Fighting to Rescue Israeli Hostages

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Devonshire PALS and Lamar Odom Make Christmas for Kids

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Nighttrek Report: What to See in the January Sky

See page 11

North Valley News

Volume 3, Number 17 January 3, 2025

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Meet the New LAPD Chief and Valley Area Captains

United Chambers is hosting their annual LAPD Captains Lunch on January 15. Meet new Chief Jim McDonnell and all Valley area captains and commanders. This is your chance to interact with your local LAPD officers one on one. Master of Ceremonies is Woodland Hills Honorary Mayor, LAPD Reserve Officer and *Valley News Group* columnist Dennis P. zine. The event will be held at Carla's Cafe at CBS Studios, 4024 Radford Avenue, Studio City. You must register in advance at unitedchambers.org. No walk ins will be accepted.

Comic Book Store Owner Killed in Tragic Accident

Warren Jaycox, owner of the popular Van Nuys comic book store Galaxy of Comics, died on December 28 after getting trapped under an SUV at the Westfield Topanga mall. Jaycox was riding an e-scooter when an SUV leaving the parking lot turned right and struck him. He slid under the vehicle which proceeded to run him over. The 17-year-old driver stayed at the scene and co-operated with investigators. Jaycox was wearing a helmet, but died at the scene. Investigators are looking for surveillance video as they investigate who was at fault.

Cleaning Up...Even on Christmas!

SANTA's ELVES: A hard-core group of volunteers joined Jill Mather, founder of Volunteers Cleaning Communities (third from left in above photo) to clean up some North Valley streets - on Christmas Day! The all-volunteer nonprofit regularly cleans litter from the streets, highways, illegal dump sites, abandoned homeless encampments.

Who's Stealing Our Children? Rotary Fights Human Trafficking

There is a heinous crime against our children going on in our neighborhoods and most of us are not even aware of it. Did you know that more than 3,000 children every year in California alone become victims of sex trafficking, destroying their lives and their families? These young girls and boys are raped repeatedly, beaten often, suffer horrific lives, and only 1% are ever found.

This is happening locally - at our schools and colleges, including Pierce and CSUN.

The Rotary Club of Woodland Hills is working diligently with other Rotary clubs in the San Fernando Valley to lessen this crime and save our children. On January 11, their second annual human trafficking information event will take place in Woodland Hills.

More than 3,000 children every year in California alone become victims of sex trafficking, many of them right here in the valley.

This free community event will address Internet security and how to protect our children.

Speakers include representatives from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Children and Family Services and LAPD. Attendees will also hear from a survivor advocate as she tells her amazing story.

The event will be held from 2 to 4:30 pm at the Rose Goldwater Community Center, 21710 Vanowen Street, Canoga Park (at the corner of Owensmouth on the Westfield Topanga lot).

It is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Woodland Hills, Calabasas and Greater Van Nuys, and the West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce.

RSVP to info.safezone911@gmail.com. For more information call Robin Kellogg at (818) 631-

The CHP Want You to be Safe on the Road

By Max Izenberg

Are you at the age where you may have considered parking your car permanently? Or maybe you have a concern about a family member who may have the same thoughts. There is really no perfect time to decide to give up driving for good, however, it is a very important concern to think about.

Many factors must be taken into consideration before making this important decision - the health of the person, their eyesight, as well as their hearing, medications, social life, and so many other issues - a very difficult problem that needs to be addressed.

To help shed light on this complex issue, the California Highway Patrol has developed a program, "Age Well Drive Smart" about keeping everyone safe on the road. It can help the state's most experienced drivers in refreshing their driving skills so they can drive longer and safer. They present it to churches, temples, womens' clubs, mens' clubs…any group comprised of people in the age range affected by this situation.

The CHP offers a free 45-minute program on "Age Well Drive Smart" to community groups.

You can offer this interesting, thought-provoking 45-minute program to members of a group you belong to. For more information, or to schedule this compelling educational presentation, please contact California Highway Patrol, Stuart Olesker, AWDS Coordinator at (818) 687-2479

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Community Calendar

GRANADA HILLS: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council will meet on Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30 pm. The in-person meeting will be held at St. Euphrasia School Auditorium, 11766 Shoshone Avenue. For agenda and information visit ghnnc.org.

