CRESCENTA VALLEY
WEEKLY
THE FOOTHILLS' COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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Council Delays Decision on Water Rates – Again

By Julie BUTCHER

TV news vans lined up along Broadway in advance of Tuesday night's meeting of the Glendale City Council expecting a decision on a five-year water rate hike proposed by Glendale Water and Power (GWP). Residents protesting the dramatic increases spoke to reporters and cameras outside of Glendale City Hall.

Once again, the council voted to delay a decision on the rate increases, this time until Tuesday, Dec. 1. The council opted to formally close the public hearing, which means that no more Prop. 218 protests will be accepted.

City staff announced that an unverified 9,605 protest petitions had been submitted, falling short of the number required: half plus one of the total properties, reported to be 44,757. Last week, the number of protests submitted was 4,351 of the 22,738 that would be needed to overturn the increases.

The city began developing an in-depth master water plan and commissioned a comprehensive cost of service rate analysis (COSA) in late 2024. On Sept. 26 of this year, the council authorized the required Prop. 218 notices needed to implement new rates for the next five years.

The first year increase slated for Jan. 1, 2027 would be 53%, on average, followed by increases of 11%, 10%, 10% and 7% on Jan. 1 the following four years.

Glendale residents once again lined up and dialed in to address the council.

"Last week's display of malice – not just indifference, actual malice – you despise us. You look at us with disdain.

see GCC *on page 9*

The Season to Help Neighbors

By Mary O'KEEFE

Even in tough times, the CV community answers the call for help.

The U.S. has seen a rise of 0.4% in grocery costs recorded in October. If that trend continues each month for a year, a 5% point boost would occur after a year, according to a report in Grocery Dive.

With transportation costs, including diesel fuel, and an upcoming El Niño, which will add delays due to rainy roads, along with tariffs, costs do not look like they will go down anytime soon.

Putting food on the table has been even more difficult for a lot of families and when tightening the budget there are not a lot of funds left for holiday toys and gifts. However, local organizations are doing what they can to support families that are having a rough time this holiday season.

Below are just a few of those organizations:

ABC7 Spark of Love

The ABC7 Spark of Love Toy Drive is an annual campaign that partners Southern California firefighters – the County of Los Angeles Fire Dept., the LA Fire Dept. – and other local agencies, like Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept., to support the program.



Many local organizations are donating to ABC7 Spark of Love (seen here at a previous year's event).

Fire stations including those in Glendale, Los Angeles, Sunland-Tujunga, Burbank, La Cañada Flintridge, Montrose and La Crescenta are all collecting unwrapped toys for kids from newborns to 17-year-old teens.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.-Crescenta Valley Station

LASD is collecting toys in support of the Spark of Love including at the Crescenta Valley, 4554 Briggs Ave., La Crescenta.

Toy bins are already in the station lobby where people can drop off their donations of new, unwrapped toys for kids aged newborn to 17.

Personnel at CV Sheriff's Station will be collecting for two different programs: One is the Spark of Love and the other is specifically for local families.

The Spark of Love toys will be collected at the station through Dec. 9; however, it is advised that anyone donating to this program make certain the items are at the station by Dec. 8.

"We will also be collecting toys and canned food through Dec. 23 for distribution to local families in need," said Sgt. John Gilbert.

see TOY DRIVES *on page 18*

Enjoying A Successful Holiday Wine Walk

By Robin GOLDSWORTHY

On Saturday night, the Montrose Shopping Park Assn. hosted the Holiday Wine Walk, an opportunity for people to try some new wines and visit stores they might not have had a chance to visit in the past in the shopping park.

According to MSPA Business Administrator/Events Coordinator Dale Dawson, an estimated 638 people participated in this year's Wine Walk – approximately the same number of people who participated in last year's Holiday Wine Walk.

The MSPA, which is next preparing for its annual tree lighting and Christmas Market on Nov. 27, is hoping for "foot traffic that repeats and repeats."

The Association works with the La Crescenta Woman's Club (LCWC) to have the Wine Walk.

"The LCWC, our Wine Walk co-sponsor, not only handles the check-in on-site but [its members] are the ones who prepare in advance all the tote bags, wine glasses, tickets and scrip for handouts on the evening of the event," said Dawson.

The next Wine Walk is scheduled for March 13, 2027 and, in addition to the tree lighting and Christmas Market, the shopping park is preparing for Small Business Saturday spinning wheel on Nov. 28, which is also the start of Old Town Christmas activities (Santa photo booth, trolley rides, live music in every block).

Old Town Christmas runs through Dec. 20.


Shinobi and Lynn Thatcher poured samples of Kiamie Wine Cellars and Unlocked at Montrose Barber Shop

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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Are You Kidding Me?

I've often shared that being in the "news business" we hear a lot but don't report on everything. We try to be sensitive to those stories that don't affect the populace at large while providing information to our readers that they need and/or want to know.

This week I received a press release from the County of Los Angeles that the United States of America lost its status of measles eradication.

"The Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health is aware of the Pan American Health Organization's determination that the United States no longer meets the criteria for measles elimination," reads the statement. "This means measles has spread continuously within the country for at least 12 months. The United States first achieved elimination in 2000 through a hard fought and coordinated public health effort and widespread vaccination of all eligible children and adults."

Thankfully, according to the statement, one of the main reasons measles has not taken hold in LA County (though it has spread in Utah and Arizona) is due to the high rates of vaccination among school-aged children.

"With high vaccination coverage, measles that comes in does not spread and cause disease in others," states the release.

Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health urges everyone to:

- Make sure you and your children are up to date on MMR (mumps, measles and rubella) vaccine. Two doses are about 97% effective.
- Get infants 6 to 11 months old an early MMR dose before international travel, and talk to your provider before traveling to areas with active outbreaks.
- Call your healthcare provider before visiting if you develop fever and rash after travel or a possible exposure.

I found it especially interesting that Mary O'Keefe's son had his MMR vaccination when he was little but over time the vaccine's effectiveness diminished and he had to have a "booster" shot.

I have to vent a little here.

How is it that a country like the United States, which is not/was not considered a "third world country," is again dealing with a disease like measles? I mean, we eliminated it once, right? And did you know that we are risking a resurgence in polio, mumps, rubella, diphtheria and tuberculosis? According to the National Institutes of Health, the United States is at risk for a resurgence of these diseases due to "declining childhood vaccination rates, vaccine hesitancy and public health gaps" and according to the World Health Organization, the decline is "driven by declining routine immunization rates, growing vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, foreign aid cuts and ongoing regional conflicts."

I'm just glad that my kids received every vaccination they needed.

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

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» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

On Wednesday the spacecraft Voyager 1 reached a light day. This is historic because … wait for it … it will have gone where no one has gone before.

kaiju I have written so many times about Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. These two spacecrafts really have gone where no human spacecrafts have gone before – like through the heliosphere – and the amazing thing is they were created from pure human imagination, engineering and science.

kaiju As of Wednesday, Voyager 1 spacecraft was 16.094 billion miles away from Earth – the distance light travels in 24 hours – one light day. Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 are the only spacecraft to ever operate outside of the heliosphere – the protective bubble of particles and magnetic fields generated by the Sun.

kaiju So during my lifetime in the various careers I have worked I have had the chance to meet and work with a lot of people – many of them quite famous. Normally I am pretty much oblivious to who people are so I'm never really "star struck" – unless there is a connection with "Star Trek" of course – but I have to say I was never so nervous as when I interviewed Dr. Edward Stone, Voyager's Project Scientist from 1972 to 2022.

kaiju Dr. Stone passed away in 2024 but his work lives on. We interviewed him just before Voyager 1 was about to pass the termination shock into the heliosheath in 2024. (According to the Internet, there is a difference between the heliosphere and the heliosheath. The heliosphere is the entire giant bubble-like region surrounding the Sun and the solar system, filled with the solar wind and the Sun's magnetic field. The heliosheath is a specific, turbulent outer sub-region inside the heliosphere. It sits right at the edge, where the outward-rushing solar wind suddenly slows down, compresses, and heats up after crashing into the interstellar medium.)

kaiju Voyager had traveled about 33 years when it reached interstellar space – the space between stars, according to NASA in 2011.

kaiju "Our sun gives off a stream of charged particles that form a bubble around our solar system known as the heliosphere. The solar wind travels at supersonic speeds until it crosses a shockwave called the terminal shock … Voyager 1 crossed the termination shock in December 2004 and Voyager 2 crossed in August 2007. Beyond the termination shock is the heliosheath, where the solar wind dramatically slows down and heats up. Outside those two areas is territory dominated by the interstellar wind. As the interstellar wind approaches the heliosphere, a bow shock forms," according to NASA.

kaiju The Voyagers were built by NASA's JPL and its missions were to conduct closeup studies of Jupiter and Saturn, Saturn's rings and the larger moons of the two planets. And to make it even more Star Trekky: its mission was to last five years. However, it went so far beyond what the original mission planned – which is no surprise to anyone who has followed missions managed by JPL.

kaiju Years ago I was lucky enough to attend a discussion with the engineers and scientists who created the Voyagers. They said they weren't exactly supposed to be as ambitious as they were when it came to how far the Voyagers could go but they thought, "Why not try?"

kaiju And boy did these two spacecrafts give the Earth's its exploration money's worth.

kaiju "The Voyager mission was designed to take advantage of a rare geometric arrangement of the outer planets in the late 1970s and the 1980s which allowed for a four-planet tour for a minimum of propellant and trip time. This layout of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, which occurs about every 175 years, allows a spacecraft on a particular flight path to swing from one planet to the next without the need for large onboard propulsion systems.

see WEATHER *on page 9*

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

HEARING POSTPONED

The hearing on CHNA appeal of the 3411-3437 Foothill Blvd. project has been postponed to at least Feb. 23.

CVTC MEETING

The Crescenta Valley Town Council will have its monthly meeting at the La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd. at 7 p.m. tonight, Thursday, Nov. 19. On the agenda is a presentation by Lee Miller of LA County Dept. Public Works who will make a presentation on El Niño preparation.

NOTICE FROM CVWD

Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) will be conducting an improvement project as part of CVWD's ongoing pipeline replacement program. CVWD in-house construction crew will replace the existing six-inch water main along the 2400–2500 blocks of Frances Avenue with a new eight-inch water main.

Construction was due to start on Monday, Nov. 16 with a completion date of early February 2027.

Hours that the area is affected are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 2400-2500 Frances Ave will be closed to traffic daily. No Parking signs will be posted at least two (2) days prior to work. Residents are asked to park along Rosemont Ave. or Briggs Ave. and use alternate routes as needed.

Residents may experience noise, dust and construction equipment activity during work hours; no interruption of water service is anticipated during this phase of work.

Those with questions can contact the District's Customer Service Dept. at (818) 248-3925 or email customerservice@cvwd.com.

CITY OF GLENDALE OFFERING WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Glendale Fire Dept. is offering free wildfire risk assessments for homeowners. Through these evaluations, fire prevention specialists conduct a Defensible Space and Home Hardening assessment, reviewing a property's landscaping and exterior building features and providing personalized recommendations to help reduce wildfire risk.

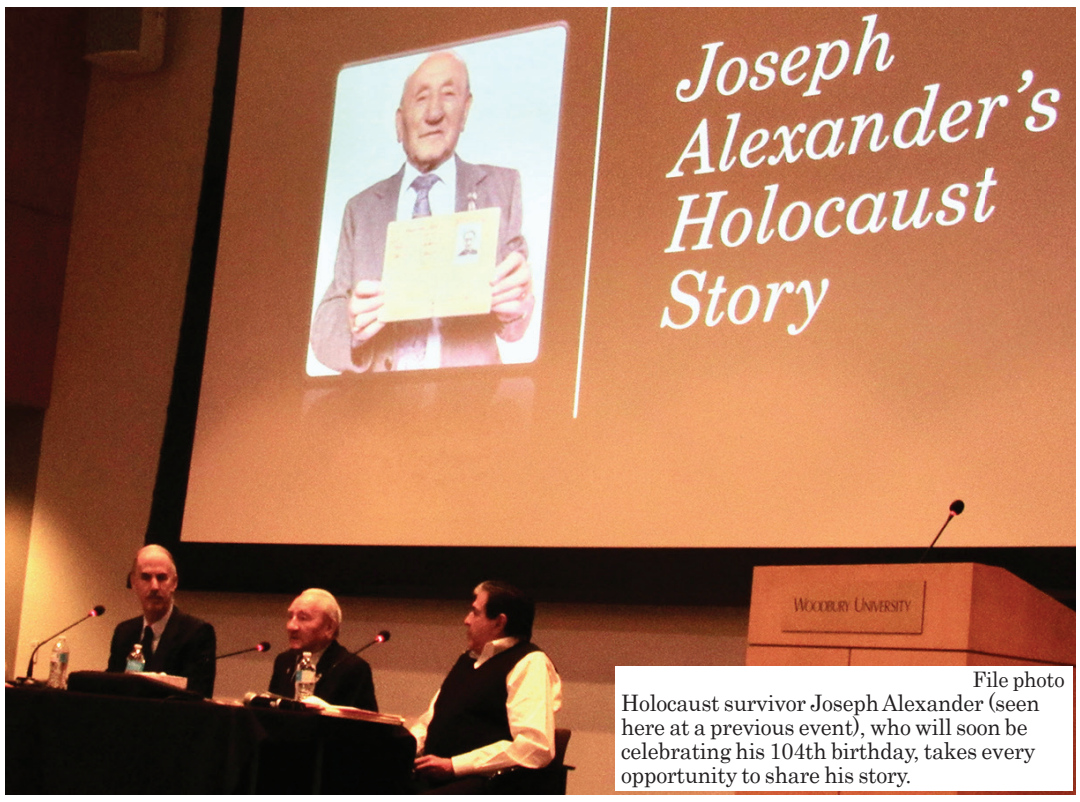
The program is designed as an educational resource, not an enforcement effort. Glendale residents can sign up for a free evaluation through the City of Glendale's Wildfire Risk Assessment program at https://tinyurl.com/5n76t4hd.

