

12-30-99

Our View

Simple human moments make us remarkable

The North Hills residents, just like everyone else, have been inundated with lists of the most important events and people of the last year, the last 100 years and the last 1,000 years.

But the events that make years memorable for most folks have little to do with the tragedies and triumphs that fill newspapers' front pages. Remembering the year gone by is more likely to conjure memories of simple, mundane events.

For thousands of families, 1999 will forever be the year a new child was born into the family. Births occur every day, but for new parents and new grandparents, the event makes the year special.

This year will be remembered by high school and college graduates in the Class of '99. A high school diploma is something most people have, but knowing that makes the accomplishment no less special for each student.

Along with graduations, 1999 will have been the year many young people got their first full-time jobs. It will have been a year in which many others were promoted, found their dream jobs or moved to new cities.

People will celebrate 1999 as the year of their wedding or the year of their retirement or the year they quit smoking.

The year will be remembered for losses, too. The death of a loved one, a divorce or a lost job will give people other kinds of reasons to remember the year.

Many of these events have occurred for centuries and will continue for centuries more, no matter what new scientific advances, natural disasters or wars occur.

The simple stuff of life and living will continue to swirl and flow around and through whatever events are considered remarkable by scholars and historians. Year after year, that continuing humanity is perhaps the most remarkable event of all.