CHATSWORTH: The Chatsworth Branch Library will hold a giant used book sale on Saturday, January 18, from 10 am to 2 pm. The sale includes thousands of almost-new hardback books and a huge selection of paperback books - all at a fraction of the cost of new. For more information visit laplchatsworthfriends.org or call (818) 341-4276. The library is located at 21052 Devonshire Street.

NORTHRIDGE: Northridge East Neighborhood Council will hold their general board meeting on Wednesday, January 15, at 7 pm. The meeting will be held on Zoom. For agenda and link visit nenc-la.org.

CHATSWORTH: The Chatsworth Library Book Club will meet on Wednesday, January 8, at 1:30 pm. The "Open Forum" meeting means participants can talk about any book they believe will be of interest to others. Join in person or email sstamm@lapl.org in advance for the Zoom link. The library is located at 21052 Devonshire Street.

PORTER RANCH: Shepherd Church is seeking volunteers to "undeck the halls" and dismantle all their Christmas decorations. The Christmas season has come to an end and it's time to prepare to take down decorations and get the church ready for the new year! Hours are Tuesday, January 7, 8 am, Wednesday, January 8, 8 am, Thursday, January 9, 8 am and Friday, January 10, 8 am. Shepherd Church is located at 19700 Rinaldi Street. Visit theshepherd.org or call (818) 831-9333 to volunteer.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Library will host the UCLA Gluck Modem Reed Quintet on Saturday, January 11, at 3:30 pm. Come be dazzled by their musical performance. The library is located at 10640 Petit Avenue. For more information visit lapl.org.

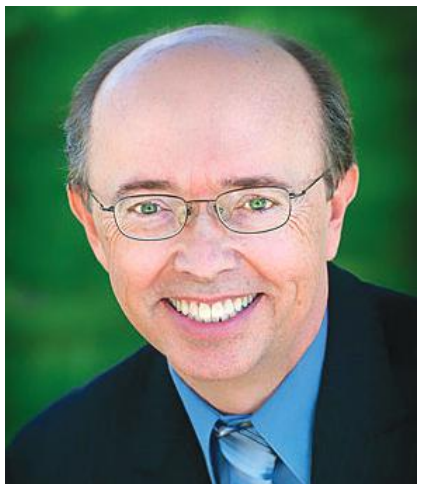
NORTHRIDGE: Northridge West Neighborhood Council will hold a general board meeting on Tuesday, January 14. For agenda and Zoom link visit northridgewest.org.

PORTER RANCH: Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will hold a general board meeting on Wednesday, January 8, at 6 pm. The in-person meeting will be held at Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary, 19010 Castlebay Lane. For more information visit prnc.org.

CHATSWORTH: The Minnie Hill Palmer Homestead Acre, including the Historical Cottage, Gardens and the Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum will be open on Sunday, January 5, from 1 to 4 pm at 10385 Shadow Oak Drive.

GRANADA HILLS: LAPD Senior Lead Officer John Parker will hold a Basic Car 17A35 Neighborhood Watch meeting on Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at St. Euphrasia Catholic Church, 11779 Shoshone Avenue.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Paul Davis, right, will receive the Harmon Ballin Award from the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) on December 6.

Davis is the president of Paul Davis Insurance, specializing in helping people with Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplements and Part D Prescription Drug Plans.

He is active in many valley chambers of commerce and nonprofit organizations including ONEgeneration, New Directions for Youth, Valley Community Clinic, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Mid Valley Police Council and more.

He has received the Fernando Award for volunteerism, the Small Business Award from United Chambers, the CK Tseng Leadership Award and the *Daily News* Readers Choice Best Insurance Agent.

The Harmon Ballin Award is given annually to an active VICA members who has made an outstanding contribution to the community

Prominent podcaster, political influencer, and philanthropist **Liz Hirsh Naftali**, above, visited Los Angeles Jewish Health's Fountainview at Eisenberg Village to discuss her role in securing the release of her great-niece from Hamas captivity following the attack of October 7, 2023—and her continued commitment to freeing the remaining hostages. Naftali, a lifelong Angeleno with deep roots in Israel, recounted arriving in Israel to celebrate the holiday of Simchat Torah on October 6, 2023. After an evening of dancing and celebration, she was awakened the next morning to the sound of alarms blaring: Hamas had breached the Israeli-Gaza border-in-law that morning and discovered that her niece and nephew had been murdered by terrorists there—and that their three-year-old daughter, Abigail, had been kidnapped.