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

Holocaust Survivor Celebrates 104th Birthday

"For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing."
– Simon Wiesenthal

By Mary O'KEEFE



File photo
Holocaust survivor Joseph Alexander (seen here at a previous event), who will soon be celebrating his 104th birthday, takes every opportunity to share his story.

There is something about speaking to someone who was a witness to history.

Listening to the voices of those who were part of that history gives us an emotional background, a basis of humanity that is unavailable from the written word alone. This is never more true than with the survivors of the Holocaust. As the years pass and the voices fade there is still one – that of Joseph Alexander – that remains strong and determined not to let this part of the world's history "go gentle into that good night."

On Nov. 20 Alexander will turn 104 years old. Over the past several years CVW has had the privilege of interviewing Alexander on numerous occasions. The latest interview was on Tuesday and Alexander is still the voice that sounds for six million Jewish people, and other victims, of the atrocities that occurred during Adolf Hitler's rein in WWII.

First, when CVW contacted Alexander he had to stop "mopping up" and cleaning his home. Despite slowing down over the past few years he has never turned down an opportunity to share his story because he knows how important it is to continue to tell the truth about what happened when the unimaginable became reality.

"I survived. I survived and six million people died," he said when asked what he would like people to remember about his story.

Alexander survived 12 concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau and Dachau. Some people may have a movie idea of what concentration camps were like, where everyone is piled into rooms and left to die or taken away to gas chambers and other tortures, but the reality was that many in the camps were used as a free labor force. A prisoner of Hitler's Third Reich could be used to build roads and perform hands-on labor without pay, not given enough food or clothing. Prisoners taken from concentration camps would be moved from camp to camp to work and if they died more would be used to replace them.

Alexander worked all the time. He built roads, he dug latrines, he performed hard labor for hours on end; however, when asked how he survived, Alexander said it was because of the help he received from citizens outside the camps – but mostly he survived because of his strong faith.

"I had hope, God was with me," he said. "And I survived, I can tell people what happened."

Alexander was born in 1922 in Kowal, Poland and grew up surrounded by a strong and supportive Jewish family. His life with his five siblings, parents and family was happy – until 1939 when Hitler's forces invaded Poland. Very soon after the invasion his town became a different place. He saw Jews being taken away; they had been ordered to the town square. He and his family were not taken in this first gathering but the rumors were the Germans would come back for the rest of the Jews.

"My dad said, 'We are not going to wait,'" Alexander recalled in an earlier interview. "My father had three sisters who lived 25 kilometers [away]."

His mother, father, one sister and one brother left the area, leaving Alexander and two other sisters at home. The plan was for them to follow the family shortly.

However, soon after the family was reunited, they were placed in their first work camp. Jews were allowed to return home on weekends.

"And off I went to the camp," he said.

Part of his work included digging a canal that had Jewish workers standing in water up to their knees for hours without boots. These camps were called ghettos.

He was moved from camp to camp – seven in total – during those first few months. And then the train arrived.

"It wasn't a passenger train, it was a cattle car [boxcar]," he said.

The boxcar was packed with Jewish people. They traveled for three days without food, water or bathroom facilities. And then they arrived at Auschwitz.

Alexander said when they arrived about 30% to 40% of the people had died who had been in the boxcar.

When he arrived in Auschwitz he met Josef Mengele. Alexander got off the train and lined up with others.

"Whoever could walk would line up in rows of five and we met Dr. Josef Mengele," he said. "And Dr. Mengele said, 'There's six kilometers to walk to the camp' and he was selecting people [who lined up, directing some] to the left and they would be taken on trucks. So he went through and picked out the sick people, old people, young kids … I was a little guy and I was a young kid and he told me to go to the left."

But Alexander had already been in several camps by the time he arrived at Auschwitz and he was learning how to survive.

"Every camp I was in I had to work. I tried to get in with the biggest, strongest men. And here Dr. Mengele was telling me to go the left. I looked around and saw sick and old people and young kids [to the left] … that's not the kind of people I should be with. It was after midnight [when I got off the train]. If it would have been daytime I don't think I could have done this … I ran back to the other side. If I didn't run back to the other side I wouldn't be here talking to you today. The people who were on the [left side] were taken on the trucks and were taken straight to the gas chamber," Alexander said.

see JOSEPH ALEXANDER *on page 6*



NOTES & NODS

TOY DRIVE AT LCIF

Lutheran Church in the Foothills (LCIF) invites the community to help spread holiday cheer through its annual Christmas Toy Drive, which runs through Sunday, Nov. 29. All collected items will be distributed by Making It Happen, a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing homeless and underprivileged children in the area with a Christmas celebration. Community members are encouraged to donate new, unwrapped toys suitable for children ages 1 through 17. Suggested toy donations include Lego sets, Barbies, arts and crafts kits, puzzles, board games, plushies and drawing kits. Gift cards are also welcome, particularly for older children and teens. Recommended gift cards include GameStop, Ulta, Target, Sephora, Roblox and Fortnite. Donations can be dropped off at LCIF during regular Sunday worship at 10 a.m. or at the church office.

In addition to the toy drive, LCIF reminds the community of its upcoming Thanksgiving Eve service and pie social. LCIF and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church are teaming up to host this service of blessing and gratitude on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. in the LCIF sanctuary. The church is located at 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada. The service will be followed by a "Pie Social" in the church's fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend this evening of worship and social connection, regardless of church affiliation.

Visit lcifoothills.org for event details. Those in need of pastoral care can send an email to 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.

Events at Mount Olive

On Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m., there is a combined Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Social at Lutheran Church of the Foothills.

Mark your calendars! P3 Theatre is back at Mount Olive! On Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m., P3 cabaret singers present "Home for the Holidays 2.0." Experience unforgettable holiday classics, musical surprises and heartwarming stories that make this the most wonderful time of the year! Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for seniors/students/military.

Mount Olive is located at 3561 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta. Traditional Lutheran worship is on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

GRATITUDE & FRIENDSGIVING

This service wraps up the Gratitude Jars Project of Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills (UUCVH). There will be a mini service with an opportunity to share the project's impact, read a few messages from the community jar and hear a few poems. A Friendsgiving Feast will be enjoyed immediately after featuring sharing, eating and enjoying one another's company.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills meets in-person at 10:30 a.m. at 4451 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta or visit the UUCVH website for the Zoom link https://www.uuverdugo.org/.

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.

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LCPC Parent Ed Launches FosterAll Toy Drive Through Dec. 3

La Cañada Presbyterian Church (LCPC) Parent Ed has launched its annual toy drive supporting FosterAll, a local charity pairing foster children with prospective families. The goal of FosterAll is to collect a plethora of toys with the hope that local community will join in the spirit of giving. From now through Dec. 3, LCPC Parent Ed will be collecting new, unwrapped gifts for boys and girls aged 5-13 years in the donation bin located in the MacCormick Ministry Hub by the circular drive of La Cañada Presbyterian Church, 626 Foothill Blvd. Collection bins will be available near all classrooms for those on campus. Monetary donations of check or cash can be dropped off at the front desk. An Amazon wish list allowing gifts to be sent directly to LCPC can be found at https://tinyurl.com/bdzczzwk.

To show appreciation to foster families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need, LCPC will open its campus on Dec. 5 to foster families for a fun-filled day of games, crafts, music, entertainment, food and Santa's Toy Shop! Each child will take home three gifts of their choosing. LCPC Parent Ed board members and other community volunteers will be in attendance to help with meals, crafts and gifts. Contact Outreach Board Chair Jane Cho at missjanekim@yahoo.com with questions.

FosterAll recruits prospective resource/foster parents from faith communities and provides ongoing support to these heroic families so that they can provide safe and loving homes for the thousands of children who have been abused and neglected.

FosterAll began with one voice, one church and one family helping one child. Since its inception, this process has been repeated over 3,600 times and has created countless families. It emerged in 1985 when Dr. Mary Rotzien served as an intern at the MacLaren Children's Center. Devastated by the number of children in foster care who were without homes, she felt if faith communities were to bring families to these children, then the crisis could be averted. With financial support and encouragement from Westwood Presbyterian Church and her husband Brian F. Buchanan, Dr. Rotzien created FosterAll, formerly known as Child S.H.A.R.E.

Dr. Rotzien's vision continues today. FosterAll, with over 350 faith partners, strives to find these children safe, supportive and loving homes. More information about FosterAll can be found at www.fosterall.org.



Photo by Julie CEDERBAUM
From left are Ellen Mackie, Julie Milbrodt, Kathy Hernandez, Anne Bierling, Ellie Richardson, Betty Bredemann and Heather Adamick.

Lawmakers Question FCC Approval of AT&T Plan to End Landline Service

By Mary O'KEEFE

For some time now AT&T has been working on phasing out its traditional landline phone services. Their plans, according to reports, is to have landlines gone by the end of 2029.

Leading communication provider AT&T has been working through federal and state laws/agencies to transition its customers to fiber optic or wireless voice. It filed applications with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in May this year to discontinue landline services, which would impact about 184,000 customers and 15,000 business accounts in California.

In California in June 2026, the FCC approved AT&T petitions for ending landline plans and the company has targeted stopping these services by June 1, 2027.

Here's the problem – many of those landlines are in rural and mountainous areas where cell service is spotty, if not impossible – an area like Briggs Terrace in La Crescenta.

Briggs Terrace butts up against the Angeles National Forest and has been designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the state fire marshal and Cal Fire. For years the Crescenta Valley Fire Safe Council (CVFSC) has warned of the inability via cellphones and even through the Internet to get messaging out to families in this area. There have been proposals of placing fire sirens, similar to the aircraft sirens used during WWII, in the area; however, that has not been supported by LA County Fire Dept. Landlines are the best way for families to be warned of wildfires and evacuation warnings. During the 2009 Station Fire, which affected the Foothills area including Briggs Terrace, CVFSC continuously sent out messages via landlines updating residents of the fire's progress and of evacuations warnings. If these landlines are eliminated a strong source of communication will be cut off.

On Monday, Senator Adam Schiff sent out a statement concerning this issue and encouraging the FCC to reject AT&T's sweeping proposal to end landline service in California:

"As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) moves to clear the way for AT&T to discontinue landline services essential to Californians, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and U.S. Representatives Doris Matsui (D-Calif.-07), Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.-19) and Mike Thompson (D-Calif.-04) are pushing the FCC to drop this effort that will prevent California from ensuring vulnerable and rural communities have reliable landline phone service.

"This new inquiry follows a July 2026 letter the lawmakers sent to the FCC Chairman Brendan Carr urging him to stop AT&T from shutting down landline services; however, rather than address the lawmakers' concerns, the FCC approved AT&T's application to decommission approximately 360 wire centers in California. On Oct. 30, the FCC issued a draft order to preempt California's carrier of last resort (COLR) rules – the exact issue the lawmakers warned about.

"If the FCC adopts this order, it will eliminate California's ability to require proof that wireless or fiber replacements actually work before copper wires are discontinued. It will also allow AT&T to discontinue landline service at several hundred wire centers in the state – affecting roughly 184,000 residential customers and 15,000 business customers in rural areas in California."

"These rules require telecommunications companies to provide basic phone service to anyone within their service area who requests it, ensuring that no Californian is left without access to essential communications services, including 9-1-1," the lawmakers wrote.

While the transition from copper to fiber optic systems and other technologies will modernize communications systems, the lawmakers emphasize the need to ensure service reliability and accessibility for communities.

