



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

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Citrus College Superintendent/President Receives "Woman of the Year" Honor

GLENDORA - Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College, has been named a "Woman of the Year" by Senator Anthony Portantino (SD25). Dr. Perri was honored at a special ceremony in Pasadena on March 26 where 10 women were recognized for their contributions and accomplishments within the 25th Senate District. "This year's Women of the Year of SD25 are each exceptional and unique in their advocacy to help others," said Senator Portantino. "They represent the best in the district and it is my privilege to recognize their successes."

Dr. Perri was named Citrus College's superintendent/president in 2008 and has had a distinguished career in academia for over 30 years. "Dr. Perri was selected because of her outstanding leadership and commitment to student success," Senator Portantino said. "When we looked at what she has been able to accomplish at Citrus College, it was clear that Dr. Perri should be honored because she continues to ad-



Citrus College Board of Trustees celebrate Dr. Perri's honor as a Woman of the Year in Pasadena. Pictured, left-right: Dr. Patricia Rasmussen, vice president; Dr. Barbara Dickerson, president; Senator Portantino; Dr. Perri; Mrs. Joanne Montgomery, clerk/secretary; and Mrs. Susan Keith, member.

vance the college's stellar reputation as a leader in higher education," Portantino said.

As superintendent/president, Dr. Perri oversees a \$71 million operating budget and serves the communities of Azusa, Claremont, Duarte, Glendora and Monrovia. "It was a truly an honor to be selected as a Woman of the Year," said Perri. "Senator Portantino has been a cham-

pion for education and the empowerment of individuals through academic achievement. A goal we both support."

Dr. Perri previously served as president of Cuyamaca College in Rancho San Diego. She also held the position of vice president of instruction at San Diego Mesa College, dean of instruction/career education at Mt. San Jacinto College in Riverside County, and associate dean of academic affairs at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York.

"Dr. Perri's strong desire to see students succeed is inspirational," said Dr. Barbara Dickerson, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "The fact that she was recognized by Senator Portantino with this honor speaks volumes about her leadership and the contributions she has made to Citrus College and the San Gabriel Valley. Dr. Perri's direction and service to the institution, the communities we serve, and especially to our students, is invaluable."

degree in health education, Dr. Perri earned an additional master's degree in organizational development and a doctorate in human and organizational development. Later, Dr. Perri completed Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education and Cornell University's Community College Administrative Leadership Institute.

"I am a product of a community college, and I believe in the transformative nature and power of our nation's community colleges," Perri said. "It is a privilege to be in a leadership role at Citrus College, a nationally recognized community college which is supported by a dedicated faculty, caring staff and a visionary Board of Trustees."

After earning an associate degree in dental hygiene, a bachelor's degree in dental health education and a master's



Dr. Geraldine M. Perri receives the Woman of the Year honor from Sen. Anthony Portantino (SD25), who recognized 10 women as honorees on March 26.

Azusa Gets Its Own Education Foundation



Members of the Azusa Leaders for Learning Education Foundation board at their community kick-off event at Couwami Asian Fusion Restaurant in Azusa (from L to R): Diana Williams, Member; Maricela Cuevas, Chair; Gabriella Arellanes, Member; Yolanda Rodriguez Peña, Cheryl Kohorst, Treasurer; Linda Kaminski, Member; Adrian Greer, Member; and Mary McKenrick, Secretary

By Jorge V. Rosales

AZUSA - At its Board of Trustees meeting of Tuesday, February 21, 2017, the Azusa Unified School District publicly introduced the members of the newly created Azusa Leaders for Learning Education Foundation.

The Azusa Leaders for Learning Foundation Board members is made up of parents, community members, one representative of the AUSD Board of Trustees, and the AUSD Superintendent:

- Maricela Cueva, Chair
- Yolanda Rodriguez Peña, Vice-Chair, AUSD Board of Trustees
- Mary McKenrick, Secretary
- Cheryl Kohorst, Treasurer
- Gabriela Arellanes, Member
- Adrian Greer, Member

- Daysi Hernandez, Member
- Linda Kaminski, Member, AUSD Superintendent
- Joe Rocha, Member, Azusa Mayor
- Diane Williams, Member

The ALFLF vision is that all Azusa Unified School District students should have equitable access to a 21st Century learning experience that offers them a competitive advantage to pursue their objectives for college, careers, and active civic participation.

The ALFLF supports programs and activities that maximize academic achievement and educational enrichment for students; resources that support teachers and students in expanding learning opportunities; and scholarships to assist students pursuing post-secondary education.

The ALFLF's mission in or-

der to achieve their vision is to lead a community-wide partnership supporting educational excellence, innovation, enrichment, scholarships, and hands-on learning experiences in the arts, sciences, technology, and social development.

The ALFLF had its community kick-off event on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the Couwami Asian Fusion restaurant in Azusa. Their vision, purpose, and mission were presented to members of the community, including business owners. Its board members were also introduced and their first fundraiser took place that evening consisting of raffles, the establishment of a "handbag" prize bingo, and the opportunity for businesses to be part of the Founding Business Club with a \$1000 donation; three businesses, including Athens Services and Cardinal Laboratories, stepped up to the challenge.

For more information and questions about the ALFLF go to AzusaEdFoundation.org.

Duarte Unified And VH1 Save The Music Celebrate Music In Our Schools Month With All-District Band Showcase



Rafael Arenas, Rich Torres, Dr. Allan Mucerino, Reyna Diaz, Jaclyn Rudderow and students attend the Duarte Unified School District and VH1 Save The Music host All-District Band Showcase at Duarte High School on March 21, 2017 in Duarte, California.

DUARTE - Duarte USD's commitment to music and the arts was on display at the 3rd annual All District Band Showcase. Over 500 student musicians from every elementary, Northview, and DHS came together on March 21, 2017, to perform before a standing-room-only crowd of proud family and friends at the Duarte High School gym. Conducting the show were Band Directors: Rich Torres, Cuyler McDonald and Rafael Arenas.

Also there to celebrate was Jaclyn Rudderow, Program Director of the VH1 Save the Music Foundation, which has granted \$175,000 in instruments to the elementary programs at all five district schools in the last two years.

Because of their generosity and that of our other committed partners like the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, Arts for All and Duarte Education Foundation, all Duarte USD students in grades 5-

12 have an opportunity to learn how to play an instrument.