A long history of activism equipped Naftali for what came next: returning to the United States and sharing Abigail's story as widely as possible with media outlets and political leaders on Capitol Hill."I met with Democrats and Republicans; I believe hostages should be apolitical, and we received incredibly beautiful support from people on both sides of the aisle," she said. "I was driven to keep talking to people and refused to take 'no' for an answer because when you're in a situation like this, and someone you love is being held against their will, you cannot rest or even take a breath until you see their face again."

Naftali's efforts ultimately contributed to a deal being struck: After 51 days in captivity, Abigail was freed along with 104 other hostages during a truce between Israel and Hamas.

(Continued to page 5)

Long-time community leaders **Izzy and Marilyn Freeman** were recently honored by Los Angeles Jewish Health at its annual Reflections Gala. The award recognized the Freemans' decades of philanthropic work on behalf of the seniors at LAJH and the larger Los Angeles community.

CEO and President of LAJH Dale Surowitz expressed his admiration and gratitude for the Freemans' many contributions, saying, "Marilyn and Izzy are tireless, dedicated volunteer leaders and philanthropists. Among their involvement, Izzy is a past president of The Guardians (support group) and a past chair of the LAJH Board of Governors. Marilyn has been very active with LAJH and The Guardians, serving

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VIEWPOINT

English Channel

By Rodger Sterling

English Channel offers the best of the late editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

• What the difference between roast beef and pea soup? Anyone can roast beef.

• Joe Bercsi checked in with this advice on how to get holy water. "It's simple," he said. "Just boil the hell out of it!"

• Here's a shopping tip from a local gal. You can get shoes for 85 cents at the bowling alley.

• Sign on a hospital maternity door: Push, push, push!

• An ostrich never buries its head in the sand. It only looks that way when it lowers its head in fear, to feed itself or to cover its eggs for protection. There, now you know and I'll bet you feel all better.

• Sign on a septic tank truck: "We're #1 in the #2 business."

• Quick pop quiz. What state was the first to require license plates on autos? Answer: New York. The registration fee was $1.00.

• Sign in a gynecologist's office: "Dr. Jones at your cervix." Which reminds us of another sign we always giggle at when we see it. It's at the aptly named "Crying Room" at St. Mel Church in Woodland Hills. The room is sound proofed so folks can keep control of unruly children yet still hear the services. A sign at the entrance pronounces the room "Heir Conditioned."

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PHONE 818.313.9545 FAX 818.302.1417
Email: ValleyNewsGroup@gmail.com
22025 Ventura Blvd. #303 Woodland Hills CA 91364
www.valleynewsgroup.com Facebook.com/valleynewsgroupwoodlandhills

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Rantz & Ravez from Dennis P. Zine

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!

The year 2025 is expected to be a historic time for the United States of America and the world in general - from places of peace and tranquility to places with conflict and war and corruption and a myriad of other problems dealing with the economy, natural resources and a long list of social issues involving youth, seniors, disabled, visitors from across the globe and on and on with little compromise or resolution by world leaders and those pushing for a wide variety of changes.

Some ideas and concepts are worthy of review while others are ready to be pushed aside or disposed. The concerns and issues run long and deep with many opposing forces pushing hard to get their goals and missions achieved in spite of the positive or negative impact on the world's populations.

We begin the year with a newly elected American President and other newly elected representatives in various political offices on the national, state and local levels. We have a New L. A. County District Attorney, a new LAPD Police Chief and a host of other newly elected and appointed representatives as we roll out of 2024 and into 2025.