"We urge you to provide the public with sufficient time and a fair opportunity to review and weigh in on the full text of the order rather than rush through a final decision that undermines public trust … We share the Commission's goal in modernizing our nation's communications networks and expanding fiber optic infrastructure to underserved communities. However, these efforts must be executed carefully, in a manner that protects vulnerable communities during emergencies and outages and preserves universal telephone service for all Americans," the lawmakers concluded.

The full text of the letter can be found below:

Dear Chairman Carr:

We write again to raise concern over the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) efforts to eliminate California's legal authority to require carriers to verify that wireless or fiber replacements function properly before retiring copper telephone networks. The draft order you circulated to the Commission on Oct. 30, 2026, purports to preempt the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) rules. These rules require telecommunications companies to provide basic phone service to anyone within their service area who requests it, ensuring that no Californian is left without access to essential communications services, including 9-1-1.

On July 22, 2026 [28] members of the California Congressional delegation asked the Commission to deny AT&T's petitions and that request still stands. Following that letter, the Commission approved AT&T's application to decommission approximately 360 wire centers in California covering about 184,000 residential locations in California.

If the FCC issues this purported blanket preemption, it will take away any oversight ability of California and other states to make sure sufficient alternative service exists without putting any system in place at the federal level to make that determination. In March, the Commission replaced its adequate replacement test with a carrier certification that a replacement service is available. The FCC relies on coverage reported by carriers and does not independently verify that there is alternative functioning service in the areas where copper will be retired. Without verification or oversight, California residents, including those in High Fire Threat Districts, will continue to lose basic service without access to an adequate replacement.

It should be noted that California's rules do not stand in the way of modernization and are not meant to relegate Californians to outdated technology. The CPUC has told the FCC that its rules require reliable minimum service but do not require that service to be delivered over copper. If carriers can provide a replacement that meets California's reliability standards, nothing prevents them from retiring copper systems. Congress preserved this protection in Section 253(b) of the Communications Act to allow states to create any necessary requirements to protect public safety, safeguard consumers' rights, and ensure the continued quality of telecommunications services.

This month, the Commission is allowing copper retirement to begin in [18] states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. Those customers' experiences over time may be helpful in determining the adequacy of wireless replacements. However, there is no dedicated mechanism for consumers to report problems with replacement service after discontinuance. These problems could range from thousands of blocked calls to 9-1-1 to problems with TTY devices, medical alert systems or home alarms. Rural communities and elderly populations will be most at risk.

We urge you to provide the public with sufficient time and a fair opportunity to review and weigh in on the full text of the order rather than rush through a final decision that undermines public trust. As carriers migrate their networks from copper to fiber optic systems and other technologies, this transition brings new opportunities to modernize our communications systems. At the same time, it raises serious questions about service reliability and accessibility, especially in areas prone to natural disasters, which increasingly extends well beyond California. The Commission recognized these concerns in September when it pulled another discontinuance application from automatic approval for further review and it should apply the same level of scrutiny in this circumstance. At the very least, any order should carve out areas at high risk for fires and other natural disasters and areas without verified indoor cellular coverage.

We also request that you respond in writing to the following questions by Dec. 15, 2026 and before any vote on the draft order:

1. Should a carrier have to show, with independently verified data, that its replacement service provides reliable indoor coverage before retiring copper in high-fire-threat areas? If not, what showing should be required?
2. Of the more than 184,000 California locations approved for discontinuance, how many are in High Fire Threat Districts, and how many lack indoor wireless coverage?
3. Do you agree that demonstrating wireless coverage under normal operating conditions does not necessarily establish that a network will remain reliable during a wildfire, extended power outage or other natural disaster?
4. If testing identifies locations where the replacement service is unreliable or unavailable, will the FCC require the carrier to maintain existing service until an adequate alternative is available?
5. Many wireless services stop working when the power goes out. Will the FCC require backup power for replacement services in disaster-prone areas so customers can still call 9-1-1 during outages?
6. For customers in states approved for copper retirement, what mechanisms will be available to those individuals to report service failures, and how will the FCC use those reports?
7. Should a state be permitted to require a carrier to demonstrate that its replacement service is reliable before landline service is discontinued? Should a federal discontinuance authorization automatically override state public safety requirements that address risks the FCC did not evaluate rigorously?
8. Why should the Commission act before the courts rule on the challenges to the Network Modernization Order?
9. Will the FCC share outage reporting data with state commissions, local governments, and first responders, with any necessary confidentiality safeguards applied to the data?

We share the Commission's goal in modernizing our nation's communications networks and expanding fiber optic infrastructure to underserved communities. However, these efforts must be executed carefully, in a manner that protects vulnerable communities during emergencies and outages and preserves universal telephone service for all Americans.



Glendale Fire Chief Jeff Brooks Announces City Departure

The City of Glendale announced the departure of fire chief Jeff Brooks, who has been selected as the next fire chief for the City of Beverly Hills, effective Dec. 7. After 23 years of service to the Glendale Fire Dept., Chief Brooks leaves behind a legacy of leadership and commitment to public safety.

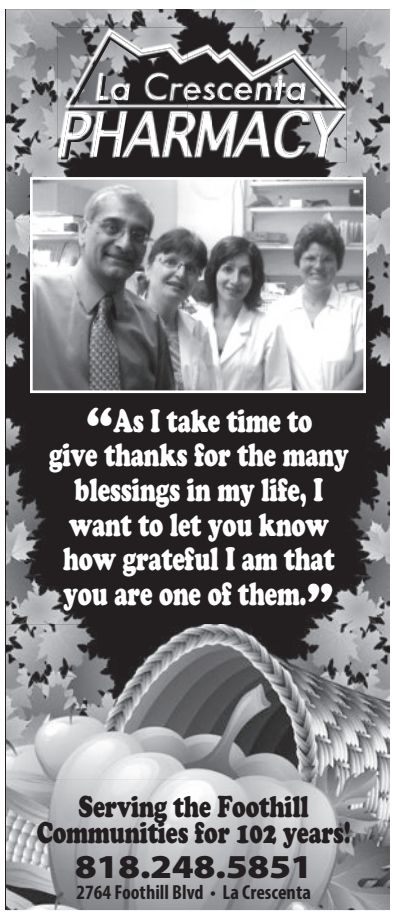
Chief Brooks began his career with the Glendale Fire Dept. as a fire cadet and rose through the ranks, serving in various positions including firefighter, firefighter paramedic, fire captain paramedic, training captain, battalion chief, deputy fire chief, and interim fire chief before being appointed fire chief in June 2025. Throughout his career, Chief Brooks helped strengthen the department's emergency preparedness, operational readiness and public safety efforts, while prioritizing firefighter safety, professional development and community relationships.

Beyond the fire department, Chief Brooks has remained active in the community serving on the Glendale Continuum of Care Board, Character and Ethics Project, Glendale Federal Credit Union Board and Glendale Kiwanis.

"From serving on the front lines as a firefighter to leading our fire department, Chief Brooks has always put the safety and well-being of our residents first," said Mayor Ardy Kassakhian. "On behalf of the Glendale City Council and our community, I thank him for his years of dedicated service and congratulate him on this next chapter. Beverly Hills is gaining an exceptional leader."

The City of Glendale is currently developing a plan to appoint an interim fire chief while working toward a permanent appointment to lead the department.

Submitted by the City of Glendale



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Suspected Arsonist Arrested Following Two Fires

A 27-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of intentionally setting fires outside two downtown Burbank apartment complexes.

On Nov. 13 at about 8:15 a.m., Burbank police officers responded to the 200 block of East Angeleno Avenue for an arson investigation. Upon arrival, officers learned that an unidentified suspect had set fire to seasonal decorations and potted plants near the entrance of an occupied apartment.

During the investigation, officers and Burbank fire personnel identified a second fire that occurred earlier that morning near the 100 block of South San Fernando Boulevard.

Investigators determined the two fires shared similar circumstances and were likely set by the same individual.

Using surveillance footage from nearby residences and businesses, officers developed a suspect description and continued their investigation.

On Nov. 14 at about 10 a.m., Burbank police officers located a man matching the suspect's description near Empire Avenue and North Buena Vista Street. Officers identified the man as 27-year-old Jordan Richardson of Lancaster. During the investigation, officers located evidence linking Richardson to both fires.

Richardson was booked for felony arson of an inhabited structure in violation of California Penal Code section 451(b). The case was presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, which filed one felony count of 451(b) PC against Richardson. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact the Burbank Police Dept. Investigation Division at (818) 238-3210.

Sanchez Case Continued

By Mary O'KEEFE

Joseph Sanchez was arrested in December 2025 and charged with seven counts alleging lewd acts with children under the age of 14 and one count of possessing child pornography. The charges were filed by the office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney. Sanchez was in court on Wednesday.

At the time of his arrest Sanchez was employed by a third party contractor, Covelo, and worked at several Glendale Unified School District schools as a special education assistant.

There has been a plea offer of a sentence of 50 years, which is being considered by the LA County District's Attorney's office.

The preliminary hearing has been continued to Jan. 26.

CRIME BLOTTER

NOV. 14

2900 block of Markridge Road in La Crescenta, while a woman was away from her home she received a notice from her security company that her home alarm had been activated. She looked at her security cameras but found they were offline. She contacted a friend to go to her home to see if there was an issue. The friend arrived, the resident arrived later and they investigated the home. They found a cut in the bedroom window screen and the window open. Several rooms appeared to be ransacked but nothing was reported missing at the time.

The burglary happened between 3:19 p.m. and 4:06 p.m.

NOV. 12

5600 block of Canyonside Road in La Crescenta, a woman reported receiving a phone call from an individual (Suspect No. 1) who claimed to represent a company and told the victim that her bank account had been compromised and multiple purchases had been made with Amazon and delivered to an address in Houston, Texas. The victim did not know anyone at the Texas address. The suspect told the victim he was sending someone to her address to retrieve her debit card. She provided her address to the suspect and soon Suspect No. 2 came to her home. He was describe as a White male, about 6' tall and weighing 190 lbs. The victim gave Suspect No. 2 her debit card as she was instructed to do by Suspect No. 1. The woman stated she later noticed an attempted unauthorized withdrawal from her account using her debit card at an ATM in Irvine. The funds were not released; however, a later attempt was successful for a specific amount. She contacted her banking institution and found that no one from the bank had contacted her. She attempted to search the phone number used by the suspect but thinks it was spoofed with her banking institute's identification.

The incident was reported at 8 p.m.

NOV. 11

800 block of Milmada Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, a resident reported that his home had been targeted twice with vandalism. The suspects had thrown numerous eggs at the front wall of the victim's residence. The first time was on Nov. 7 between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. and then overnight between Nov. 11-12.



JOSEPH ALEXANDER *from page 3*

Sharing his story is very important to him and he said he does have hope for the future due to recent protests and people not staying quiet about protecting their neighbors.

"[Joseph] told me last night that the difference between 1930s and today is that people speak up. They're not afraid to speak up," said Reeva Sherman, Alexander's partner.

Alexander's friends and family are planning on a multi-day birthday celebration, but when the festivities are done he will once again speak out and urge others to speak out, too.

Veterans Honored by Glendale Fire



By Eliza PARTIKA

The Glendale Fire Dept. – Fire House 21 honored Glendale and La Crescenta veterans in a ceremony featuring speeches from prominent Glendale representatives and community members.

Sixty one veterans were honored with a standing ovation and a flag salute by the Glendale Police Dept. color guard was presented.

Local businesses, including Art's Bakery and California Pizza Kitchen catered the event.

Retired U.S. Army Major General Mark MacCarley, keynote speaker for the event, highlighted shared values of duty, service and sacrifice among service members and first responders. He offered his story as an example of the sense of duty motivating veterans, despite the danger.

"Were we scared? Heck, yes. Absolutely. [But it was] my job. I did it because [the] lives [of my fellow servicemen] were in harm's way," he said.

Assemblymember - District 52 Representative Jessica Caloza empathized with Glendale veterans and their families.

"My own brother-in-law served in the United States Navy, so I know that when someone puts on that uniform, it isn't just one person that serves. Their entire family serves alongside them. It's the parents who worry, the spouses who hold down the fort, the children who count the days until their loved ones come home," she said.

Photo by Eliza PARTIKA
U.S. Army Major General Mark MacCarley, retired, was the keynote speaker for the event.

» PART II

To Do Mighty Things – 90th Birthday of JPL

By Mary O'KEEFE

Even after 90 years the future at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is an inspiration.

JPL has always looked to the young minds of those who dream of discovering not just space but Earth sciences as well.

"There's the MER [Mars Exploration Rover] generation and now we have people [who] were inspired by the landing of Curiosity back in 2012. That [mission] inspired them to go into STEM [Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics] fields and some of them are now operating those missions on the surface of Mars," said Jordan Evans, director of flight projects at JPL. "I think that's a huge legacy."

And Mars missions continue to inspire.