Superintendent Mucerino shared with the audience prior to the grand finale performed by all of the band students together, his personal thanks to Rudderow and the VH1 Save the Music Foundation for their support which has been instrumental in growing and sustaining music education in Duarte USD. As well as bravo to all of the talented students for a wonderful performance.

Community Articles Are Welcome

We are seeking articles, photos, and news event items for future issues of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner. Information can be sent to SGExaminer@aol.com. We request that articles be in Word format while photos be in jpeg.

Baldwin Park Unified Students Proceed to Final Round of Culinary Competition

BALDWIN PARK – Three culinary arts students from Baldwin Park High School will demonstrate their cooking skills by creating two classic French dishes in the final round of the Careers through Culinary Arts Programs (C-CAP) competition at 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 28 at Mission College in Sylmar.

Senior culinary arts students Kingsley La Mig, Luis Cervantes and Steven Silva, who are among 40 competitors in the event, are challenged with making chicken chasseur with tourné potatoes and a hunter's sauce, as well as crepes with pastry cream and chocolate sauce. Two plates of each will be required, one for presentation and one for tasting.

C-CAP is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on preparing students for a future in the restaurant and hospitality industry. The cooking competition is a timed contest that involves composing French dishes to demonstrate the students' culinary, safety, sanitation and presentation skills.

This is Baldwin Park Unified's first time competing in the contest.

"This is a great demonstration of the strength of Baldwin Park Unified's career-oriented educational pathways," Superintendent Froilan N. Mendoza said. "We are so proud of our students for their phenomenal success."

For qualifying for the final round, the students will receive scholarships during an awards



Baldwin Park Unified students work diligently to prepare a classic French Omelet and a tomato, cucumber and bell pepper salad. They were judged by Careers through Culinary Arts Programs criteria based on timing, execution, technique, taste and overall presentation.

breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, May 1 at the Jonathon Club in downtown Los Angeles.

Scholarships typically range from \$2,500 to a full ride at a culinary institute, such as

Johnson & Whales, Monroe College and The Arts Institutes. Last year, 33 finalists won \$770,000, with the largest scholarship awarded at \$121,000 for Johnson & Whales.

Prior to each competition stage, students participate in a practice session to become familiar with the recipe. They work closely with culinary teachers and practice individually to prepare. The preliminary round occurred March 4, with students executing specific knife cuts, creating a French omelet and a tomato, cucumber and bell pepper salad. They were judged on timing, precision of cuts, technique, taste and presentation.

The three students are concurrently enrolled in the Baldwin Park Adult and Community Education culinary program, overseen by Chef Jeff Palmer.

Assistance League of Pasadena to Host Coffee and Informative Gathering

PASADENA - Assistance League of Pasadena is holding a Prospective Member Coffee at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 28, 2017, at its chapter office located at 820 E. California Boulevard in Pasadena.

Assistance League of Pasadena is an active, dedicated, diverse group of individuals. It is a chapter of Assistance League, a national non-profit organization formed in 1935. Over 26,000 member volunteers in 120 chapters nationwide operate community programs that impact more than 1.5 million people each year.

The Pasadena chapter has been serving the needs of the Pasadena community since 1941. It has five major philan-

thropic programs, and these programs are supported through membership donations, grants, and the chapter's thrift shop (Treasure Fair). Membership is open year round to both residents and non-residents of Pasadena, and informational coffees are held throughout the year to provide an opportunity to learn more about the organization.

Interested individuals must RSVP by contacting the Assistance League of Pasadena office at 626-449-2068 or alpasadena@sbcglobal.net. To learn more about the organization's philanthropic programs and thrift shop, please visit www.pasadena.assistanceleague.org/

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Improving Civil Service Accountability

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Board of Supervisors voted to review the civil service hearing process to ensure Los Angeles County employees are held to the highest standards of trustworthiness, especially if they are responsible for public safety or serve vulnerable populations.

Acting on a motion by Board Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, the Board called for analyzing whether civil service rules should be amended to allow the discharge, reassignment, or other discipline of employees who have made false statements, misrepresentations and omissions of material facts in internal investigations. It will also assess whether to keep track of different classifications of employees who should be held to a higher standard of honesty in the workplace.

"We are committed as a Board to maintaining a diverse and skilled workforce dedicated to serving our residents with integrity, courtesy and excellence," Board Chair Ridley-Thomas said during the Board meeting. "If there is a question of whether the

disciplinary systems here in our County are effective enough, we have an obligation to address any gaps in a manner that is fair and transparent while, at the same time, honoring and respecting employee rights."

"County residents should be able to put their faith in the trustworthiness and honesty of all County employees, most especially those who are responsible for public safety and where lives are at stake," Supervisor Kuehl said. "The motion will provide the Board of Supervisors with the tools we need to hold our employees accountable if they violate that trust and lie in internal investigations."

Several people who attended the Board meeting to testify in support of the motion expressed concern over recent events involving County employees. Last month, former Sheriff Lee Baca was convicted of making false statements, obstruction of justice and conspiracy in connection with a federal investigation into excessive use of force at County jails. This coincided with the filing of assault charges against Probation officers in connection with the videotaped beating of a 17-year-old at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar. Days later, a judge ordered four social workers to stand trial in connection with the torture and murder of 8-year-old Gabriel Fernandez in Palmdale.

Daniel Heimpel, publisher of The Chronicle of Social Change, an online publication with a focus on child welfare and juvenile justice, noted existing civil service rules led to the reinstatement of one of the social workers fired in connection with the

Gabriel Fernandez case. He told the Board, "What you're doing today, in terms of trying to create a transparent and accountable system, not only helps (social) workers do their job better but it will also help protect the children."

The County's Inspector General for the Sheriff's Department, Max Huntsman, blamed a "dysfunctional discipline system" for hampering the department's ability to fire a certain deputy who has admitted to falsifying hundreds of police reports. "Civil service reform is a critical part of repairing that process," he told the Board.

Merrick Bobb, the Board's former Special Counsel monitoring the Sheriff's Department, said the motion is "necessary for expanding accountability and for increasing transparency... (which are) critically important to maintain the integrity of the system."

Alberto Retana, president of the nonprofit Community Coalition, said, "Failure to hold public servants accountable for misconduct threatens public trust and confidence in local government."