Will the New Year bring us a safer and more productive America and California? Will home prices line up with family income so people raising families can find a nice residence in a safe community with good schools, paved streets, community parks and a nice place to raise a family? That is the big question that only time will tell and statistics will reveal. We can only push for the positive and hold elected officials responsible to deliver the quality of life we all expect in our country, state and community.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Bass is preparing the vast region of our city and county for international events scheduled in the next few years. Events that will require all elements of local, state and federal government to participate. It is a massive task that will require thousands of people working together side by side. Having worked the 1984 Olympics as an LAPD member, I know the demands placed on everyone working 12 hour shifts seven days a week. The events were exciting and remained safe for all with the excellent coordination of multiple governmental agencies working together - a reflection of the professionalism and cooperation of all involved.

With a new president for the next four years, we can expect to see major changes in the way our national government operates from the power base of Washington D.C. to all corners across America. What has been happening since the election victory of Donald Trump, is that Washington is alive with huge changes. Changes in the way the federal government operates in all domestic and international levels. A large number of entrenched federal political officials will soon be replaced with business-minded people carrying out the aggressive plans of the new administration. Billionaires and millionaires will soon be running a host of federal departments and agencies. Will this prove to be an improvement in the way Washington, D.C. runs America? Since many are not happy with the current operations in America with outgoing President Biden and Vice President Harris, this just might be what America needs for a wakeup call as we enter 2025. The Presidential election results across America demonstrated that people want change and change is what they are going to receive. Will they be pleased with the anticipated changes? We will find out shortly as programs develop and are either accepted or rejected by the supporting and opposing populations in our society.

The Year in Review….LAPD Citywide Personnel and Crime Stats as of 12-28-24

The LAPD total number of sworn personnel is at 8,774. This number reflects everyone from the Chief of Police to the recruit in the in the academy. All patrol, detectives, training staff and specialized divisions. Think about the city population at 3,908,705 with 472.93 square

(Continued to page 10)

Need to Pick Up a Paper? Visit These Merchants

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Growing Your Brand: Friendly Tips to Make it Happen in 2025

By Miri Rossitto

Have you ever wondered why some brands grow effortlessly while others struggle to gain traction? The secret often lies in their approach to marketing.

Enter Byron Sharp, a marketing guru whose groundbreaking book, *How Brands Grow*, challenges traditional ideas and offers simple, research-backed principles for brand growth. In 2025, these insights are more relevant than ever, as businesses navigate a rapidly evolving digital landscape and fierce competition.

Sharp's findings, rooted in empirical research, show that broadening your audience and making your brand easy to find - both physically and mentally - are the keys to success. Whether you're a small startup or an established name looking to expand, understanding these principles can help you connect with more customers, grow your market share, and thrive in today's fast-paced world.

Let's break down these concepts into actionable tips and see how they can help your brand shine in 2025 and beyond.

Loyalty Isn't Everything (But It's Not Nothing)

Think of your favorite Spotify Wrapped songs. Surprisingly, the difference between your top five and top 100 is a few plays. That's because loyalty isn't as strong as it seems - and that's okay! Sharp says instead of focusing on creating ultra-loyal customers, your energy is better spent reaching new people. When you grow your audience, loyalty will follow naturally.

More Buyers = More Growth

Here's a little secret: most people who buy your product or service will only do so occasionally. That's true for Coca-Cola and Taylor Swift alike! For example, half of Coke buyers only grab a can or two a year. But because so many people fall into that "light user" category, they're a massive part of overall sales.

The takeaway? Focus on increasing your brand's reach and getting more people to try it, even if they're not super fans.

Don't Overthink Targeting

We've all been tempted by hyper-targeted ads or niche marketing strategies, but Sharp's research shows that broad reach is where the magic happens. Think big! Instead of narrowing your audience, aim to include as many people as possible. After all, Spotify users listen to an average of 55 genres a year- people's tastes are more varied than you might think. So, cast a wide net, throw open the doors, and invite everyone in.

Be Easy to Find (Physically and Mentally!)

Making your brand available - both physically and mentally - is essential for growth. Here's what that means:

Physical availability:

Is your product on shelves, in stores, and online where people shop?

Are you easy to find on key platforms like Spotify, Amazon, or Google?

Can your customers get what they want, when they want it?

Mental availability:

Are your brand's name, logo, and colors memorable?

Do people think of you at the right moment—like when they're craving a snack or planning a party?

A great example of mental availability is holiday music. When you think of Christmas, Mariah Carey probably comes to mind! What associations can you build for your brand?