In July 2020 the Perseverance Mars Rover was launched and once it landed on the red planet it began looking for signs of past life. What the Rover found is considered the strongest biosignature on Mars for ancient microbial life.

"Personally, the science community certainly believes it to be an extremely intriguing sample with all the right properties based on what we can measure with the instruments we have onboard Perseverance – so much so that it's hugely compelling to try to bring those samples, at some point, back to Earth to study," he said.

There was a mission that had been planned titled Mars Sample Return, which would do exactly what the mission title states – Perseverance was collecting samples from Mars, putting those samples in small cylinders and placing them on the surface of the planet waiting for them to be picked up, brought back to Earth and studied. However, due to increasing costs, delays and congressional funding cuts, the mission was canceled. But that cancellation has not diminished scientific curiosity and drive to get those samples back.

"Most recently I worked on the Europa Clipper mission, which is now on its way out to explore the ocean world of Europa [a moon of Jupiter] and that is considered the most likely place in the solar system right now to have life beyond Earth," Evans said. "The fact that Mars could have had life in the past, I think, is still a very real and very open question and those samples will help us answer that."

The technology does exist to bring the samples back but who knows what the future will hold.

Exploring space is not the only area on which JPL focuses.

"We have a variety of upcoming Earth science missions: INCUS (Investigation of Convective Updrafts), Grace-C (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment-Continuity) with its continuation of the GRACE series of measurements, a visible infrared spectrometer called EAGLE (Explorer for Artemis Geology, Lunar and Earth) and then a radar mission called FALCON (Fleet for the Atmosphere Linking Commercial Observation with NASA)," Evans said. "They are helping further understand our atmosphere, weather patterns and how Earth changes over time. INCUS is looking at tropical convective storm formations, for example. FALCON radar also has a lot of study to help us continue our understanding of clouds at various heights."

For the future of exploration there is the new light on the hill (or the canary in the coal mine depending on one's view): artificial intelligence. Evans said JPL is embracing all the aspects of AI and using them in a variety of ways.

"Particularly in the Earth science domain, which generates so much data," he said. "There's an opportunity to really allow scientists to accelerate their pace of discovery and pace of understanding and [their ability] to process that data so much more quickly. On the design side of a mission, we're leveraging those technologies to accelerate how quickly we can turn around the design of an electronics board, for example, or support our verification activities as we're testing a system. I think what [AI] is going to do is accelerate the pace of developing missions and therefore accelerate the pace of discovery.



"With the cost of getting access to space, the price of launch vehicles has come down dramatically in the last decade, plus if you couple that with the ability to turn around a science mission concept more quickly, it's an exciting time."

Evans added that AI will not replace JPLers. AI works on models that are being trained on data – the types of problems where data already exists.

"The types of problems that we try to solve, there's no data set to train a model on how to do that," he said.

He spoke of a problem they had to work through on the Europa Clipper mission. There was no data available to plug into an AI model.

"It was humans in the room, rolling up their sleeves and thinking about what do we know, what can we know, what are the specifics of this mission that give us some ability to manage the consequences. One by one the team worked through that, and I see that with most of the problems we face. The kinds of things that you need a human to essentially think about it and invent it for the first time."

So there is a bright future for the next 90 years at JPL as it continues to inspire young minds to imagine and then to "do mighty things."

File photo
Prototype rover takes a spin over some giggling preschoolers who visited JPL from Crescenta-Cañada Cooperative Nursery School.

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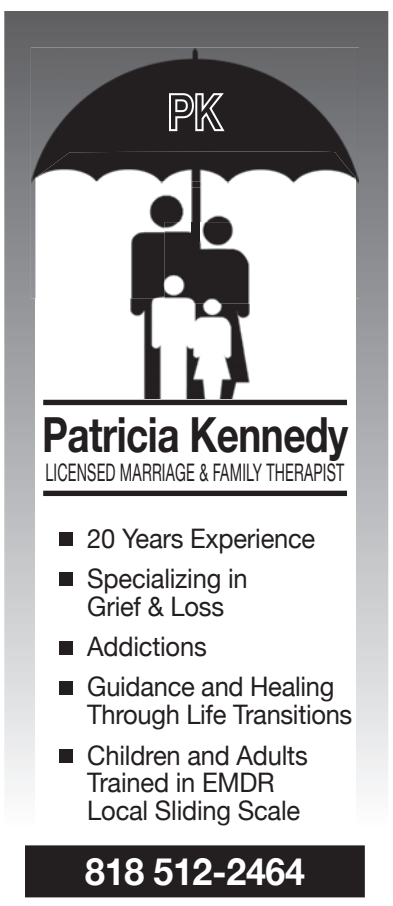

Glendale Community College Breaks Ground on David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center

Glendale Community College (GCC) broke ground on the new David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center on Nov. 16. It will be a multi-story building that will bring studio and performance space to the heart of the GCC Verdugo campus. The future building will house studio, classroom and performance space for music, dance, film, television and electronic media, along with a conference center and a 250-seat recital hall that will be available for the community.

A building 10 years in the making, the original design for the David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center was funded with support from Bond Measure GC, which was passed by voters in 2016. Construction will be funded by Bond Measure GCC, which was passed with overwhelming support in 2024.

GCC leadership thanked the community for its support of Bond Measures GC and GCC and emphasized the building's potential to provide artistic and cultural programming for the Glendale community and beyond.

"Projects like this one are made possible by our incredible community of voters who made an investment in the future of this college and our community," said GCC Board President Dr. Sevan Benlian. "This building is not just for GCC – the future David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center will be a gathering place for our entire community. Whether you want to take a class, host an event, watch a film screening or experience the joy of live performance by attending a concert or a play, these doors will be open to you."

"Providing these premier learning environments is essential in our ability to educate the whole student. Whether drawn to the arts as a major or pursuing them as part of a general education, students deserve facilities without limits," said GCC Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Cornner. "The David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center will provide the learning environment that our students deserve and that matches the exceptional capabilities of the faculty and staff working in the building."

The center is named for retired superintendent/president Dr. David Viar, an advocate for the transformative power of education and a passionate supporter of the visual and performing arts.

During the event, Dr. Viar touted the exceptional visual and performing arts programs at GCC and the faculty, staff and board's commitment to student success.

"Today marks another step in the almost 100-year history of our college as we strive to be the greater Los Angeles region's premier learning community where all students achieve their educational goals," said Superintendent/President Emeritus Dr. David Viar. "My name may be on the building, but our program's success is because of our work together and the long tradition and culture of Glendale Community College faculty, staff, students, administrators and board members working together for the common good."

Submitted by GCC



Photo provided by GCC
GCC leaders and community members break ground on the new David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center.

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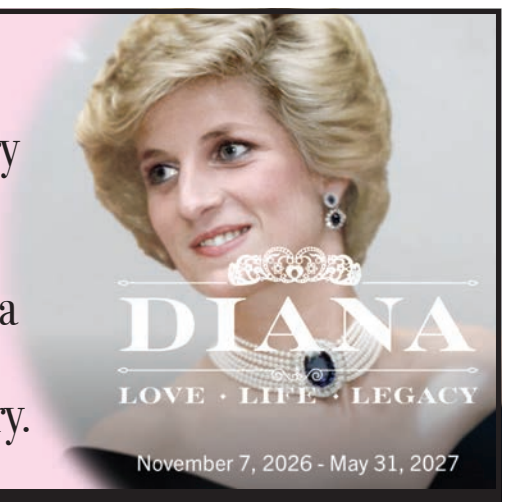

Order or renew a subscription to the CV Weekly on or before Jan. 31, 2027 and receive two complimentary passes to the all-new Princess Diana Exhibit at the Reagan Library.

For just $85 a year you can receive the community's favorite newspaper, the Crescenta Valley Weekly, in your driveway every Thursday morning.* To thank you we'll send you two tickets to "Diana: Love, Life, Legacy - A Life of Giving" at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library that takes place Nov. 7 through May 31, 2027. The exhibit is a poignant tribute to the beloved mother, humanitarian and global icon. Discover Princess Diana's most iconic fashions, personal treasures and historic artifacts in a powerful exhibition celebrating her life and lasting legacy.

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WEATHER *from page 2*

The flyby of each planet bends the spacecraft's flight path and increases its velocity enough to deliver it to the next destination. Using this 'gravity assist' technique, first demonstrated with NASA's Mariner 10 Venus/Mercury mission in 1973-74, the flight time to Neptune was reduced from 30 years to 12," according to NASA.

kaiju After each pass of a planet the Voyagers just kept going. Voyager 2 sent back detailed photos of Uranus, its moons, magnetic field and dark rings. Voyager 1 made its closest approach to Jupiter in 1979, followed by Voyager 2 a few months later. Both Voyager 1 and 2 had flybys of Saturn in 1981.

kaiju So yes the science and engineering is remarkable but I am not sure if people are as awe inspired as they should be about what the Voyagers have done. We are so used to space exploration that it is an everyday occurrence. But we should remember that in a lab on Earth just a few miles from where I am writing now, in the early 1970s a group of scientists and engineers started working on Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. Science played a role but so did human imagination … and at the time it was a wild imagining. This was stuff science fiction was made of … exploring strange new worlds. It was an amazing time of exploration from the Moon landing to the spacecrafts exploring planets in the solar system.

kaiju I was a kid when this was happening and I was in a constant state of shock by what America was doing in space. I remember sitting next to my grandma watching the moon landing and having her share how she felt when she first rode in a motor vehicle. We would speak about how technology had advanced in her lifetime. And I know progress is much faster now. We are traveling at light speed (not literally) toward discoveries, toward the future of space travel and the future of humanity is tipping between an AI species evolution and humans attempting to hang on. These times are exciting and terrifying but I think we need to look back – and look up at the heavens and realize when humans put their minds to it they can reach not just the stars but beyond the stars.

The National Weather Service has issued a flood watch for Los Angeles County today lasting from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Most of the rain is expected in the early morning hours with an estimated one to two inches in the area outside of the foothills; those in the foothills may see rain up to three inches.

Although El Niño is on the mind of everyone it is not certain current conditions are caused by the El Niño.

"It is a pretty classic winter storm," according to NOAA in Oxnard.

We will be seeing some wind with today's rainstorm that could reach up to gusts of 30 mph.

It looks like the rain will be concentrated and move through the area today with dry out expected on Friday and Saturday but then we could see another possible rain day on Sunday.

High temperatures will be in the low 50s today, then in the upper 50s through Tuesday.

Here are some totals from Gregg Inboden:

Rainfall on Nov. 15 saw 1/8 to 1 inch. Rainfall on Nov. 16 saw .06 inches.

GCC *from Cover*



Photo by Julie BUTCHER

Glendale residents filled council chambers on Tuesday night in anticipation of a decision on a water rate hike.

You didn't care that people were begging you not to pass this. And you pretend as if you had no choice and you knew better than we did," council regular Beth Brooks spoke early in the meeting. "You've been lying to us. You've given us half-truths. After a triple-digit heat wave, to stick us with a 50% – 145% water rate increase for infrastructure you have neglected for decades … Previous councils? Guess where you were four years ago! You act like it was somebody else.

"SB 79 will potentially bring in 160,000 housing units. I called the planning department. Not all at once; they're not coming tomorrow. But that's the potential number: 160,000," Brooks emphasized.

Dr. Carolyn Kaloostian told the council that she had raised the issue of water insecurity during the last council election and that other candidates scoffed and brushed it off as irrelevant.

"Today we face a proposed 53% first-year increase and water rates revenues with further increases that compound to nearly 120% over five years," she said. "I raised this issue because I understood that increased density mandates put pressure on our water supply. Glendale imports approximately 65% of its water; the cost of imported water has gone up 34% since July 2022.

"Glendale is a mountain city and it needs to strengthen its own water security."

Kaloostian advocated delaying action on the pending water rate increases pending a study of stormwater capture.

"Our mountains are an asset; our water is a resource and our responsibility is to ensure both serve the people of Glendale."

GWP Assistant General Manager of Water Chisom Obegolu responded to questions asked by the public and from each council member and shared that staff had truly listened to public comments and worked to adjust the first-year increase from 53% to 45% by making a variety of moves.

"Beyond the numbers, we heard from our community, we heard real concerns about affordability and the financial burden that these rates will place on households. And at the same time, we do have a responsibility to ensure we continue to provide safe and reliable water service," Obegolu shared.

"The work proposed to be done over the next five years is the bare minimum what was recommended by the Master Water Plan but will allow us to begin to address the critical infrastructure and improve the reliability of our water system," he said.

GWP General Manager Scott Mellon added that the initial draft of the water plan called for $277 million in infrastructure spending over the five years. However, the first-year rate increase can be adjusted without needing to reduce the cost analysis or reissue Prop. 218 notices by moving back the phases of automated meter replacements and reducing the reserve requirement from 180 to 90 days of operating expenses.

