your energy levels fluctuate wildly over the coming days. You could be prone to tension. Take it easy and look after your body.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You're dancing to an exciting tune, and your well-being looks dramatically improved. Express your feelings. This will help you stay in great form and give you the inner strength to keep infections at bay. Stick with your goal of finding the best way to stay fit. It will pay dividends later. If you've lapsed, restart and don't look back.

PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

You're changing from the inside out. That's why it's so important to give your body a regular routine to stay grounded and centered. Don't worry if you feel more tired than usual. This may be something that you have to move through and incorporate. Rest when you need to and enjoy life when you can. Your social life is buzzing. Be good to yourself!

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

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

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE

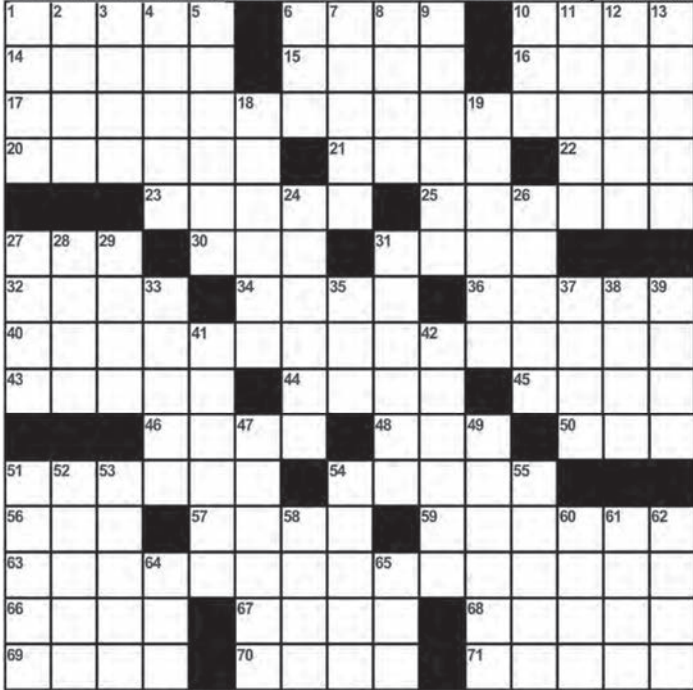


ACROSS

- Seek permission for
- Black, in poesy
- Chef's secret ingredient
- Some Biblical pronouns
- Battering wind
- Eye feature
- Expecting illness?
- Title for Eva Peron
- A tiny amount
- Maiden-name indicator
- Customary ceremonies
- Reduced in intensity
- What have you, briefly
- Moo ____ (Chinese dish)
- Icky buildup
- Suite section
- Callas solo
- Simple newsstand
- Daily nap
- Soft leather
- Brownish purple
- ____ Bator, Mongolia
- Napoleon's place of exile
- ____ and abet
- Mine material
- Aloha locale
- "Tomorrow" musical
- "Aladdin" prince
- Check out groceries
- Intertwine, as shoestrings
- Mae West's first movie
- Repeated sound
- Bulldoze, in Great Britain
- Cultural value system
- Collectors' goals
- ____ Mawr, Pa.
- Come to, as a conclusion

IT'S A GOOD DAY

By Bill Bobb



DOWN

- Money machines
- Moccasin, for one
- Tighten up type
- Pavarotti, for one
- Egyptian god of fertility
- Breakfast staple
- Foundation
- Hodgepodge
- Bee's attraction
- Attila, to his wife?
- Big occasion
- Observe again
- "____ on a true story!"
- Revolutionary Hale
- Elaborate Japanese drama
- Large moon of Jupiter
- "Arrivederci" relative
- Important historic times
- Health-food store staple
- Dove shelter
- High-kicking dance
- Euripides drama
- Last poker bet, sometimes
- Christiania, now
- "A ____ Is Born"
- "Batman" cartoonist
- Advertise for new tenants
- Type of fishing boat
- Antacid, for short
- Banquet
- Fruit of the Loom competitor
- "The Brady Bunch" housekeeper
- British isle
- Anxious
- Glitterati, e.g.
- "It's ____ cry from ..."
- Mideast muck-a-muck (var.)
- Nattily dressed
- Make impressions in stone
- Three words from Santa
- Suffix for "velvet"

see ANSWERS on page 6

Amazon Promised Me A New Christmas Tree – Then I got Scrooged

Sandra Addo’s \$98 Christmas tree is damaged by FedEx before it arrives. An Amazon customer service agent promises to send her a new one and a second agent confirms it. But then a supervisor reverses the decision, leaving her with no tree for the holidays. Can Amazon save this Christmas tree order?