A year ago, Board Chair Ridley-Thomas and Supervisor Kuehl filed a separate motion to evaluate the selection, qualifications, training and responsibilities of Civil Service Commission members, hearing officers and department advocates. In response to that motion, the County's Chief Executive Office submitted a report listing several recommendations, including providing more training and offering an increase in compensation to attract a larger pool of candidates.

Deputy Involved Shooting in Valinda

By George Ogden

VALINDA / WEST COVINA - Around 1 p.m. deputies responded to a location at Aileron Avenue and Maplegrove Street in Valinda which borders West Covina.

During the process of attempting to arrest three gang members, a deputy discharged a weapon. There were no injuries; however no information has been released as to why the weapon was fired.

Information that had been released stated that the three gang members were armed. All three have been detained and there is an ongoing investigation on both the shooting and

the arrest of the gang members.

The names of the suspects were not released. All three suspects are males and there's no further information that is being released by the sheriff's department at this time.

When the shooting took place, this initiated a huge police response from both the Sheriff's Department and West Covina Police Department. The area was closed off for a short period of time and after the suspects were in custody, the area was opened up again to the public. There were no injuries reported during the entire incident.

City Releases Budget Survey for Community Feedback

WEST COVINA - The City of West Covina is seeking feedback from its residents, property owners, and business owners regarding budget priorities for the next fiscal year (2017-2018). The City of West Covina operates on a fiscal year budget running from July 1 through June 30 annually. The budget is adopted annually by the City Council.

While presenting a balanced budget is one of the primary responsibilities of the City Manager and staff, the document needs to reflect the community's priorities on how money is spent. What services and programs should be a priority for next year's budget? What is important to the community in West Covina?

An online survey titled, "2017-2018 City of West Covina Budget Survey" is posted on the City's website at www.westcovina.org/budget. Individuals are encouraged to complete the survey online by Tuesday, April 18th for feedback to be shared with the City Council at the upcoming Community Budget Workshops. For those individuals that prefer to complete the survey by hand, printed copies of the survey are also available at West Covina City Hall, the West Covina Senior Center, Cameron Community Center, and the West Covina Maintenance Yard.

In addition to the online survey, community members may participate in two Community Budget Workshops that will be held in the West Covina City Council Chambers located at 1444 West Garvey Avenue on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30pm and Monday, May 8th at 6:30pm. As part of a continued commitment to increase transparency and provide data in an easily accessible, user-friendly format, the City of West Covina lists Budget and Financial Reports for the past five years on the City's website at <http://westcovina.org/budget>. Detailed information about current warrant and wire register expenditures for the City of West Covina are also included on this webpage.

For more information about the City of West Covina Budget contact Christa Buhagiar, Finance Director for the City of West Covina, at (626) 939-8463 or visit us on the web at www.westcovina.org.

California State Assembly Passes Resolution Commemorating Legacy of Jackie Robinson

SACRAMENTO - The California State Assembly passed a resolution recognizing the 70th Anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in a major professional sport. Robinson, a Pasadena native, made baseball history when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in April, 1947.

"Jackie Robinson is a true hero who continues to influence our lives 70 years later by his actions and words both on and off the field," said Assemblyman Chris Holden. "With this resolution the legislature recognizes the bravery he exhibited, and the sacrificial hardship he and his family endured, during a time in our country's history of racial

turmoil and inhuman discrimination."

Robinson was born January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia and was raised in Pasadena, California. A stellar athlete, young Robinson excelled not only in baseball but was a lettered athlete in football, track and field. He also played on the varsity squad of each of these sports while attending UCLA.

While as a commissioned second lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II, he refused to sit in the back of an unsegregated military that resulted in his denial of combat duty. Consequently, he was acquitted and received an honorable discharge and later assigned to Camp

Breckinridge, Morganfield Kentucky where he worked as an Army athletics coach and was subsequently encouraged to try out for the Kansas City Monarchs, a Negro National League team.

Upon joining the Dodgers in 1947, Robinson led the Dodgers to win 6 pennants and the World Series in 1955. Robinson, after his historic career, became a vocal champion for civil rights and other social and political causes by joining the NAACP and helping establish the African-American Freedom National Bank.

"Jackie Robinson will continue to be an inspiration for generations to come," said Holden.

Covina Man in Standoff with SWAT After Shooting at Passing Cars and Responding Deputies

By George Ogden

COVINA - Around 9:30 AM, dispatchers for the Covina Police Department as well as the Sheriff's Department received numerous calls of an individual shooting at automobile drivers near the intersection of Lark Ellen and Cypress. As Sheriff's deputies approached the area, the gunman fired on them. A call went out as shots fired and a large police response was then initiated by the Sheriff's and surrounding agencies including their SWAT teams.

The Sheriff's deputies could not return fire because they did not have a positive ID on the location of where the shots came from. Soon they saw the suspect retreating to a home on Roxburgh just north of Cypress.

As law enforcement surrounded the area, residents were evacuated for their protection. Streets were blocked off. During the entire incident, he was seen live on Facebook, including him shooting at and trying to kill the deputies. It appeared as though he may

have been on drugs. His speech was slurred. He didn't make sense. At one time he repeated what some believe was his gang name. At times he was shown with a gun under his chin and talking all kinds of garbage.

The SWAT team wanted to initiate a safe resolution for the suspect; however, neutralizing the situation was not removed from the table as a resolution. The suspect was identified as Sean Vasquez, 20 of Covina.

As negotiators attempted to do everything they could to have a peaceful resolution. They allowed family members to talk to him over a cell phone. Vasquez attempted to tell law enforcement to back off and he would come out, however backing off was not an option. He was basically told the best way to survive this is to peace-

fully come out on his own. Just before 1:00 PM, Vasquez surrendered to deputies. He was charged with assault with a deadly weapon on peace officers, which could be elevated to attempted murder of peace officers as well as attempted murder on the drivers that he shot at. Presently, his bail is set at \$1 million. It is expected that this will change to a no bail hold.

It had been stated by neighbors that there had been issues with him in that particular house in the past.

Family members had made comments that they hope that he will get the needed help that he needs. They stated he was really a good guy.

There were no reports of fatalities or injuries from the shooting.

San Gabriel Valley Examiner
INFORMATION GUIDE

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Brown's Gas Tax Squeaks Through ... And Next Up ...