The new total compounded rate increase would be 108% over the next five years.

see GCC *on page 19*



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VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

My Own Memories of La Crescenta – Part 6

I'm finishing up writing my own memories of growing up in La Crescenta in the 1960s.

When I was a kid, I was nuts for fishing! I spent a lot of time at Thrifty's on Foothill Boulevard, looking at the various fishing stuff they had … and dreaming. Same for Tony's Sportsman's Den at 2729 Foothill. It was run by Tony Campanelli and featured a wide variety of fishing and hunting gear. I would spend a long time gazing at the fishing tackle. Later, in 1972 Tony was murdered in what appeared to be a robbery. No one was ever caught and the store was closed for many years with all of the merchandise still inside.

Bob's Big Boy restaurant was a special place to go as a kid. By the standards of those days, their burgers were huge and the hot fudge sundaes … wow! The big draw for me, besides the food, were the comic books they'd give you when you walked in. "The Adventures of Big Boy" was a mix of games and comics featuring the foibles of Big Boy and his girlfriend Dolly. (For you comic book fans, the Big Boy comics were originally written by Stan Lee himself!)

A girl I knew in high school got a job there. I do remember her telling me that if you could make it at Bob's as a waitress, you could work anywhere. Indeed looking online, I see that Glendale's Bob Wian, Bob's owner, demanded only the best from his waitresses. Their appearance had to be up to exacting standards. He preferred to hire those with no previous experience so he could train them the Bob's way. They were required to go to waitress school where they would learn and perfect the nine-step process for waiting on customers. That girl I knew did well but another I knew who was a little more "dynamic" was fired after she threw a plate at a customer. By the way, the Bob's building is still there and now serves as the Bright Start Child Development Center located at 3212 La Crescenta Ave.

On the opposite end of that dining spectrum was the Swedish Table in Montrose. This was an old school smorgasbord or buffet. As a young teenager with a huge appetite, I reveled in plate after plate of mass-produced food from deep trays, feeding like a pig at a trough. I think I still have some of the fat I gained at the Swedish Table.

And lastly, I have to say something about the Montrose record store that was open in the 1970s: Here, There, and After. My mom had introduced me to rock music at an early age and my first forays into curating my own musical tastes were at Grayson's Tune Town where I would browse through a big bin of 45 rpm vinyl records. In order to play the 45s on my parent's stereo you had to have little plastic inserts to place in the larger holes of the 45 records. That made them adaptable to the center posts that regular stereos had.

But Here, There and After just sold albums and they were hardcore into rock music. In my high school years, they were located in the building that now houses the Black Cow restaurant. They had new records and large bins of used vinyl. I spent a lot of time flipping through those used bins and I distinctly remember occasionally coming across one that smelled strongly of incense. And I believe I remember that they sold (gasp!) drug paraphernalia such as bongs and roach clips. Reading online, it looks like that was illegal starting in 1971 so I don't know how that worked in the mid-70s when I was going there? Maybe one of my readers can provide answers.

As a matter of fact, information about Here, There, and After has become my history "holy grail." I can't find anything about its origins, life and demise. If you, my readers, have anything, including your own memories, please email me. If I get enough, I'll do a whole article on them.

Thanks!



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

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VIEWPOINTS OP ED » ROANA THORNOCK

Enough is Enough

In Mayor Kassakhian's Nov. 12 op-ed in the Crescenta Valley Weekly ["A Blue Tsunami Is Not a Blank Check"] , he wrote about the "blue tsunami" and how affordability was a major factor. I agree that many voters wanted a change in leadership, but I think there was more to it. I was a Democrat but recently switched to Independent, and I've lived in Glendale for over 26 years. People are frustrated, struggling with the rising cost of living and tired of feeling ignored. To me, the "blue tsunami" was also a cry for help. People want leaders who understand what they're going through and are willing to listen.

Look at what's happening right here in Glendale. Water rates have gone up, trash pickup costs more and now the city is considering raising water rates again. Residents are trying to collect 20,000 signatures to stop the increase but instead of making it easier for them to be heard they feel like they're facing an uphill battle just to have their opposition recognized. Why should residents have to work so hard to get the city's attention? Shouldn't people be able to voice their concerns and have a fair chance to be heard on decisions that directly affect them?

The frustration goes beyond water rates. At city council meetings, residents have spoken up about rate increases, unwanted building and apartment developments, the use of public parking lots and USC-related issues. Yet many walk away feeling like nothing they say makes a difference. Doesn't that tell you something? Residents want a say in what happens to their money, their neighborhoods and their community.

Families are struggling, seniors are on fixed incomes and the cost of living keeps going up. People are having to tighten their belts and cut back wherever they can just to get by. Water is a basic necessity. How does raising water rates again show that you understand what people are going through? How can affordability be a priority when residents keep getting hit with higher bills?

Residents are doing their best to live within their means. What is the city doing to show the same restraint? Is Mayor Kassakhian reviewing city spending, finding ways to cut costs, and making sure money is spent wisely before asking residents to pay more? We are not an endless source of revenue. The answer can't always be to raise rates and expect residents to cover the difference.

Residents aren't asking for anything unreasonable. They're asking the city to listen, spend more responsibly and recognize that many people are already stretched thin. Listening shouldn't just mean giving people a few minutes to speak at a city council meeting. It should mean taking their concerns seriously and considering them before making decisions that affect their lives.

Roana Thornock
Glendale



"Needing to place an Obituary or Memorium for a loved one?

Please submit 325-350 words plus a photo (preferred photo size is 200 dpi, 4x6 inches) to robin@cvweekly.com
CV Weekly Subscribers: $50
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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Montrose Haunted House popular even on a rainy Halloween night!

Showers did not deter families from waiting to enter Montrose's famous free indoor Haunted House, hosted by the Church of Scientology Mission of the Foothills.

kaiju Families entering the Haunted House spotted a witch passing out candy and a séance vignette, and peered around the corner to see what was in the toxic waste scene and the graveyard with ghouls (including Dracula in a coffin) – all with spooky lighting and special sound effects. Each family also received a free photo booth photo print … and lots of candy.

kaiju One family came out exclaiming, "We made it! That was so exciting!" Others commented, "It was so cool," "Fantastic!" "So scary!" "It was awesome!" "That was so much fun!"

kaiju Some older kids treated to a good scare upon exiting asked, "Did you hear us howling?"

kaiju The Mission of the Foothills has been creating its kid-friendly Haunted House as a gift to the community since 2013.

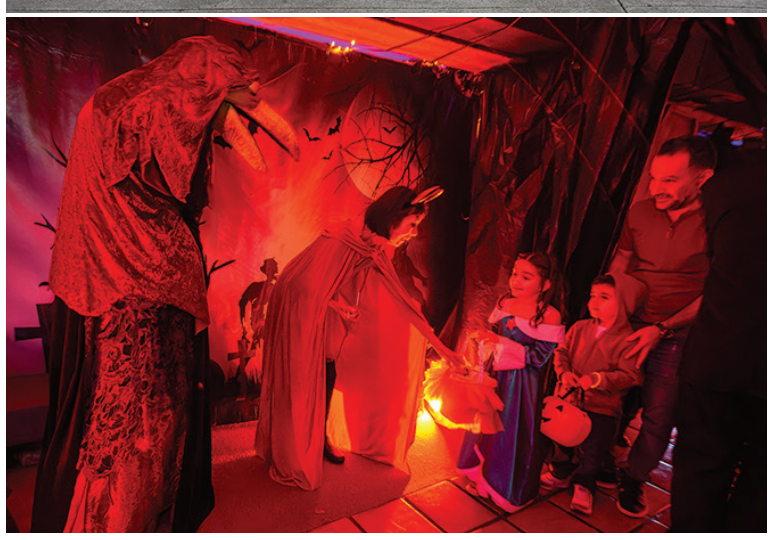
kaiju Mission Holder Stacy Kitchens said, "We much enjoy being part of Montrose providing a safe and fun Halloween experience for families and love that they come back year after year!"

kaiju The Church of Scientology Mission of the Foothills has been part of the Montrose/Glendale community for 44 years. The Mission delivers communication and study courses for children, 20 life improvement courses and other Dianetics- and Scientology-related services and counseling for adults.

kaiju In addition to free events open to the public such as the Haunted House and Easter activities for kids, the Mission also supports various community outreach programs such as relationship and drug education seminars and an upcoming toy drive. To learn about these, please email events@scientology-montrose.org or call (818) 957-1500.\









TOP LEFT: Church of Scientology staff and volunteers presenting this year's Haunted House.

TOP RIGHT: The witch and her pet dragon.

BOTTOM LEFT: Children getting candy from the devil, with the giant vulture looking on.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Crowds (prepared for the rain with umbrellas) line up to enter the Haunted House at the Church of Scientology Mission of the Foothills in Montrose.

RAIN AND SEWERS DON'T MIX

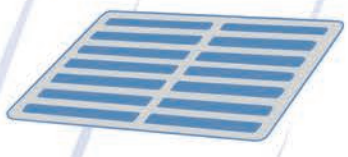
Prevent your sewer from overflowing during wet weather



Make sure there are no connections from roof downspouts, yard drains, and sand pumps to avoid putting pressure on the sewer system during rain.



Avoid lifting or removing sewer manhole covers, and maintain your sewer cleanout cap to prevent large amounts of water from causing sewage overflows.



Make sure your storm drains are clear from leaves, and trash to prevent steet flooding.



Call 818-248-3925 to report sewage spills you observe or any odors.

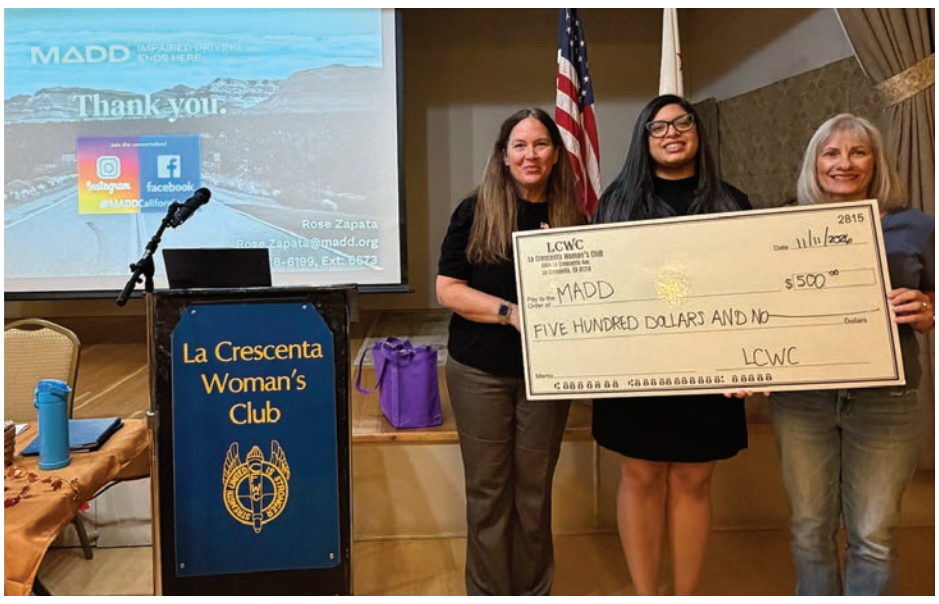
CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT CVWD

MADD Chosen as LCWC Philanthropy

Mothers Against Drunk Driving – MADD – was the philanthropy chosen to support in the month of November by members of the La Crescenta Woman's Club. MADD was founded in 1980 to educate and prevent people from drinking and driving. Every 81 minutes someone is killed due to drunk driving. (More information is available at madd.org.)

After the presentation by MADD Program specialist Rose Zapata LCWC Philanthropy chairs Jennifer Genens and Pat Word presented a Woman's Club gift of $500.

Submitted by Danette ERICKSON



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Kerry Erickson Retires from CVWD



Photo provided by Danette ERICKSON
Shown with Erickson are fellow board members James Bodnar, Jeffrey Johnson and Jennifer Valdez. Fellow director Sharon Raghavachary called in to wish him well.

Kerry Erickson, who sat on the board of the Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) since 2009, has retired from CVWD.

A ceremony honoring his years of service was recently held at the offices of the CVWD.

CAP Welcomes Saving Innocence Guest Speaker

During its October meeting, the Cañada Auxiliary of Professionals (CAP), an auxiliary of Action League of the Foothills (ALF), welcomed a special guest speaker from Saving Innocence, an organization dedicated to combating human trafficking and supporting survivors in Los Angeles.

Members and guests learned about Saving Innocence's mission to bring hope to survivors of human trafficking by helping them find safety, healing and a path toward independence. The presentation highlighted the importance of providing survivors with compassionate support and essential resources as they begin rebuilding their lives.