Is your product on shelves, in stores, and online where people shop?
Are you easy to find on key platforms like Spotify, Amazon or Google?
Can your customers get what they want, when they want it?

Consistency is Key

Grow consistently, whether it's through social media, ads, or your product itself. The good news? You don't always need to create new content.

Revisit and share your greatest hits - new people discover your brand daily, and a little repetition never hurts.

The Big Picture

Byron Sharp's principles remind us that brand growth isn't about obsessing over superfans or perfect targeting. It's about reaching more people, being easy to find, and staying top of mind.

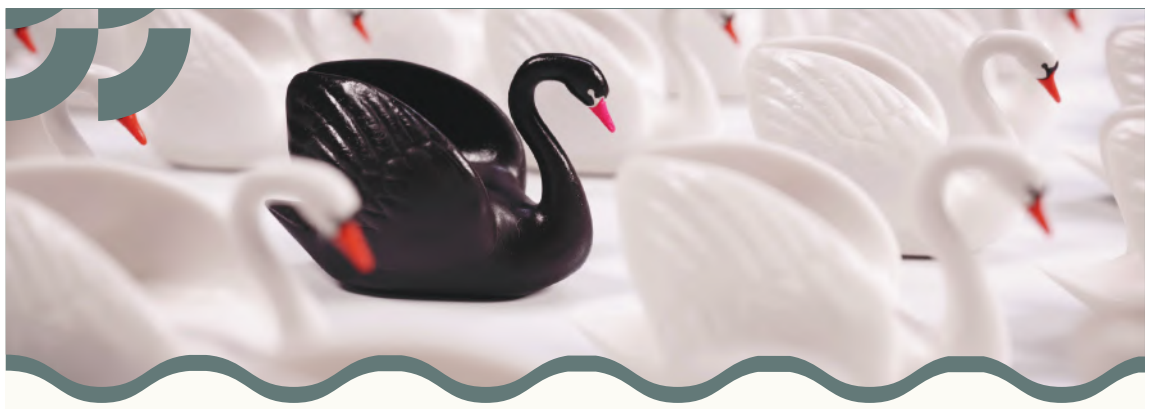
These lessons will be more useful than ever in 2025. With countless tools and platforms at your fingertips, the opportunity to grow your brand has never been greater. Whether you're starting small or looking to expand, focusing on broad reach, accessibility, and consistent messaging can propel your brand to new heights. Remember, growth comes from embracing the bigger picture- and now's the perfect time to start!

Miri Rossitto is CEO of Cowe Communications. Follow them on all social @CoweOfficial or visit their website at cowe.com.

LAJH Honors Local Couple; Raises Over $500,000 at Gala

(Continued from page 3)

as co-chair for the 75th Gala, and serving for many years as the co-chair for the Marilyn and Monty Hall Statesman's Society giving circle. Marilyn spearheaded a tremendously successful special event entitled "1938" raising thousands of dollars to benefit the programs of LAJH. She has also offered expertise and advice in event planning. The Freemans lead by example as they demonstrate to their children and grandchildren the importance of giving back." The evening raised over $500,000 for LAJH's programs and services.



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VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood Story Consultant Guest Speaker at Writers' Group

The San Fernando Valley Branch of the California Writers Club (serving Los Angeles and Ventura counties) is pleased to welcome best-selling author and leading Hollywood story consultant, Dara Marks Ph.D., as the keynote speaker on Saturday, January 11 at 1 p.m., with a Zoom presentation entitled: "If It Doesn't Get Read, It Doesn't Get Sold."

Even the best stories can be overlooked, buried in the mountains of manuscripts that publishing and film industry readers tirelessly sift through. So, how do you ensure your work rises to the top heap?

To grab and hold a reader's attention beyond the second page requires more than a good story; it demands mastery of key techniques that transform your manuscript into a "can't-put-it-down" read. With over 30 years of experience, Marks will share actionable strategies to enhance readability and create unforgettable stories that get noticed—and remembered.

Author Dr. Dara Marks

Marks is the author of the bestseller, *Inside Story: The Power of the Transformational Arc*, which has inspired screenwriters, novelists, and playwrights around the world to engage more deeply and effectively in the creative writing process. As an educator, Marks is committed to the ideal that a culture speaks through its stories and that every writer's voice matters.