Question: I’m a longtime Amazon Prime member, and I’m hoping you can help me with a frustrating situation that has ruined our holiday plans.

In late October, I ordered a Puleo International Christmas tree from Amazon for \$98. It was an Amazon Warehouse item and my family and I were really looking forward to decorating it. A few days later, I checked the FedEx tracking and saw the item was “damaged in transit” and being returned to Amazon.

I immediately contacted Amazon customer service. I was hoping maybe just the box was damaged and I could still receive the tree. A helpful agent promised to contact the shipping team to send me a new tree.

I specifically asked him to confirm if they were shipping a new tree and he replied, “Yes, they will ship the new item.”

The next day, I hadn’t received a new tracking number so I chatted with Amazon again. I was bounced around to multiple agents. The first one told me to just wait. Finally, I was connected to someone from Amazon’s leadership team who said the first agent had provided “incorrect information” and that they couldn’t take any action.

Amazon’s only offer was a refund. I was floored. I expect Amazon to honor its word. I want the replacement tree I was promised.

I wrote to Amazon’s Executive Customer Relations team, but they just repeated the same thing. This isn’t right. Can Amazon just lie to a customer, break a clear promise and then get away with it? – Sandra Addo, Dumas, Texas

Answer: Amazon’s agent made a promise. Amazon should have honored it.

The problem, as you discovered, is that your order was an Amazon Warehouse item. These are often one-of-a-kind, open-box or returned items. When the first Amazon agent promised a new item, he probably didn’t realize a replacement wasn’t available in the warehouse stock.

When the leadership team discovered the error, it should have done more than offer a simple refund. It should have found a suitable replacement – preferably a new tree. That’s what good customer service looks like.

You did an excellent job of holding Amazon accountable. You started a paper trail (your chat logs) immediately. When the front-line agents failed, you correctly appealed to a manager. When that failed, you escalated your complaint to the executive level. Although you had a great paper trail, it was missing one critical item: A promise, in writing, to send you a new Christmas tree.

If you get stuck in a customer service loop, you can always appeal your case to a company executive. I publish the names and numbers for Amazon’s executives on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org.

Lately Amazon has been less than responsive to our questions and it seemed determined to continue its streak. I contacted the company on your behalf to see if it would honor its

CALENDAR THIS from previous page

Tickets are \$30 – general admission, and \$25 – students and seniors with valid ID. A Room To Create is located at 1158 E. Colorado in Pasadena. Parking is available on site. For tickets please visit www.penningtondancegroup.org/tickets.

THE ORIGINS OF CHARLES DICKENS’ ‘A CHRISTMAS CAROL’ DECEMBER LCWC PROGRAM

The community is invited to the free December program and luncheon at the La Crescenta Woman’s Club (LCWC). A uniquely interesting video presentation will be made by noted University of London Scholar of Dickens and 19th Century Theatre and Journalism Prof. Michael Slater, Ph.D. He will tell the fascinating and heartfelt real story behind the origins of Dickens’ famous “A Christmas Carol.” Attendees will then be entertained by the popular women’s singing group The Dickens Quartet.

The La Crescenta Woman’s Clubhouse will also be a collection site for the Crescenta Valley Sheriff’s Station toy drive and canned food drive. Local deputies will accept any new unwrapped toy from all who wish to help the out.

The program is on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the LCWC clubhouse, 4004 La Crescenta Ave. Reservations recommended; call the reservation line at (818) 249-9403. Please advise if you would like to be our guests for complimentary lunch.

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Bolton Hall Museum will be having its holiday program on Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. Included is a holiday performance by the Randy Van Horne Singers. There will also be a drawing for great prizes and yummy refreshments. Franny McCartney is the mistress of ceremonies for this fun event.

Those looking for holiday gifts are encouraged to consider the Bolton Hall Museum’s 2026 Annual Calendar, which will be available at the event. The Museum Gift Shop also features creations by local artists, publications about our local history and more.

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

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

COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS WINTER CHOIR CONCERT

The Foothills Community Choir will present its winter concert on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center of La Cañada

Flintridge. The Foothills Community Choir is a volunteer adult choir made possible by the generosity of the City of La Cañada Flintridge. The winter concert is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will follow.