Following the presentation, CAP members and guests put compassion into action by assembling Survivor Backpacks filled with essential items to support survivors during their transition to safety. The hands-on activity provided an opportunity for attendees to make a tangible difference while learning more about the challenges survivors face and the resources available to help them.

To learn more about Saving Innocence and its work supporting survivors of human trafficking in Los Angeles, visit savinginnocence.org.

CAP welcomes new members throughout the year and encourages professionals interested in community service to learn more about joining the organization. For more information visit https://alfoothills.org/ or call (818) 790-1328.

» DR. LAURIE KELBAN, MS, DVM

Are you Feeding Your Pet the Right Food?

With countless opinions and hundreds of options, choosing the right pet food is challenging. This article will cover the basic dietary needs of cats and dogs.

Cats and dogs have different nutritional requirements. Feeding dog food to cats or cat food to dogs can pose health risks to both. Nutritional needs change throughout a pet's life. Puppies and kittens require additional calories, protein, calcium and DHA to support health, growth and development. Senior pets have lower calorie, sodium and phosphorus requirements. If your pet has an underlying disease your veterinarian may recommend a specific diet to maintain your pet's health.

Puppy and kitten food should be fed for the first 12 months and then switched to adult food. Large and giant breed puppies should be fed food specifically labeled for "Large Breed Puppies." With the wrong diet these dogs grow too quickly and could develop painful skeletal and joint disorders such as hip or elbow dysplasia. Large breed puppy food is formulated to slow growth allowing the puppy's immature bones and cartilage to develop correctly.

Most puppies and kittens should be fed three to four times daily for the first 6 months, and then decreased to twice daily. If they go too long between meals they can become hypoglycemic and seize. Senior food is recommended for pets about 7 years of age. When it's time to transition, do it gradually – over seven-10 days – by mixing a little more of the new food each day.

It doesn't usually matter whether you feed dry or wet food as long as it is nutritionally balanced. However, food with a high moisture content is recommended for cats. In the wild, cats get their hydration from prey. Since domestic cats no longer hunt for their food, wet food can help mimic this natural source of hydration. This helps to support a cat's urinary tract and kidney health.

Table scraps and treats are generally not recommended and they are an added expense. A few pieces of their regular food make a great treat. Cheerios are a healthy inexpensive treat and they are low in salt, sugar and fat. My dog will do anything for three Cheerios.

How much to feed your pet depends on many factors like breed, age and activity level. I have found that the feeding guide on pet food labels tends to recommend more food than what the average pet needs. Take a picture of the food label and bring it to your next veterinary appointment. The doctor can help you calculate the right amount of food.

Next time: Hot Topics in Pet Food



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Los Altos Auxiliary Members Spread Holiday Spirit



Photos submitted by C. BENGSTON

Los Altos members held a wrapping party



Los Altos Auxilary members delivering gifts to El Nido



Gifts from Los Altos Auxiliary are ready for delivery

Members of Los Altos Auxiliary, which supports Sycamores, recently volunteered for its Holiday of Wishes drive. Los Altos Auxiliary has been part of the Holiday of Wishes drive for about six years.

For over 67 years, members of the Los Altos Auxiliary of Sycamores have worked with the youth of Sycamores' El Nido residential campus in Altadena – and now its members also volunteer with the young adults in Sycamores' Transition Age Youth (TAY) programs – offering care, compassion and hope. Many of these young people have endured trauma and multiple foster placements. At El Nido, youth find stability, individualized education and critical mental health services in a nurturing environment where healing can truly begin. The TAY program provides a safe, subsidized apartment living environment with access to wrap-around services such as education, health care, therapy and other services to build an independent future.

While Sycamores' professional staff provide expert therapeutic care, Los Altos members bring heart and home to those served by Sycamores.

Los Altos Auxiliary is always looking for new members. Email Cindy Bengston at cleighbb@gmail.com for more information.

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Lincoln Elementary Honors Local Veterans



On Tuesday, Nov. 10, Lincoln Elementary School hosted a Veterans Day ceremony, bringing together students, faculty and community members to express gratitude to local servicemen and servicewomen. The assembly invited parents, grandparents and residents who served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard to be formally recognized for their dedicated service to the nation.

The program was held in the Lincoln Auditorium where Principal Barbie Fariss delivered opening remarks welcoming veterans, families and guests. Leadership of the assembly was then transitioned to student council members Chloe Lee, Areni Baghdanian, Marina Malakyan and Areg Aghakian. The student leaders introduced each visiting veteran to the stage where they were met by their children, grandchildren or student council members and presented with a commemorative certificate, star and pen in recognition of their military service.

The ceremony featured a keynote address by Second Lieutenant Lynn McGinnis from local American Legion Post 288. Lt. McGinnis spoke to the student body regarding the historical significance of Veterans Day, highlighting Mount Rushmore and reflecting on how the presidents depicted on the monument served in the armed forces during their careers.



Photos by N. JAMES

MAIN: Group shot of the veterans, Principal Barbie Fariss, Student Council and family members of the veterans.
ABOVE: 2nd Lieutenant Lynn McGinnis addressing the Lincoln Elementary student body.

The presentation was organized through the efforts of PTA parent Cheryl Barlaan whose coordination ensured an inspiring and educational experience for the Lincoln Elementary community.

Submitted by Nicolas JAMES

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

Signing The Buyer Brokerage Agreement

Dear Phyllis,

I have been enjoying your real estate advice for years and look forward to getting your take on this scenario. My daughter called the listing office for a condominium in our area. She asked about the condition of the air conditioning, recent sales in the building and questions regarding the homeowners' reserves. The listing office told my daughter that she could not answer those questions without a signed buyers broker's agreement. The agent explained that this was just for this property stating if my daughter purchased just this property that this agent would be representing her. It seemed odd but my daughter signed the agreement, and the agent answered my daughter's question. The agent directed my daughter to go to the open house that weekend, which she did. While there my daughter struck up a conversation with the agent holding the open house. My daughter prefers to work with the agent she met at the open house but can't because of the agreement she signed. Does this seem unethical to you?

— Margi

Dear Margi,

A buyer broker agreement is a legally binding contract that defines the relationship between a buyer and an agent. As of August 2024, the National Association of Realtors requires agents to have this agreement in place before they provide brokerage services, such as showing homes or giving specific advice.

However, your daughter asked basic property questions. Those questions—about the air conditioning, HOA reserves, and even recent sales—are factual in nature. In most cases, an agent can answer them without requiring a signed agreement.

That said, confusion still exists. Early on, many agents believed they could not share anything beyond public information without an agreement. Over time, that interpretation has shifted. Agents must avoid giving advice or discussing strategy without representation.

In your daughter's case, the listing office likely acted out of caution. As a result, your daughter may now be tied to that agent if purchasing that property.

I would not call the behavior clearly unethical. However, it led to confusion and limited your daughter's ability to choose the agent she prefers. In the end, the rules were meant to create clarity. In situations like this, they have done the opposite.

Warm regards,

Phyllis



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FILM REVIEW » JACKSON TOYON

A Roaring Success: 'Godzilla Minus Zero' is an Impressive Sequel That's Bigger In Every Way

By Jackson TOYON



I've been personally looking forward to this one for quite some time. In 2023, Japan's Toho Studios Company gave us its first live action Godzilla film since 2016's "Shin Godzilla" – "Godzilla Minus One." It was a smashing success on a comparatively small budget that found an unexpected foothold with American audiences and it boasts one of the most compelling stories in the entire series – bucking the tendency of America's "Monsterverse" to make movies for entertaining *kaiju* action above all else. This year, director Takashi Yamazaki brings us his much-anticipated follow up to "Minus One" – and I had the distinct pleasure of viewing his new film in an amazing IMAX experience.

The year is 1949 – two years after the apparent defeat of Godzilla in Sagami Bay. Kōichi Shikishima (Ryunosuke Kamiki) has now married his partner Noriko (Minami Hamabe) and they have built a seemingly stable life with their adopted daughter Akiko (Sae Nagatani). All is not well in post-war Japan, however – a new giant monster has made its appearance – a dragon (which Godzilla fans will recognize) that the humans have taken to calling "Ghidorah." Returning fan-favorite scientist Kenji Noda (Hidetaka Yoshioka), now leading the Large-Scale Disaster Response Bureau alongside characters like Hiroshima survivor and biologist Kanji Murakami (Min Tanaka), takes charge of an operation to slay the beast. Shikishima is initially hesitant to lead the mission as a pilot due to the dangerous nature of it and his newfound family but eventually he feels obligated to do so as the only existing expert in this narrow field. The operation doesn't go to plan, though, and Ghidorah only turns into a much larger threat. Disturbing revelations about Noriko's brush with death in the previous film, ulterior motives from Murakami and a re-appearance by a very not-dead Godzilla complicate the deadly situation Japan once again finds itself in – and humanity is going to need a miracle if it is to survive.

The long-awaited sequel to "Minus One" is a triumphant return to the story set in motion by its predecessor. Immediately thrilling right out of the gate, the audience is tossed directly into the action with a terrifying introduction to the iconic King Ghidorah. The scale of this film is so much bigger than the one before it – both to its benefit and very slightly to its detriment. While "Minus One" was a bit cleaner and more focused in its plot due to fewer characters and monsters to keep track of, "Minus Zero" still cranks everything up to 11 in a positively electrifying manner. Yet no matter how big it gets, no matter how pulse-pounding the *kaiju* spectacle is, it maintains the strength of its precursor by never overwhelming or undermining the strong human story at its core.

In recent years, Toho has endeavored to make Godzilla films closer in tone to the original 1954 movie – using the giant monsters to communicate a central theme or allegory. Director Yamazaki's 2023 entry was a powerful meditation on survivor's guilt and he wasted no effort in making "Minus Zero" a thoughtful piece about letting go of anger and breaking the cycle of violence – something Japan had to reckon with in its struggle after World War II to reclaim its identity and resume daily life. What really impressed me in this film is how this central theme is not merely directly present in characters and the plot but even represented in smaller ways for more eagle-eyed viewers to notice – down to the change in Godzilla's design and behavior between the two films.

Though the story isn't quite as tight as before, "Godzilla Minus Zero" did not disappoint me in the slightest. The film successfully builds upon everything that made "Minus One" great, retaining its compelling human story while raising the stakes with brutal *kaiju* battles, excellent set pieces and a spine-tingling score. Its message is driven home through characters worth caring about and some uniquely harrowing sequences that leave a lasting impression on the viewer. I would recommend watching the first film beforehand, which is conveniently offered on Netflix – but this blockbuster deserves to be seen big and loud in a theater for the best experience.

Rated R.

THEN & NOW

Sake Sushi Bar

Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then: This photo shows the typical mix of retail businesses in the 2200 block of Honolulu Avenue in the late 1960s. From left: Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream, J.C. Penney department store and the Valley Book Store. The pile of dirt in front of Penney's indicates that work has begun on the landscaping of the Montrose Shopping Park.



Now: The same location today from left: restaurant, restaurant, spa, and restaurant anchored in the center by Sake Sushi Bar at 2270 Honolulu. The mix of retail has tipped heavily towards ethnic restaurants, which has enlivened the night life and the newly cosmopolitan flavor of Montrose.

The Nutcracker Comes To Glendale As Part Of World Ballet Company's National Holiday Tour

World Ballet Company announced its 2026 holiday tour of The Nutcracker — a family-friendly production of the world's most beloved ballet. With nearly 50 performances scheduled nationwide from late November through December, the company will bring this classic to audiences across the United States.

A world-class international cast, more than 150 radiant hand-sewn costumes and richly detailed hand-painted sets come together with immersive projections and multimedia effects to create a magical holiday experience.

From the glittering Christmas Eve party and the thrilling midnight battle between the Nutcracker's soldiers and the Mouse King's army to the enchanting "Waltz of the Snowflakes" and the colorful "Land of Sweets," each scene bursts with beauty, imagination and theatrical wonder. Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score brings warmth, drama and excitement to every moment.

"Our goal is to make ballet accessible without compromising its artistry," said company director



Sasha Gorskaya. "We created this Nutcracker for everyone — from families seeing ballet for the first time to audiences who have loved it all their lives. It's a world-class experience that celebrates joy, imagination and togetherness."

A holiday tradition for generations, The Nutcracker remains one of the most popular ballets in the world. According to audience surveys, more than 60% of World Ballet Company attendees are seeing ballet live for the very first time — making this tour a true gateway to the art form for families and newcomers alike.

The show will take place at Alex Theatre, 216 N. Brand Blvd. in Glendale, on Dec. 18-19.

Music of Joseph G Tian Comes to Glendale

Composer, songwriter and worship artist Joseph G Tian will present Kindle — Cinematic Worship, a unique live worship concert, on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. at First Evangelical Church Glendale, 522 W. Broadway. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Blending original cinematic compositions, contemporary worship songs and immersive visual storytelling, Kindle invites audiences on a musical and spiritual journey exploring creation, faith, sacrifice, redemption and the hope of new life in Christ.