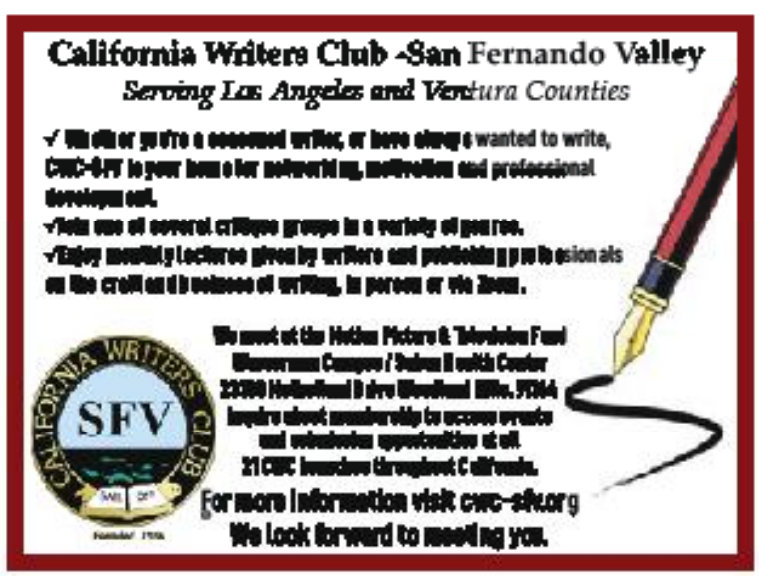
Her unique method of story analysis has earned her top ratings by Creative Screenwriting Magazine as the best consultant in the business - with her advice sought-after by major Hollywood studios as well as countless independent film and television writers, producers, and directors. Marks holds a doctorate degree in Mythological Studies and lives in Ojai, California with her husband.

Currently, Marks is working on her new book, *Engaging the Feminine Heroic*, and has just released a comprehensive online writing course: "The Inside Story Writer's Training Program" for which CWC members will receive a discount.

To learn more about Marks, visit: www.daramarks.com, and make sure to have your questions ready for the Q&A after the talk.

In-person Attendees: Mingle with other writers in the Saban Center at Motion Picture Television Fund, 23388 Mulholland Drive, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, and enjoy the presentation on a large, wide screen. In-person attendees do not need to register in advance. Members free. Guests pay $10 at the door. First visit free. Please arrive a few minutes early.

Zoom Attendees: All members of the CWC-SFV will receive a Zoom invitation to this presentation. Members of other CWC branches should contact Zoom host, Anat Wenick, by noon on January 10 at SFV.CWC@gmail.com for an invitation to register. Zoom guests may purchase admission at www.cwc-sfv.org by noon on Friday, January 10. After purchasing admission, guests will receive a Zoom invitation. Late requests unfortunately cannot be accommodated.



Devonshire PALS Bring Smiles to Other Kids With Toy Giveaway

Lakers star Lamar Odom helped Santa make wishes come true.

Families started lining up at 4 am for the toy giveaway.

By Mark Hovater

Hundreds of eager families lined up as early as 4 am on December 14 for the Devonshire PALS (Police Activity League Supporters) annual toy giveaway. Held at the LAPD Devonshire Grieg Smith Community Center, the event transformed into a holiday wonderland, filled with gifts, bicycles, electronics, and smiling faces.

A highlight of the day was the appearance of former Los Angeles Lakers star Lamar Odom, who took photos with children, signed autographed basketballs, and spread cheer.

Inside the toy room, children were greeted by rows of brightly wrapped gifts, from bicycles to small toys and high-tech gadgets. Each child could choose either one large toy or two smaller ones, with the assistance of LAPD cadets, who guided them through the selection process. Parents, meanwhile, waited outside, giving the kids a sense of independence and surprise. "The joy on their faces when they see the stacks of toys is truly heartwarming," said one cadet. "It's a beautiful experience to help make their holiday special."

With bikes being among the most popular items, they were snapped up quickly, adding to the excitement of the morning.

As Odom signed basketballs for his young fans, he reflected on the importance of giving back. "Seeing these kids happy makes it all worth it," he said.