As the new gas tax proposal seemed to stall out last week, democrats scrambled to find the votes, and in some cases, buy the votes necessary to pass the \$52 billion tax increase. Having found or coerced those votes, the additional 12 cent a gallon gas increase will go into effect on November 1st; new vehicle registration fees will begin to rise in January 2018. Zero emission vehicles will take effect in July 2020. Diesel fuel will rise 20 cents a gallon beginning in November.

I haven't communicated much with my assembly representative the last few years because of his antics reported regularly in the newspapers. I thought once he was retired we might be able to get a little representation and a few things accomplished that were good for the people in the 48th assembly district. Generally, the 48th is a district that ranges from the tail of Monrovia, through Duarte over to Glendora and south to West Covina.

Let me take you for an historical walk through my piece of the world. I work in the education system and over the last 8 years with the "recession" I watched families check their kids out of school to go to other areas to move in with relatives because both mom and dad had lost their jobs. They had tried every which way to find work to pay the mortgage and other bills and put food on the table and finally had to make that adjustment in their lives.

I watched as the numbers in the free and reduced lunch program climbed an additional 10%, a good indicator of family resources. Eligibility for this program is income based, has not declined and should give you a pretty good picture of where many families stand today in this economy that has become a survival of the fittest test.

These families thinking things were finally getting better, are now faced with a 43% tax increase in gas costs and will be hit again when they go to register the cars at renewal time after Janu-



Lois M. Shade
Former Mayor of Glendora

ary. So much for the democrats' constant voice of concern over the working poor when the democrats are the ones that legislated this last hit on low and now middle income people.

How can the democrats continue to raise the cost of the necessary items for a families survival and proclaim they are the party supporting the working class and doing what's best for them? And our Governor Brown continues to dump money into the bullet train, known as the train to nowhere. A cost estimate now at \$100 billion. Wouldn't that money at this time be better spent on potholes rather than creating more burden on the poor and average taxpayer?

You think that is the end of it? Not quite.

Glendora Council Member, Judy Nelson has been out talking to the community about MS4, the federal mandate that requires cities in L.A. County to capture 85% of stormwater run-off in the first 24 hours of the storm. And, right now it is only L.A. County, an experiment supported by the Regional Water Board and U.S. EPA that will cost \$20 billion to implement with ongoing additional costs for maintenance.

Nelson says, "In order to reach compliance, most cities [in LA County] must install porous streets, large retention basins and complex monitoring/treatment systems. In the San Gabriel Valley, cities already capture, infiltrate and reuse 95% of the stormwater runoff in regional settlement basins. We question

the value of building new infrastructure within each of our cities rather than continuing to use the infrastructure that is already in place and working reliably and efficiently."

Given the numbers estimating the 10 and 20-year costs, our L.A. County cities will go bankrupt trying to implement this requirement. Knowing the financial condition of our cities, looking for other options, Nelson asks, "Where will the \$20 billion to pay for the stormwater regulations [and infrastructure] come from?"

Yes, you guessed it. The Democrats in Sacramento already have a plan and it is another tax. This time a property tax.

Council Member Nelson points out the people of California passed Prop 218 that required a vote by the people on any increase in taxes, fees and assessments excluding trash, household water and sewage. To circumvent this voter-approved tax protection act, Sacramento has a bill pending by Sen. Robert Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) SB 231, re-defining sewer service to include stormwater. This would allow local governments to charge property owners for construction and operation of these mandated stormwater management experimental programs without voting on that new tax.

The estimates on this new property tax should SB 231 be approved by Sacramento legislators are between \$1,200 to \$1,400 a year. And, yes, it would be added to your annual property tax bill you receive each year from LA County tax collector and it would be only those of us who live in L.A. County who will be subjected to this annual increase.

If this U.S. EPA "experiment" supported by the Regional Water Board is deemed successful, other counties in California would then be asked to go through the same procedure.

I am asking myself just about every day now ... is all this the beginning of the end of Prop 13?

WOW! New Taxes. Good or Bad? What Next? Should We Thank the Government for Taking Our Money?

We are being taxed many times and we really don't have control over it. Our government bureaucracy is out of control. I have to laugh when I see tax measures on a ballot. Do the people really know what they're voting for? Many of them don't have a clue. Good example is the tax initiative that passed for our sales tax to be increased to help fight homelessness. So what does that mean? Do you really think that this sales tax increase will go to help the homeless issues or pad the paychecks of those in charge? Will we ever have an accounting of these new funds and taxes?

I hear that gas taxes are going up and Gov. Brown signed the necessary paperwork for it. Take a look at history; has it really helped any of our roads to be repaired? Basically this is an additional fine against seniors and lower income residents who drive, in my opinion. They can't afford these increases.

How about all the taxes we have paid in the past to build a freeway for the rich people. The diamond lanes were changed into FastTrac lanes that you pay for to drive in. What is wrong with this picture? It was supposed to help



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

alleviate traffic congestion on the freeways. What it did was dilute the carpool users to break away and use their own cars on the freeways, thus congesting the freeways more. Only the rich that can afford to pay this fee will use that part of the freeway that everyone else paid for. Good work Caltrans and our government.

I also hear that they are raising automobile registration fees a significant amount. Let's slam the faces of those people that are on fixed incomes into the ground. While we are at it, our government may as well go ahead and kick them while they are down. I have a friend who is a widow and 81 years old. She has a home that she has lived in for decades. She is on a fixed income and barely can make ends meet. When the

taxes started going up over the past years, her income did not. What little she gets on has allowed her to get a car, so she can get around to get doctor's care. Things have changed to where she is now in the red. Many years ago, when her husband was alive, they did a reverse mortgage. After her husband passed a few years ago, she was talked into refinancing a reverse mortgage to pull more money out on the equity. This was to do improvements to her home that were recommended. New roof, windows, paint, some necessary remodeling work and to clear up some type of home edition that had been built sometime back. Whatever happened with these improvements must have caused her property tax to go up. This lady has nowhere to go and she can't afford a high increase in property tax. She can afford to buy gasoline at times, which could limit her doctor's appointments and other necessities that she needs.

This is just a small example of what the government is actually doing in reality of life to seniors and those on fixed incomes.

"That's Just the Way it Is!"

ObamaCare Subsidies Rob the Middle Class

by Alieta Eck, MD

As the controversy rages between those Republicans who want full repeal and those who want to retain what might be "good" about ObamaCare, we are not asking the right questions. While they are arguing whether or not to keep the ObamaCare subsidies (or the equivalent as "tax credits"), is anyone asking what it is we are subsidizing?