Drawing on his background in film composition, Tian brings a cinematic approach to Christian music, combining orchestral arrangements, expressive melodies and Scripture-inspired imagery to create a worship experience that extends beyond a traditional concert format. The program features original instrumental works inspired by biblical narratives, including Genesis, The Red Sea, and Golgotha, alongside contemporary worship songs such as "With Your Name," "At That Moment" and "You."

Presented through both English and Chinese musical expressions, the concert reflects the universal message of faith across cultures and generations. Rather than presenting music and visuals as separate elements, Kindle integrates them into a continuous artistic journey inviting audiences to experience familiar biblical stories through a fresh musical



perspective.

Tian is a Los Angeles–area Christian composer, songwriter, worship artist and music producer whose work bridges cinematic orchestral music and contemporary Christian worship. Beginning his professional composing career in Beijing in 2006, Tian contributed music to film productions including "The Pretending Lovers" (2011), "Silent Witness" (2013), and "Urban Games" (2014). Following his relocation to the United States in 2018, he continued developing his Christian music ministry, releasing The Hymns Collection by Joseph G Tian in 2019 and presenting original music concerts in California, Pennsylvania and New York.

In 2026, Tian released a series of original worship singles, including "With Your Name," "You" and "At That Moment."





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WEEKLY HOROSCOPES Provided by horoscope.com November 16, 2026 - November 22, 2026

ARIES *March 21 - April 19*
This period is going to bring a lot of feelings to the surface. It may also encourage symptoms to appear that have lain dormant for some time, especially those associated with stress. Try to lighten your schedule and cut back on any unnecessary appointments or tasks so you can have a relaxed day. Pamper yourself if you get the opportunity.

TAURUS *April 20 - May 20*
This is going to be one of those periods when your waistline may expand more than you'd like. You could be tempted away from a sensible diet into excess that you'll soon regret. If you want to avoid the guilt, try to limit yourself. It's the kindest thing you can do!

GEMINI *May 21 - June 20*
You may snack more than is necessary due to powerful feelings coming to the surface now. Rather than go down the fatness road, try to go down the fitness road and find ways to cut out too much fatty and sugary food. Keep your eye on your target, and resolve to have the body of your dreams.This period offers you a fantastic opportunity to get into peak condition. You'll feel more empowered than ever to find a way to successfully reach your fitness goals. First, you need to be able to see the new you in detail. Keep this image in your mind until you reach it.

CANCER *June 21 - July 22*
Be prepared to listen to your intuition if any health issues should come up. If you get a powerful sense that following the party line is going to make things worse for you, don't do it. This is about trusting your inner voice. Reclaim your power at times when it might be easier to give it away and feel worse as a result.

LEO *July 23 - August 22*
The aspects are giving you a feeling of buoyancy and enthusiasm and a strong desire to get out and have fun, all of which are excellent for your health. Sports and all kinds of healthy activities will keep you in the peak of fitness and bring a chance to socialize, too.

VIRGO *August 23 - Sept. 22*
Now it's time to be more proactive where your health is concerned. If you start to eat well, exercise, and get to the heart of any health issues that bother you, you should begin to thrive. You may feel more tired than usual now, so remember to take vitamins and minerals regularly.

LIBRA *Sept. 23 - Oct. 22*
You may be reflecting on your health goals and considering where you want to go from here. Have you succeeded in getting anywhere near your ideal, or did you get sidetracked by something else? Are you sabotaging your own best efforts? Consciously, you may want to lose weight, but what's going on subconsciously?

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Financial factors may have an impact on health issues, especially such things as gym memberships or buying more expensive foods that are better suited to your metabolism and digestion. Don't give up even if you have to budget. There are ways to stay healthy that don't cost a fortune. Get it sorted out.

SAGITTARIUS *Nov. 22 - Dec. 21*
You're going to be bopping along full of steam and happy as a lark for some time. There's no excuse not to be healthy now. You need to come to grips with any compulsive and addictive patterns that may have been troubling you for some time. This is the best time to do so.

CAPRICORN *Dec. 22 - Jan. 19*
You have good health, but you may still feel peeved that one issue hasn't been resolved to your satisfaction. Make sure you aren't unconsciously feeding this condition so you're stuck with it. There may be a reason why you feel more secure with it than without it. If this is true, dig more deeply so you can let it go and be healed.

AQUARIUS *Jan. 20 - Feb. 18*
It's time to delegate your time and energy more effectively. This means finding a way of working out that brings you maximum rewards for your efforts. The same goes for your current diet. Right now, more isn't necessarily better. If you practice economy of effort, you'll find that it takes less time and energy to reach your peak.

PISCES *Feb. 19 - March 20*
Career issues and responsibilities may have a direct impact on the way you feel now. Make a decision to not let too much stress and tension affect you. Managing your stress at the source will help you sleep better and feel better all around. Daily exercise is another way to feel fantastic.

CALENDAR this

KIWANIS CLUBS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. On Nov. 20, Captains Bill & Deb Middendorp with the Salvation Army will be making a presentation to the Club.

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

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

The La Cañada La Crescenta AM Club has a free weekly meeting held from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada.

FUN FOUND AT BACK DOOR BAKERY

Back Door Bakery and Cafe is hosting live music weekly at 7 p.m. On Nov. 21, Chris Blakey will be performing.

Back Door Bakery is located at 8349 Foothill Blvd. in Sunland.

DANCING AS EXERCISE

DancingAs Exercise is a free event sponsored by the Los Angeles County Park program for seniors (50 plus).

There will be music from 10 a.m. to noon each Friday 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.

CV PARK ACTIVITIES

CV Park has the following activities planned for the remainder of the year:

On Friday, Nov. 20 from 4 - 7 p.m. it's the Harvest Festival; on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Holiday in the Park is being held.

CV Park is located at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

see CALENDAR THIS *on next page*

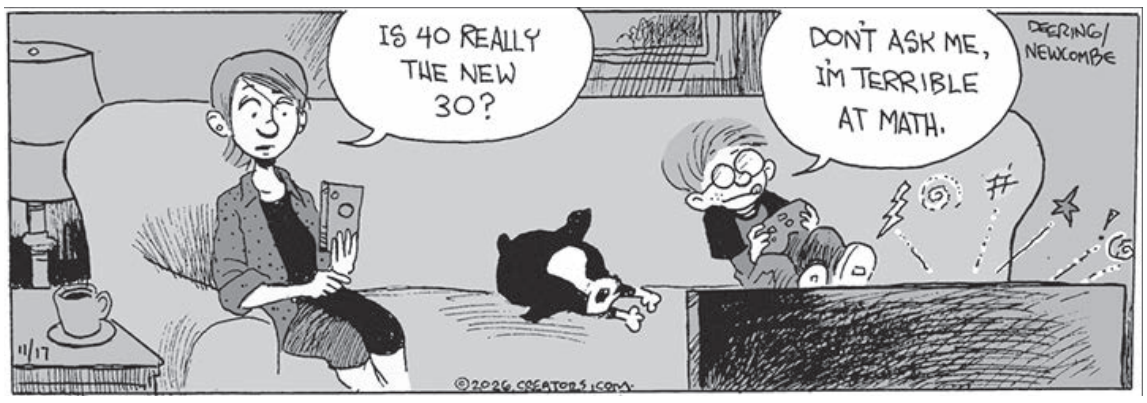
PET OF THE WEEK



Hello, my name is Kodak and I'd like to sit on the couch and chill all day.

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

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



11.19.26

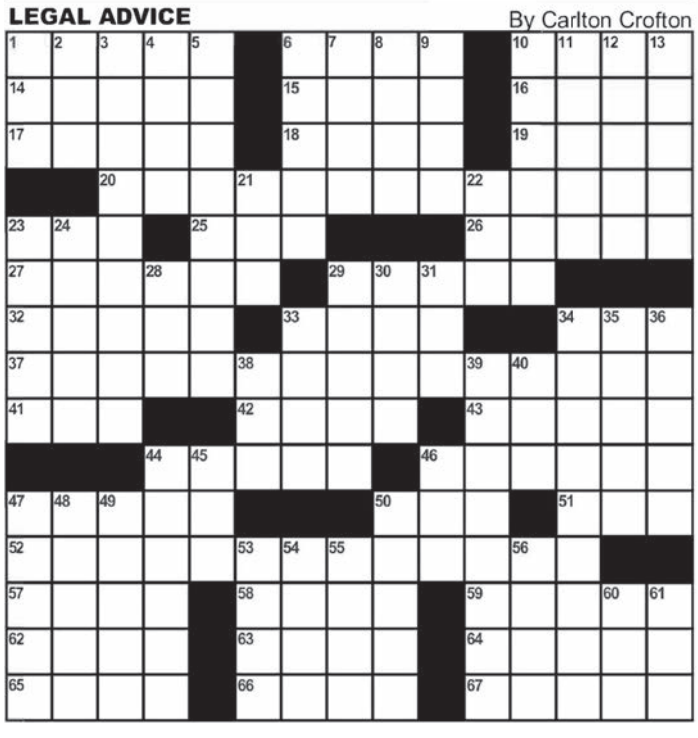
ACROSS

1) Feeling of great warmth
6) Highest male singing voice
10) Border upon
14) Certain drum
15) True-to-life
16) "G'day" recipient
17) Having divisions, as a window
18) Java neighbor
19) Relative of a stork
20) Behavioral standards
23) "Ciao, Caesar"
25) Do the wrong thing
26) Analyze, as an alloy
27) Oahu woman
29) Use watercolors
32) Century plant
33) Storm forerunner
34) Chicken ___ king
37) Admonished by a judge, in a way
41) Electrifying fish
42) V-neck garment
43) Gin game
44) Small and round, as eyes
46) Portuguese pilgrimage site
47) Grain threshing tool
50) Color of a camel
51) "The Bridge of ___ Luis Rey"
52) It involves likelihoods
57) First husband
58) Tender, as muscles
59) More likely to cause a skid
62) A ___ pittance
63) Trident part
64) Push, as one in a line
65) They justify the means?
66) March 15 or April 13
67) Fine-tuned, as a razor

DOWN

1) Egyptian cobra
2) Biochemist's letters
3) Big band venue
4) Cookie that's loaded with vowels
5) Blushed
6) Shady alcove
7) Autumn dropping
8) Locker room powder
9) Musical mixture
10) In the center of
11) Hindu misters
12) Mohawk River city
13) Short-tempered
21) Before, for a bard
22) One of the Bobbsey twins
23) Up on things
24) Clear as mud
28) "Now ___ seen everything"
29) Fall guy
30) "Thanks ___!"
31) "This tape will self-destruct ..." org.
33) Prompted on stage
34) Entrance granted
35) Assumption for the sake of argument
36) Indo-European, formerly
38) Latin eggs
39) Somewhere between yellow and 61-Down
40) Wagon wheel groove
44) Ecological communities
45) Yuletide worker
46) Aircraft-certifying org.
47) Moth drawer
48) Filled, as a ship's hold
49) Oscar, for one
50) Birch and palm
53) Italian province or its capital
54) "___ where prohibited"
55) White-tailed bird of prey
56) Canyon sound effect
60) Woman from the night before?
61) Bad ink color for business

LEGAL ADVICE By Carlton Crofton



see ANSWERS *on following page*

WWW.CVWEEKLY.COM

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

They Told Me My Hotel Room Was A "Step Up." Then The Ceiling Fell In

Bob Burfeind's dream vacation in Cancun turns into a nomadic nightmare of dirty rooms and falling ceilings. After three moves in five nights and a lackluster response from Super.com, he wants a refund.

Question: I had a confirmed hotel reservation recently for the Petit Lafitte Resort in Playa del Carmen, Mexico,. I verified the booking several times through both Super.com, the booking site I used to make the reservation, and the resort itself.

However, when we arrived the hotel claimed our reservation didn't start for another three days. They told us we'd been notified of the change but we never received any email.The resort eventually found us an alternative at another hotel about 20 minutes away. They assured us it was of "equal value, if not a step up."

It was anything but.

The hotel was a clear downgrade. Our room was dirty, the soaking pool was ill-kept and we had no hot water. To make matters worse several electrical problems plagued the room, which was situated over a noisy bar with a view of a rusty tin roof.

The situation became dangerous during the night when a large piece of the ceiling fell into our bathtub. We demanded a new room, which they gave us, but we had to move our own luggage.

Over a five-night stay, we were forced to make three different moves. We wasted a significant portion of our vacation just trying to find a habitable place to sleep. We've asked both Super.com and Petit Lafitte for a full refund of $1,056. The only thing Petit Lafitte offered was a one-night stay toward a future visit, which we have no intention of using.