Children picking their toys from a room full of donations.

Volunteers and PALS cadets who made it all possible.

PHOTOS: Mark Hovater

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Chatsworth Shines With Holiday Spirit

Grand Marshal Jerry England

Chatsworth Kiwanis President Kathie Donner

Lucia and Nick Montano of Los Toros

ROTC Flag Bearers

By Mark Hovater

The Chatsworth Holiday Parade returned in full festive splendor on Sunday, December 15, delighting crowds that lined Devonshire Street from Topanga Canyon Boulevard to Lurline Street.

Under sunny skies with a gentle breeze, families gathered to enjoy the community celebration, which featured vibrant marching bands, prancing horses, and floats decked out in holiday colors. Grand Marshal Jerry England, a beloved local cowboy, led the parade in a majestic horse-drawn carriage, capturing the spirit of the season and the area's deep connection to its Western roots.

Cheers and laughter filled the air as the parade made its way down the street, showcasing the community's diversity and holiday cheer. Local schools, organizations, and businesses joined the procession, spreading joy with their creative displays and lively performances. "It's a wonderful day for Chatsworth," said one spectator. "The spirit of togetherness and the festive atmosphere really bring everyone closer this time of year." The sense of community pride was evident as residents gathered to celebrate their shared traditions and enjoy the spectacle.

After the parade, festivities continued on Canoga Avenue with a lively holiday festival. The area buzzed with activity as families explored vendor booths, sampled treats from food trucks, and enjoyed live music from a talented local band. A dedicated kids' zone with bounce houses and activities kept younger attendees entertained, while adults mingled by the beer tent and browsed the handcrafted goods on display. The festival's vibrant energy made for a memorable afternoon, capped off by smiles, full hearts, and a strong sense of community connection.

LAPD Chief Jim McDonnel

Councilmember John Lee and his family

Assemblymember Pilar Shiavo and family

Cub Scout Pack 226

PHOTOS: MARK HOVATER

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AGE	PLAN G
65	146*
66	179
67	187
68	187
69	193**
70	197**
71	204**
72	211**
73	217**
74	224**
75	234**
76	247**
77	255**
78	264**
79	274***
80	274***
81	274***
82	274***
83	274***
84	274***
85	274***
86+	274***

Plan G is the Medicare supplement plan we are recommending for our new and existing clients. Since January 1, 2020, Plan G has been the **richest plan** that those new to Medicare can enroll in. Because of this, we are systematically moving all of our clients to Plan G.

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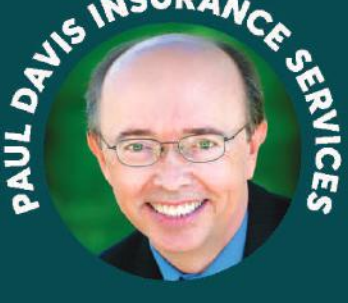
L.A. County rate changes through 1/1/25. (Compilation of rates from 10 carriers) Rates subject to change. "F" Plans are only available to those eligible for Medicare prior to 1/1/2020. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options. 5-10% couples discount available on some plans.

**Reflects $25/mo. new to Medicare Part B 12 month discount*
***Rates shown if you reside with another person over age 18*
****Rates if you start plan within 10 years of Part B effective date*



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REAL ESTATE

Rantz & Ravez from Dennis P. Zine

(Continued from page 4)

miles to cover. 8,774 sworn LAPD to patrol and investigate all REPORTED crimes. Is it a difficult or impossible task? That is the question. If you are looking for a challenging profession and have a clean record and in good physical shape, consider law enforcement. The LAPD, Los Angeles County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol (one in six CHP positions remain vacant) and most Southern California law enforcement agencies are actively recruiting both sworn and civilian personnel. Are you ready for a challenging career? The New Year may be the time for you to move forward with a new career. You only live once, why not move forward and enjoy it while you can. Preliminary LAPD Crime Stats for the year 2023 vs 2024.