Why has medical care in the United States gotten so expensive? Why did the cost of a hospital stay go from an average of \$17,000 in 2000 to \$33,000 in 2010, while the average length of stay declined? Why do our hospital stays cost three times more than in other industrialized countries?

The dirty little secret is that having insurance might be a guarantee that the insured pays MORE. And because deductibles have risen dramatically along with premiums, a family needs to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket before insurance kicks in. But how does this work?

Most insurance companies have networks of "preferred providers." One would assume that a "preferred provider" is a doctor or a lab that gives better rates, but the opposite is the case. As an example, one patient spent a day in the emergency room where the total bill came to \$12,000. The "preferred provider" rate brought the bill down to \$10,000, which happened to be that patient's deductible. Upon further scrutiny, the breakdown of the bill showed a lab fee of \$3,500—labs that would have cost less than 100 cash on the outside.

When the hospital patient ad-

vocate was queried, the answer came back, "Your insurance company negotiated \$10,000 and, since you have not met your deductible, you are bound to pay it. Paying the cash price is not an option." She acknowledged that this seemed unfair, but would not budge.

Another patient discovered that his insurance had lapsed and was given a cash price of \$75 for an office visit. Once insurance was restored, the submitted fee was \$275. Since he had not met his deductible, he was expected to personally pay the higher fee.

Since 92% of people will not incur more than \$5,000 per year in medical expenses, the middle class has been fleeced under ObamaCare in so many ways. Many patients have received subsidies. But this just means that taxpayers are forced to pay part of their premiums, and the patients are still stuck with those deductibles and the higher negotiated fees.

So what is really happening? Insurance premiums have soared, and the insurance companies love it. They keep a percentage of the bloated premiums for "operating costs." Hospitals are buying physician practices, and Medicaid and Medicare have agreed to pay the hospitals higher fees for the same service in the same location. No government official has been able to explain why.

The ratepayers and taxpayers are the "forgotten men" in our medical system. Hospital and Insurance executives are now commanding compensation that exceeds \$1 million. One CEO of a consolidated hospital system in central New Jersey receives \$9

million per year. What exactly does he do to merit this high salary? The usual reason for lavish executive pay is that the official brings lots of revenue into the business. The big hospital systems are businesses that profit massively at the expense of patients and taxpayers—although the excess might be called something other than profit if the hospital is tax-exempt (allegedly "nonprofit").

Our politicians are complicit in this heist, as last year insurance companies and hospitals were among the ten greatest contributors to the campaigns of legislators who allow this scam on the middle class to continue.

The best recommendation would be for patients with high deductibles to hide any connection with an insurance company and negotiate the best cash prices for services. Find a physician who is in no network and who can help navigate where to find cash-friendly sources of medicines, labs, and x-rays.

Patients with their doctors need to take control of medical care once again.

Dr. Alieta Eck graduated from the Rutgers College of Pharmacy and the St. Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. She studied Internal Medicine at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ and has been in private practice with her husband, Dr. John Eck, MD in Piscataway, NJ since 1988, affordablehealthinc.org. She has been involved in health care reform since residency and is convinced that the government is a poor provider of medical care.

"TIME JOCKEY" - Ranch Wealth

By Joe Castillo

RANCHO LOSS ... Between 1830 and 1846, some 8 million acres of California land passed through less than 800 grantees, Mexican land grant owners who were bestowed the large grants by the Mexican government. These were the Rancheros and they lived a life of privilege. The more land they owned, the more wealthy they were assumed to be. One example of the opulence of the Rancheros was the house of Don Bernardo Yorba. It had more than 30 rooms, and that didn't include rooms used for services used by blacksmiths, woolcoomers and seamstresses.

The Rancheros competed against each other to display their wealth and positions of power. When gold was discovered, the Rancheros were the only source of cattle and the

influx of prospectors increased the demand for beef. A head of cattle was selling for \$2-\$4 a head before the Gold Rush but the price soared \$20 - \$50 a head afterwards. The Rancheros thought they had a good thing going until someone figured out that it was cheaper to raise cattle in the San Joaquin Valley than to drive it north from Los Angeles. Between 1862 and 1864, a ruinous drought settled over the Cow Counties and 1-3 million heads of cattle died from the lack of water. The results were an overall drop in the total number cattle by 71% and 5 of every 6 land owners were tax delinquent.

The Land Act of 1851 forced rancho owners to pay previous unknown fees and taxes on their property. The act caused one out of 10 ranche-

ros to go bankrupt and the remainder not only had to pay the high tax but also had to prove their claims to the land and the legitimacy of the land grant itself. In many cases, the land owners were forced to sell their property in order to comply with the federal act of 1851. Prior to the Land Act of 1851, the Mexican government did not charge property tax to land owners. This allowed rancho owners to retain the income from their property and live a life of privilege. But the new United States tax requirements caused a new financial burden to the rancheros. With the loss of their primary source of income (cattle) and new land tax assessment, privately held ranchos began to disappear.

Rancho Los Alamitos, 2,600 acres in size, was advertised for \$152 in delinquent taxes. In 1864, lots were sold for \$2.52 to pay for delinquent taxes but in later years those same lots sold for two million dollars each. Rancho Santa Gertrudis, worth one million dollars, was lost on a \$5,000 debt. When all the dust settled, only 30 ranchos owned by the more established families were able to survive the transition from Mexican rule to the United States governance. With the demise of the ranchos, so too was the term Californios removed from daily conversation bringing on a new hierarchy of social status...

Joe Castillo is a freelance historical writer and can be reached at joeacastillo@aol.com

Letters to the Editor

Opinions Are The Writer's

George Ogden's Trumpcare vs Obamacare:

I really enjoy columns by George Ogden. Sometimes he is a wee bit off base.

He notes in his column TRUMP CARE vs OBAMA CARE that 100% of the Democrats--'who lead Congress' (??) voted against TTRUMP CARE which NEVER came up for a vote! Moderate Republicans were afraid that their constituents would lose health coverage and the 'Freedom Caucus' Republicans wanted a health plan that would cover basically nothing.

Another problem with Mr. Ogden's column is that he con-

fuses Obamacare with Medicare. I am a senior and pay \$104 a month out of my Social Security for Medicare and I have a Plan B that costs me nothing!