For more information, email Jack Krimmel at jack@cclcf.org.

Visit cclcf.org to learn more about the event.

RHAPSODIA HOLDS SERIES FINALE

The community is invited to join Rhapsodia founder Matthew Krell for an evening of holiday merriment and winter classics, marking the series finale of the fall 2025 Sundays of Sound concert series.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/CALENDARTHIS

CRESCENTA VALLEY WEEKLY PRESENTS

The 2025 Merry & Bright
Holiday Light and Display Tour!

Share your merriment and brighten the spirits of your community this Holiday Season!
From December 18th – December 31st families will be driving past identified
houses that have been decorated festively for the season.

To include your address in the Merry & Bright Tour and be entered into our contest, send your
address to **HollyWeen@cvweekly.com** by **5 p.m.** on Dec. 15th. Your address will be included in
both issues of the CV Weekly that feature Merry & Bright Tour addresses! Entries received
after Dec. 16 will be included in the following issue/s of the CV Weekly. Get your
address in asap so families can create their own drive-by experience.

Judging will be done between December 19th - 22nd.
The winners will be announced in the January 1st issue of the CV Weekly!

JUDGING CATEGORIES

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

2. Rockin' Round the
Christmas Tree Award
(best use of music and
technology)

3. Most Original Award
(not your usual everyday
holiday decor)

4. Best In Show Award
(ya blew the judges minds)

BALLARD & BALLARD
REAL ESTATE GROUP

BROKERED BY
exp
REALTY

the
YMCA OF THE FOOTHILLS
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF ALL

CRESCENTA VALLEY
CVWD
WATER DISTRICT

GLENDALE from Cover

With that being said, the ST3 zone does allow residential densities at what we call R1250.”

ST3 zones allow for medium-to-high density multi-family dwellings, which is similar to Glendale’s R1250.

Concerns range from business owners who worry about development and how that would affect their businesses and that Montrose would lose its valuable parking spaces; residents are concerned about the size of additional housing and how that will affect a variety of issues, including fire safety.

In addition to the concerns about Montrose, there are residents who have voiced their concern with the plan for the Glendale Civic Auditorium and other areas.

A grassroots effort has begun that stresses “No high-density housing on our public parking lots.” The areas of their concerns include Lot 30 at Mountain Street and Verdugo Road, the Civic

Auditorium lot, Babe Herman Little League Field lot and the Montrose parking lots including Numbers Four, Six and Three.

“The thing that I have to continue to caution is that it doesn’t mean that [the City] is or will or anyone can just come and [develop the City-owned property],” Calvert said. “The City owns these properties, the City decides ultimately if anything were to happen at all The City has complete control over those properties and the decision of whether or not anything would happen to them at any point in the future – now or 20 years away.”

“There are no proposals for development and, aside from the unsolicited proposal for the auditorium management agreement, there have never been any development proposals,” according to the City of Glendale spokesperson.

At many of the outreach meetings, community members

asked for their areas of concern to simply be taken out of the General Plan; however that has not happened.

“The [General Plan] is moving forward as a whole, will undergo the draft EIR, and then engage [the] community again under the DEIR. We will inform the City Council of the input to various elements when we report back to them after the engagements are completed. The ‘Plan’ as-is, and the follow up or decisions on how and what to move forward with (i.e., the future of the parking lots, potential future interest in them, etc.), rests with Council to determine at a future date,” said a City spokesperson.

For more information concerning No High-Density Glendale go to: www.norezone-glendale.com.

A petition against the Montrose parking lot as it is stated in the General Plan can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yabk2vv3>.

PARADE from Cover

Monorail, the Haunted Mansion doom buggies and the Matterhorn bobsleds (among others) as well as later contributing to projects around the world. In 2004, he was officially recognized as a Disney Legend for his innovations in theme park design.

Speaking about his upcoming appearance, Gurr said he hopes to ride in an early 1930s Packard and wave to spectators along the route.

“Every couple of years there’s some new [honor] that kind of tops everything that goes before,” Gurr said. “It’s almost like ‘How many more blessings can come my way?’ [and] I’m 94. I love this valley so much; I’ve been here 33 years and Montrose is my favorite town.”

Tradition has always been part of the Montrose

Christmas Parade and this year is no different. The parade’s theme is The Christmas Time Machine. This year time comes full circle with the Paola sisters riding in the parade they first participated in about 69 years ago.