	2023	2024
Homicide	327	268
Burglary	15188	14033
Rape	1502	1391
GTA	26604	24631
Robbery	8625	8550
Theft from Veh	30579	26424
Aggravated Assault	19874	17519
Larceny	35779	3534
Person Crimes	30328	27728
Prop Crimes	108150	100429

Reviewing reported crime numbers from 2023 vs 2024 it appears LAPD personnel did an OUTSTASNDING job addressing crimes in the City of Los Angeles in spite of some ANTI-LAPD elected members of the Los Angeles City Council who have done nothing to support the personnel who serve ALL the people of Los Angeles with pride and determination and who will continue "To Protect and Serve" into the future…..

What kind of Los Angeles City Council member would publicly state "F—K The Police" at a meeting? Ysabel J. Jurado, the newly elected representative of the 14th Council District, did just that. What an unusual way to start serving your community that is concerned about public safety and quality of life. Jurado is the newest member of the Council to join the Los Angeles City Council's "Crazy Train" of elected officials. Good luck if you reside in District #14. The other "Crazy Train" Councilmembers are Eunisses Hernandez from District 1, Nithya Raman from District 4 and Hugo Soto Martinez from District 13. This list will be expanded or reduced if and when those elected to serve our communities fail to support public safety for all the residential and business communities.

REAL ESTATE

Nightrek Report: What to See in the January Sky

By Neill Simmons

The highlight of January is the red planet, Mars, returning to our early night sky. Look low in the east to spot the planet. This will be visible with your naked eye. On Monday, the 13th, at 6 pm, the full Moon will cover Mars for approximately one hour and will reappear at 7 pm. This is an interesting and rare astronomical event called an occultation. However, it may be difficult to spot Mars because of the Moon's bright glare. Mars will be at its peak brightness on Wednesday, the 15th. During the month, Mars will move position from the constellation of Cancer into the constellation of Gemini. Viewed through binoculars, the white polar caps of Mars may be visible.

The Quadrantids Meteor Shower is considered among the top annual meteor showers and it peaks between January 3 and 4. During peak activity and under favorable conditions, this shower can produce about 100 shooting stars per hour. During the peak, the Moon will be only 11% illuminated which will make it easier to see the meteors.

Venus is still the brightest object in the night sky. Look westward. Early in the month, Venus and the Moon will appear to be very close together. This will be a dazzling sight. On Sunday, the 19th, Venus will be joined by Saturn in the west. Venus is the second brightest natural object in the night sky, after the Moon. It's often called the Morning Star or Evening Star because it's so visible in the morning and evening. It is the hottest planet in our solar systems with a surface temperature of about 900 degrees Farenheit.

The planet Jupiter has been outstanding in brightness and is overhead in January. Look on Friday, the 10th, when the Moon and Jupiter appear very close together. Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system, more than twice as massive as all the other planets combined. It's so big that over 1,300 Earths would fit inside it! Jupiter is the fastest spinning planet in our solar system, with a day lasting just under 10 hours. It is a gas giant made up of mostly hydrogen and helium, the same elements as our sun.

The first full Moon, the Wolf Moon, occurs on January 13. It is thought that January's full Moon came to be known as the Wolf Moon because wolves were more likely to be heard howling at this time. It was traditionally believed that wolves howled due to hunger during winter, but we know today that isn't accurate. Howling and other wolf vocalizations are heard in the wintertime to locate pack members, reinforce social bonds, define territory, and coordinate hunting.

At this time of the year, the Winter Hexagon is visible. The Winter Hexagon is not a constellation but an asterism which links the six brightest stars in each of six major constellations. The six stars are among the brightest in the northern hemisphere sky and why this formation is able to be identified despite its coverage of a large section of the sky. It links the stars of Rigel (Orion), Sirius (Canis Major), Procyon (Canis Minor), Pollux (Gemini), Capella (Auriga), Aldebaran (Taurus). It is considered one of the easiest formations to identify as it includes four of the eight brightest stars visible in the night sky.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 4. Griffith Park Observatory will be having their monthly Star Party on the front lawn from 2 pm until 9:45 pm. There will be telescopes available with guides to explore the sky. This event is FREE!

When not star-gazing, Neill Simmons is a Wealth Advisor with LPL Financial in Woodland Hills. If you have any astronomy or financial questions, he may be reached at (818) 936-2626 or email at neill.simmons@lpl.com.

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