I am sorry that Mr. Ogden is having problems with his health care premiums. At least he has health insurance. Under Trumpcare--24 million people would lose coverage (Dr. Jane Orient would call this the free market working perfectly!)

The best health care plan--a single payer plan!

Mike Blumenthal
Lakewood

What Millennials Ought To Know

If you are—or care about—a millennial, someone between the ages of 18 and 35, here's something you may care to consider. Many millennial men—those age 26 and under—must register with the Selective Service. This applies to those native born and immigrants alike, regardless of status.

Failure to register is a violation of federal law and could mean a \$250,000 fine, a prison term or both.

While most young men are aware of this and register promptly, within 30 days of their birthdays, they may not recall all

the benefits registration can bring.

Registration is required for:

- Federal student loans and grant programs worth billions of dollars altogether
- Federal job training under the Workforce Investment Act
- Federal jobs or security clearance as a contractor
- U.S. citizenship for immigrants
- Driver's licenses in some places.

Some people even send in their registration information as early as age 17 years and 3 months. The Selective Service

System keeps the information on file, processes it automatically and sends an acknowledgment card.

What You Can Do

Fortunately, it's not difficult to do. Many high schools have volunteer registrars to assist students with signing up. In addition, millennial students and graduates can check block #22 on the federal FAFSA application or go online at www.sss.gov from a smartphone or computer. Registration forms are also available at any U.S. post office.

For further facts and to sign up, go to www.sss.gov. (NAPSI)

Fake News Regarding The US Consumer

From mainstream media outlets we hear the moans of critics who say our "consumer-driven" economy is slowing (because the consumer is "tapped out" from having too much household debt, or paying too much for housing, or saddled with student loans, or maxing-out credit cards, or being hooked on that "new car smell"). Yes, there are many over-extended families that are not prudent stewards of their finances; but current composite data reflects a healthy uptrend in consumer confidence, spending, and savings.

Consumer confidence is also high, but not overly ebullient; retail sales keep rising, despite all the doom and gloom surrounding mall traffic; and household debt levels have declined since 2010.

It is a widely-held belief that stock market corrections of 10% to 15% cause the consumer to hold fast to their purse strings while keeping a close eye on the daily fluctuations in the value of their 401(k), hoping that it doesn't become a 201(k). But quite frankly, the consumer is not deterred in any significant manner by short-term setbacks brought about by events beyond their control.

As it turns out, the stock market wasn't a barometer for consumer demand last year. The labor market and real estate market were displaying good strength during that period of stock market weakness. Most consumers

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

didn't get that rattled - since there were no glaring signs that the economy was stalling.

Spending as a whole may be at an all-time high, while household debt as a percentage of GDP is near a 10-year low. The low cost of money (due to super-low interest rates) and a big drop in the price of gasoline have had a materially positive effect on consumer behavior and now, with wage inflation returning, there is good reason to believe more gains are likely in store for the consumer and the economy.

Even as bank lending rates have climbed from 2.00% to 3.75% for those with outstanding credit, the Commerce Department announced recently that new home sales in February surged 6.1% (vs. January) to an annual rate of 592,000, significantly higher than economists' consensus estimate of 571,000. In the past 12 months, new home sales are at a seven-year high, running 12.8% higher than they were a year ago. The Fed's rate

increases aren't hurting home sales. Instead, consumers are likely sensing the Fed's intent to further raise interest rates so they're "getting off the fence" to secure low mortgage rates while they last.

There is growing evidence that 2017 is shaping up to be another solid year for the U.S. consumer's balance sheet, and this doesn't take into account potential positive catalysts from tax reforms that are now on a fast track (after the healthcare repeal and replace effort was scrubbed). The durable nature of our consumer-led economy will likely defy all the doomsayers.

Although GDP data will be revised lower due to a massive trade deficit in the first quarter of 2017, what defines much of the underlying health of the broad economy is whether job growth, wage growth, savings growth, home appreciation, and household debt are moving in the right direction. I would argue that they are. And I would also argue that the stock market agrees with this line of thinking. As much as the mainstream media appears to be trying to have us think otherwise, the U.S. consumer seems to be doing fine.

LIVE LOCAL, SHOP LOCAL - THIS IS THE TIME OUR MERCHANTS NEED US

I welcome your questions and comments:
kenherman46@hotmail.com

Your Money - Ask Julia

Note: Income tax due date this year is April 18, not April 15.

If you meet the qualifications, make sure you understand the tax ramifications of mortgage debt forgiveness, teachers' classroom expense deduction, secondary education tuition and fees deduction, state and local general sales tax deduction vs. state and local income taxes, and the energy credit. These tax advantages were extended through 2016, or even longer.

We really want to buy a house, but it's going to take us years to save up for a 20-percent down payment. Do you have any suggestions?

You don't need 20-percent down to buy a house. That will come as a surprise to over half of the people wanting to pursue the American Dream of homeownership, but thinking they must have a 20-percent down payment. There are so many loan programs available, and so many rates, and so many rules about use of gifted money. Then there's mortgage insurance and lender-paid mortgage insurance, impounds (aka escrow account), and conventional loan limits for each county in each state. Banks offer a limited selection; mortgage brokers and loan originators/loan officers offer a much larger selection. Before you start looking for a home, make sure you are pre-approved. You can go to this safe online link to apply for a home loan: <http://blink.mortgage/app/signup/p/allsourcemortgage/juliyoder>

My husband and I have to choose between saving for retirement and having life insur-



Julia Yoder
ance because we cannot afford both. What do you suggest?

Insurance companies are offering life insurance policies with cash-value accumulation potential that can be used while you are living! The tax advantages are incredible, too.

I have a small business with 15 employees. I cannot afford to "match" the employee's contributions. Is there a good retirement plan for us?

Yes, and it's possible to make it look like you are "matching." By having each employee invest in an IRA within a specific type of annuity, the insurance company backing the annuity is willing to give a percentage bonus on money put into that annuity for a specific number of years. There are guidelines and limitations, and it's relatively easy to set up.

My investment broker says I should have a more diversified investment portfolio - small cap, mid-cap, large-cap, bonds. Is this right? What should I do?