“My sisters Chrissy and Peggy [along with me] rode on a float in 1956,” said Susan Paola in a recent CVW interview.

According to the then-community newspaper the Ledger, the sisters were on a float titled “The Santa Claus Float,” which was part of the local Lions Club organization. It was described as the “most elaborate” one to date and featured a sleigh, Santa’s house, reindeer and children.

“My dad belonged to the Lions Club, and the Shriners and the Masons,” Paola said. “[Riding] on the float was a big deal.”

Once again this year they will be traveling down the Honolulu Avenue parade route.

Another tradition involves residents placing their blankets and lawn chairs along the route several hours prior to the parade. The fact that community members are kind and respectful to those who have already set up their chairs is a tribute to the broader community. The Montrose Christmas Parade is not only an event, it is a way to celebrate local school bands, Scouts, local leaders and organizations that support the community.

The Montrose Christmas Parade Association is an all-volunteer organization supported by local businesses and residents. The event will also benefit the Glendale Fire Dept.’s annual Spark of Love Toy Drive.

The parade route runs along Honolulu Avenue from Rosemont Avenue to Verdugo Road. Street closures begin at 3 p.m. and spectators are asked not to set out chairs or blankets before noon on the day of the event. The parade starts at 6:10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6.

FAMILY FUN IN THE FOOTHILLS!

•

21ST ANNUAL

•



Holiday Chili Bowl Festival and Marketplace





Artisan Marketplace ♦ Entertainment ♦ Art Activities

Yummy Baked Goods ♦ Student Showcase

... and Gourmet Chili in Artisan Crafted Bowls!

•

December 6th 10 - 5 and December 7th 10 - 4



McGroarty Arts Center

7570 McGroarty Terrace, Tujunga, CA 91042











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LEGALS & CLASSIFIEDS

LEGALS

JUDICIAL SUMMONS CITATION

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(A VISO AL DEMAN DADO):

ARKADY GRIGORYAN;
and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
LOGIX FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
(LO ESTA DENFANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO! Lohan demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 de AS DE CALENDAR/O después de que le entreguen esta citación y pape/es legal/es para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y /hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una 1/ amada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal con-ecto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (WWW.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de /eyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sue/do, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos /egales. Es recomendable que /ame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llama, a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programas de servicios legates sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services. (WWW.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (WWW.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el co/egio de abogados locales. AV/SO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cua/quier recuperación de \$10,000 6 mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

LEGALS

The name and address of the court is:
Alhambra Courthouse
150 West Commonwealth Avenue
Alhambra, California, 91801
CASE NUMBER: 24NNCV06532
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Yzabel C. Tinga
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono de/ abogado de/ demandante, o de/ demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
MOORE, BREWER & WOLFE, APC
2121 Palomar Airport Road, Suite 110, Carlsbad, CA. 92011
Published in the Crescenta Valley Weekly December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LYNN BOURDON BRANDSTATER CASE NO. 25STPB06108

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may not otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of **LYNN BOURDON BRANDSTATER**

A Petition for Probate has been filed by **ALLEN EARL BRANDSTATER** in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

THE PETITION for Probate requests that **ALLEN EARL BRANDSTATER** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **December 17, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., Dept. 429, Room 240 at the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, located at 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.**

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner:
1241 OAK CIRCLE DRIVE
GLENDALE, CA 91208
(818) 426-3716
Published in the Crescenta Valley Weekly November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

EMPLOYMENT

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BARGER from page 21

Thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness were placed into interim and permanent housing, and several new supportive housing sites opened across the County.

Other accomplishments included supporting veterans and their families through the launch of a new Arts and Veterans Center, expanding spay and neuter services to protect animals, hiring more veterinarians and animal care officers, combating illegal breeding operations, reducing overcrowding in care centers and increasing pet adoption efforts. The County also helped residents heal through arts and cultural programming, preservation of cherished family heirlooms, and community events that provided comfort and connection during an extraordinarily difficult year.

Throughout her remarks, Supervisor Barger emphasized that collaboration, perseverance and a shared commitment to residents drove every accomplishment. She thanked her colleagues and the County's 100,000-employee workforce for their steadfast dedication to public service and for helping improve the lives of millions of residents.

"None of this happened overnight, and none of it happened in isolation," Supervisor Barger said.

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