Super.com has given us nothing. Can you help us get our money back? – Bob Burfeind, Minneapolis

Answer: When a hotel or a booking site confirms a reservation, it has a duty of care to provide the room you paid for. If it can't, it should "walk" you to a comparable property, which is hotel-speak for finding you a room at a comparable property for the same price.

A property with falling ceilings and no hot water is not a step up – it's a safety and sanitation hazard. Under most hotel industry standards and consumer protection norms, if a resort provides a significantly inferior experience or a dangerous environment, you're entitled to more than a voucher for a future stay you'll never use. You deserve either a partial or a full refund.

You did the right thing by documenting your hotel disaster. Taking pictures of the dirty pool and the ceiling in the bathtub is essential for any successful dispute. You also kept a paper trail, which is the most important tool in any consumer's arsenal.

For future reference, if a company ignores your initial request, you can always escalate your complaint. I list the contact information for Super.com and many major hotel chains and travel providers on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org.

I contacted Super.com on your behalf and shared the details of your case. In a message to you, Super.com acknowledged that "a number of mistakes were made" and it agreed to issue a full refund of $1,056. I'm glad my advocacy team and I could help you close the door on this hotel nightmare.

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

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CALENDAR THIS *from previous page*

CCLCF EVENTS

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

• It's not too late to sign the kids up for the CCLCF Thanksgiving Break Camps. Camps include Coach Andy's Sports Blitz (for ages 6-12), Star Wars LEGO® Adventures (for ages 5-7), and Jazz/Hip Hop Dance (for ages 5-10). Visit cclcf.org/register or call (818) 790-4353 to learn more.

• Help local families in need by donating non-perishable food, toiletries and/or gift cards to CCLCF's annual food drive. Drop bins will be located at CCLCF and select organizations in the area throughout the month of November. Learn more at cclcf.org/run.

• Thanksgiving Run: The 33rd Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K & Kids Mile is coming up on Nov. 26, rain or shine. Learn more: cclcf.org/run.

• A heartwarming volunteer event takes place at CCLCF on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Pack wellness envelopes filled with love, care and holiday cheer for women undergoing chemotherapy. Volunteer at cclcf.volunteerlocal.com.

• Get ready to shop, explore and get inspired at the CCLCF Holiday Ceramic Sale! This promises to be a festive weekend featuring ceramics, glass, studio tours and live demonstrations on Saturday, Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn more at cclcf.org/events.

• The Foothills Community Choir will present its second annual winter concert "Once Upon a December" on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. Step out of the rush and into a festive evening designed to sweep ticket holders into the joyful sounds of the season. Visit cclcf.org/presents for ticket info.

• Treat your valentine to a delicious dinner with a side of dilemma, disguise and deduction at the CCLCF Murder Mystery Valentine's Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 13. Learn more at cclcf.org/presents

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

MUSIC FOR HOPE

Children of One Planet presents Music for Hope - America on Nov. 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Western Justice Center, 55. S. Grand Ave. in Pasadena. Evening includes hors d'oeuvres and food, entertainment and guest speakers.

Suggested donation is $100 per person.

Proceeds support after-school programs and and the opening of Children of One Planet Performing Arts & Wellness Center.

www.childrenofoneplanet.org

HOOP SHOOT CONTEST

The Glendale Elks Lodge #1289 announced its annual Hoop Shoot basketball contest will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Rosemont Middle School gym located at 4725 Rosemont Ave. in La Crescenta. The contest is open to youths aged 8-13 as determined by their age on April 1, 2027. There is no entry fee to participate – the parents only need to complete and return the registration form to Hoop Shoot director by Nov. 19.

Please contact Chris Sullivan – Hoop Shoot director – at 66csully@gmail.com or by calling (818) 472-6264 to sign up or for more information.

Additional information about the Elks Hoop Shoot may be found at www.Elks.org/hoopshoot.

SMALL BUSINESS MARKET

Small Business Saturday Market (presented by By Way of Us) takes place at the Women's Twentieth Century Club house on Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Nov. 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entrepreneur Sarah Kim, a new member of Women's Twentieth Century Club and founder of By Way of Us will bring her special sauce to Small Business Saturday (and Sunday).

The Women's Twentieth Century Club is located at 5105 Hermosa Ave. in Eagle Rock.

CSL-LA CRESCENTA PRESENTS BRIAN ECKER

Center for Spiritual Living – La Crescenta presents Brian Ecker, aka Brian Diamond, on Nov. 28 from 2 to 3 p.m. singing songs from the Neil Diamond Christmas album. Admission is $15. Refreshments served after the concert.

Get a jumpstart on the holiday season with this Neil Diamond tribute artist. Ecker will perform a set list full of hits and Christmas favorites. Ecker is a lifelong resident of La Cañada Flintridge and has a history of performing in local community theaters.

For those who care to donate, there is a Toys for Tots barrel from the sheriff's department in the CSL lobby that welcomes all unwrapped new toys.

Center for Spiritual Living – La Crescenta is located at 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

WINTER FAIRE COMING

On Dec. 5, a Winter Faire takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Waverly School campus. There will be artisans and handmade goods, food, music and kids activities.

All are welcome.

Waverly School is located at 67 W. Bellevue Drive in Pasadena.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Those who can, do; Those who can do more, volunteer. Author Unknown Little Landers Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help support its mission, "To preserve and maintain Bolton Hall Museum and the historical record of Rancho Tujunga."

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

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

MONTROSE LIBRARY EVENTS

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

ANSWERS *for page 16*



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

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

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

The Montrose Library, 2465 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose

(818) 548-2048.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES AT SUNLAND SENIOR CENTER

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

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



TOY DRIVES *from Cover*



Pattee Colvin, president of Making It Happen, looks over the donations received on Tuesday night for her organization.

If anyone knows of a family that may need help during the holidays the family can be nominated by emailing Dep. Maryann Martin at mgmartin@lasd.org.

Families that need help can also nominate themselves for support. Non-perishable food and/or toys can be dropped off at the Crescenta Valley Station through Dec. 23.

Robert Hall & Associates

Robert Hall & Associates in Glendale has been collecting toys for about four years. Rony Marootian is one of the team members at the firm, which this year launched The Big LA Toy Drop (https://roberthalltaxes.com/toy-drive) and encourages team members and clients to contribute.

"People are incredible," Marootian said about the response received to previous years' toy drives.

On Dec. 3 in the parking lot of the Robert Hall & Associates facility, Marootian will oversee the handoff of the toys collected to representatives of Glendale Fire's Spark of Love Toy Drive. Spark of Love will accept the donations then distribute the toys to children in need. The handoff will take place at the company's Holiday Mingle event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Robert Hall & Associates building at 300 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Suite 200 in Glendale.

The Holiday Mingle is an opportunity for the community to come together, said Marootian.

"Everybody is welcome," he said. "There'll be finger food and beverages."

Though there is no admission cost, it is hoped that every guest brings an unwrapped toy. Guests will receive one raffle ticket for each new, unwrapped toy donated at the Dec. 3 Holiday Mingle. Winners will be drawn at the end of the evening and prizes include gift cards, Apple AirPods and TVs.

According to the Robert Hall & Associates website, in person attendance to the Holiday Mingle is necessary to participate and winners must be present when the ticket is drawn to win. Firefighters from Station 26 will be on hand and available for photos as well.

Raffle tickets will be issued for toys donated during the Holiday Mingle only.

"When you do something nice it really helps other people," Marootian said.

Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge

Like the CV Sheriff's Station, the community center has two ways that people can give. As of press time, there is a collection bin at its facility at 4469 Chevy Chase Drive in La Cañada Flintridge. New, unwrapped toys, hygiene items and non-perishable food are being collected until Nov. 30.

But on Nov. 26, the Annual Thanksgiving Run and Food Drive will begin with the 5K run at 8:15 a.m. followed by a Kids' mile run at 9:30 a.m.

This is the 33rd year for the run that is not only a fun and healthy start to Thanksgiving Day but also gathers food for those in need.

Runners, and those cheering on the runners, can bring non-perishable food and/or hygiene products to the run at Olberz Park, One Civic Center Drive, La Cañada Flintridge.

Those who would like to learn more or to register for the run can do so by going to https://cclcf.org/run/ or contacting the Community Center at (818) 790-4353.

The Crescenta Valley Armenian Center

The Crescenta Valley Armenian Center, also known as the AFC Meher & Satig Der Ohanessian Youth Center, is located at 2633 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose.

The Center, along with its sister organizations, is organizing its annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. All donated toys will be delivered to Fire Station 29 (2465 Honolulu Ave.) on Dec. 18.

"Anyone who would like to donate unwrapped toys [can] drop them off at the Armenian Center," said Taline Panossian of the Armenian Center. "Donation boxes will be available starting [the week of Nov. 23]."

Crescenta Valley Lions Club

The CV Lions Club is holding a toy drive to benefit local families through the Bailey Center food bank. The organization has begun collecting toys and will continue through Dec. 12.

The Lions are collecting new, unopened toys and games for newborn babies through 18-year-olds. There are two drop off areas:

* Keller Williams at 545 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge

* St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church, 2563 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta

Financial gifts are also welcomed; cash can be sent through Zelle to lions91214@gmail.com.

For more information contact Diana Tyson at (818) 625-5221 or email lions91214@gmail.com.

Making It Happen/ Assemblymember Nick Schultz

Assemblymember Nick Schultz and his team collected food from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Glendale Community College (formerly Citibank) at 2350 Honolulu Ave. for their second annual holiday food drive. The food drive collected donations for Making It Happen (https://www.makingithappeninc.org/) in Tujunga. The Glendale Community College (formerly Citibank) gathering was one of two that was overseen by Assemblymember Nick Schultz. The other was in Sherman Oaks held on Nov. 18 and benefitted the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry (https://nhifp.org/).



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GCC *from page 9*

"Marina" said she was attending the council meeting to "express my opposition to the proposed GWP water rate adjustment" and that she appreciates the change.

"It's amazing what happens when people try – I understand that upgrading the municipal infrastructure is necessary but it's really untenable for you to foist this on us," she said. "Residents shouldn't be mandated to shoulder the consequences and costs of expanding capacity, primarily to accommodate a massive influx of high density, multifamily dwellings.

"Upgrades required for new dense developments should be funded by the developers and those driving that growth," she said. "As a resident and a school district employee, I am being priced out of this city."

"Cynthia" was "born and raised" in Glendale.

"I've watched the city change tremendously," she said. "I remember Glendale as a community of single-family homes where families planted roots, raised their children and hoped to grow old. Today we see more apartments, higher density developments and growth."

Shane Lee "fully supports the rate hike."

"We're over-consuming water," he said. "Keeping water rates artificially low acts as a subsidy for suburban lifestyles without which suburban houses would be less attractive as a living option and as an investment asset. Therefore, raising water rates would not only fund necessary infrastructure upgrades, it will encourage the habitation and construction of dense, water-efficient multifamily buildings.

"Wasting water is bad and suburbs are the primary culprit. Raising water rates discourages both water waste and wasteful suburban land us patterns," Lee concluded.

He was assaulted in the lobby of city hall following his remarks and shared a video with the Crescenta Valley Weekly:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nuCCaZQrb3wYMZhC83yro_hl5zfKyoIX/view?usp=drivesdk.

Glendale police officers at the council meeting immediately took a crime report.

Dr. Jackie Gish served on the stakeholder water advisory group and was briefed on the status and the water supply and infrastructure.

"The upgrades are needed because the water system is very old," she said. "Without doing it now, more will be needed. Glendale can't afford to kick the can again on infrastructure upgrades as has been done by the council for decades."

Gish calculated her Zone 3 bill will increase by $30 per month in winter and $60 per month in summer.

"While I would prefer lower costs for everyone – including me – I realize that Glendale water needs more money to start the infrastructure upgrades now. But please figure out how to help the residents who need the most help," she implored.

"Mayor Ardy, you spoke recently, in eloquent Armenian, about the complicated relationship between pain, pleasure and time. You asked, 'Shouldn't we pay steep costs up front rather than spread the cost out over time and end up with a higher number in the long run?'"

Glendale researcher Allen "Dish" Dishigrikyan addressed the council.

"But with all due respect, Mr. Mayor, in the long run we are all dead," he said.

He went on, following a laugh of the full room.

"Moreover, Forest Lawn is against this proposal," he added. "The cemetery arguably speaks on [behalf] of all of us.

"More seriously, it is not the lack of transparency nor that we have to repair the infrastructure – of course we do – but that the costs are not being distributed equally among corporations and developers. The most disappointing part of last week's meeting was that so [many] of you were given to the interests of Forest Lawn and to the Americana.

"When push came to shove, it was the corporate interests of Forest Lawn and the Americana that forced the city council to pause and revisit this plan and this should worry us all," said Dish.

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