Diversification is important in order to help protect yourself against losses. I'd encourage you to go beyond a diversified investment portfolio. Consider an investment strategy with a more

diversified product portfolio. You probably already have a checking account for everyday expenses. You might have a savings account, CD, or money-market account for occasional, or emergency, expenses. But, do you have an IRA, or a Roth IRA? Do you have life insurance with living benefits like a cash value account?

How are Social Security benefits calculated, and is it better to start collecting at the youngest retirement age, or wait?

Your 35 highest-paid years in the workforce are used to calculate your Social Security benefits. There could be as much as an 8-percent annual increase in the amount you could receive for each year that you wait, up to age 70. Some take their chances that they will live long beyond what the chart for their life expectancy indicates, so they choose to start collecting earlier. There are different rules for divorcees who are using their ex's income history to qualify for Social Security benefits.

Ask Julia by email:
juliyoder@yahoo.com

This is your opportunity to simplify your life by having one professional working personally with you to coordinate your finances, investments, real estate, mortgage, insurance, retirement, and estate plans. CA Insurance 0C83859/Realtor 01238153/NMLS 248681/ Member: Nat'l. Ethics Assoc. Home loan application: <http://blink.mortgage/app/signup/p/allsourcemortgage/juliyoder>. Accident-Medical-Dental discount plans: CalStarBenefits.com/28485

Self-Driving Car Updates

Here is some news on self-driving vehicles:

- The need to regulate what constitutes a self-driving car is moving forward as states are working to establish regulations for the testing, use and sale of these vehicles. Michigan became the first state to sign legislation. Not surprising, Ford, General Motors, Google, Fiat Chrysler, Toyota, Uber and Lyft helped. This legislation allows for a car without a steering wheel or a brake pedal, and a person does not have to be in the front seat. Automakers are glad for a start but they prefer, of course, federal legislation rather than a state-by-state approach.
- The National Highway Traf-

fic Safety Administration or NHTSA asked manufacturers to submit a 15-point safety assessment to share what they were doing to ensure the physical safety of consumers as well as their privacy.

• NHTSA will interpret the "self-driving system" Google has created as "the driver" rather than human occupants of the vehicle. Naturally there are a lot of legal questions when it comes to self-driving vehicles because if anything goes wrong...who is responsible? It is difficult to "sue" a car or decide whose insurance must pay.

• Google's concern when it comes to safety of self-driving vehicles is the human element.

They informed NHTSA that if humans try to interfere with steering, acceleration, or braking it could be a hazard to safety. They prefer the human element be omitted completely from the equation.

We will continue to wait as the legislation is written and rewritten and meanwhile more and more advances into self-driving cars will come into play. Will this take months or years?

Certified Auto Specialists wants to be your GO-TO place! Feel free to call 626-963-0814 with any questions and we will be glad to help, or visit our website at CertifiedAutoCa.com

Hometown Service You Can Count On!

How Ethanol Can Impact Your Engine

When consumers fill their tanks at the gas station, they will see signs reading "may contain 10 percent Ethanol. However, many don't know what this means or how it can affect their engine performance. Ethanol-blended fuel has become standard in the United States, and the Environmental Protection Agency recently mandated an increase in the amount of ethanol added to fuel; meaning, it is even more important that consumers understand the pros and cons of Ethanol.

Ethanol is a biofuel distilled from corn and sugar that has many benefits, including reducing greenhouse emissions and lowering the cost of fuel at the pump.

However, ethanol-blended fuel can also have negative side effects on your car, boat and small engines, such as lawnmowers and snowblowers, over time. Some signs that ethanol is affecting your engine's performance include:

* Efficiency: Ethanol-blended fuel's lower energy efficiency may reduce fuel economy of your

engine.

* Stalling: Ethanol can cause engine stalling if the water in the ethanol separates from the gasoline and floods the engine. This problem is most likely in engines that sit unused for long periods of time.

* Corrosion: Ethanol can contribute to corrosion of fuel tanks and other components, and the risk is even greater with small engines with aluminum parts.

* Clogging: Ethanol can loosen debris in the fuel line that leads to clogs.

Fortunately, there are several easy things you can do to help protect your engine from ethanol-related side effects.

Treatment: Using a non-alcohol based fuel stabilizer and treatment product, such as STA-BIL 360 Performance, can help protect gas-powered engines. A stabilizer may be especially beneficial for engines that sit for long periods without starting. Stabilizers are designed to absorb the excess water that may be present if ethanol begins to separate from gasoline and protect the in-

sides of the fuel tank and parts.

Turn it on: Start up your stored classic car, boat and seasonal equipment, such as lawn mowers or snow blowers a few times during the off-season months to make sure they are running smoothly.

Tank it up: Cars, lawn mowers, snow blowers, boats, and other gasoline-powered tools and vehicles should keep their tanks at 95 percent full with fuel, and add a fuel stabilizer if they are to sit unused for a long time. This strategy helps prevent condensation while allowing room for expansion in warmer weather.

Trust your source: Buy fuel from a reputable gas station. A station with a quick turnover of their products helps ensure that the gasoline is fresh.

Test the lines: Rubber fuel lines dating from before the mid-1980's should be inspected. These lines may not be compatible with ethanol-blended fuel, and may need to be replaced.

For more information about protecting your engine, visit www.sta-bil.com. (NewsUSA)

DMV Accepts U.S. Passport Card for New Driver License and Identification Card Applications

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announces the acceptance of a valid U.S. passport card when applying for a first time driver license (DL) or identification card (ID). The DMV included the U.S. passport card in the list of approved legal presence documents starting on April 3, 2017.

"We added the U.S. passport card to offer more options for our customers," said DMV Director Jean Shiimoto. "The passport card is secure, more convenient, and less expensive than a passport book and it will help new driver license and ID card applicants establish their legal presence."

Millions of people have applied for and received a U.S.

passport card from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs since they became available in 2008. The verification process and security features in the card are similar to a passport book, which the DMV currently accepts. The DMV determined that the passport card is a readily available and secure document that will help in establishing the applicant's legal presence.

First-time driver license applicants must make an appointment before visiting a DMV field office. Walk-ins are only accepted at Driver License Processing Centers.

The DMV has a helpful webpage that features the requirements for driver license and ID card applicants. To apply for

an original driver license or ID card, customers must complete a Driver License or Identification Card Application form (DL 44), give a thumb print, have their picture taken, provide their social security number, and verify their birth date, legal presence, and California residency.

The DMV reminds all new DL and ID card applicants that they must provide proof of California residency. The residency requirement law went into effect July 1, 2016. For more information about the residency requirement visit DMV website.

For more information about the U.S. passport card and how to apply, visit the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs website.

Stop Pests This Spring With These Safe, Simple Steps

Spring is here, and that means not only getting a jump on your cleaning, but also having a reason to check all areas of your house and garage for signs of pests that might have made themselves at home over the winter.

Take a tour through your house and try these simple steps suggested by Kari Warberg Block, pest prevention expert and founder of EarthKind and Stay Away natural pest-prevention products for a few pest-proofing techniques for each room of your house

* Outside: The best defense is a good offense when it comes to protecting the outside of your home from pests. Inspect the exterior of your house and patch any cracks or other openings that may have developed over the winter.

* Living room: Keep ants from becoming unwanted guests in your living room by vacuuming the entry/living room areas thoroughly to get rid of any crumbs, and clean up any sweet, sugary

pests which are the number one culprit for attracting ants in this area. Also, try a non-toxic ant repellent such as Stay Away Ants pouches. All Stay Away products are made in the USA from essential oils and plant fibers, so they are eco-friendly and have no known risks associated with use in the home.

* Kitchen: Use natural ingredients to keep your kitchen clean and repel rodents and other pests. Be sure to clean under refrigerators, stoves, and sinks because these are the areas where rodents frequently make their nests. Dog food is the number one attractant to hungry rodents. Try using a plant-based Stay Away Rodent repellent pouch, and you may avoid becoming one of the 21 million American homes invaded by rodents each winter (according to the National Pest Management Association). After pest-proofing your kitchen, proceed to the pantry, where moths might try to make themselves at home. Prevent problems by storing

food in airtight glass, metal, or plastic containers; cleaning and checking packages for signs of holes; and placing a non-toxic Stay Away Moths pouch nearby.

* Bedroom and Closet: Moths also can consider closets a place to call home, but a Stay Away Moths pouch can keep them at bay. In the bedroom, the non-toxic Stay Away Spiders repellent offers a similar strategy. After vacuuming to remove any existing webs, use the repellent to prevent additional infestations.

* Garage and Basement: These areas can harbor a variety of pests. To keep them out, avoid storing items in cardboard boxes, which can attract rodents (they use cardboard to build their nests) as well as cockroaches (they like to feast on the glue). Also, repair any leaky pipes to prevent the development of mold and moisture.

Visit earthkind.com for more ideas for safely pest-proofing your home. (NewsUSA)

Around the Valley & Senior News

AZUSA

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Do you have some extra time to spare? Are you a good driver? The Azusa Senior Center has a great volunteer opportunity for you! The Azusa Senior Center is currently recruiting volunteer drivers to deliver lunches to our homebound seniors in the city of Azusa between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Lynda Prewitt for more information at (626) 812-5204, ext. 5303.

TOPS Meeting

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) #950 Azusa has been serving the San Gabriel Valley since 1967 and has successfully supported and assisted men and women in their pursuit to lose weight. Through group support to start living the good life by eating healthy and doing exercise.

TOPS is a non-profit weight loss group which meets weekly every Thursday at 9:00AM to 11:00AM at Soldano Senior Village in their meeting room in Azusa. There is no obligation, all visitors are welcome.

For more information, call Norm Klemz, 626-967-8829

ARCADIA

Kid's Night Out - Spring Fun!

Join us at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Huntington Drive, Arcadia, 6-11pm on Friday, April 14, for some sweet fun. Kid's Night Out provides kids a night of fun and play so mom and dad can enjoy an evening out or a quiet evening at home. The Arcadia Recreation Staff and Volunteers offer dinner, themed games, supervision and a movie for children ages 4 and above. All activities will be geared toward elementary school children; anyone younger must be potty trained. Accommodations cannot be made for special dietary needs. The cost is \$22.00 per child and also includes snacks and beverages. Pre-registration is mandatory. Registration for Kid's Night Out can be done online at ArcadiaCA.gov by fax, 626.821.4370 or by coming into the Recreation Office, 375 Campus Drive, Arcadia. For more information please call 626.574.5113

Bingo And Lunch For Seniors

Arcadia Senior Services is having a fun filled Brunch and BINGO event on Friday, April 21 starting at 10am. It will take place at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia. The cost is \$10 and includes; breakfast, 10-pack of game cards, and prizes. Professional BINGO equipment will be used. The event starts out with a delicious breakfast casserole, fruit, muf-

fin, potatoes and juice. BINGO will start following the meal. Gift cards will be awarded to the lucky winners, the last game of "black out" being worth \$50. Daubers are available for \$1. This program is for individuals age 50 and over. Registration is currently underway at the Arcadia Community Center. For additional information please call Arcadia Senior Services 626.574.5130.

Orchid Hobbyists Monthly Meeting

San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists welcomes you to our April 20 Monthly Meeting at the L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia. Judging at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Carol Buele, subject will be The Tokyo Dome Show. Refreshments. All are invited!

Arcadia Senior Card Club Looking For New Members

The Arcadia Senior Card Club is accepting new members. Arcadia residency is not required. Play contract bridge or Pinochle. The group meets at the Assistance League Community House, 100 So. Santa Anita Avenue every Monday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Lunch is provided for a nominal fee or bring your own lunch.

The group is open to men and women 50 or older. The annual dues are \$5.00. For more information call 626-281-6771.

COVINA

Volunteer Your Gift Of Music

Volunteer Services of Citrus Valley Health Partners is looking for volunteers to share the gift of music with the patients, families and staff. If you sing or play an instrument and have a passion for bringing peace, comfort and joy to others please call Tiffany Ramirez, Director of Volunteer Services at (626) 925-6237 or email at tramirez@mail.cvhp.org to start the application process.

Blood Pressure Checks

Health Care Partners will provide a medical assistant to do free blood pressure checks. No appointment needed. **Every 2nd Tuesday** of every month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information call the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.

DUARTE

Meals on Wheels

Eligible seniors can receive a hot lunch and cold dinner plate delivered each weekday, or seven frozen meals delivered once a week by YWCA Intervale Senior Services. For more information, please contact the Duarte Senior Center at 357-3513 or Intervale at (626) 214-9465.

Hot Lunches at

Senior Center

The Senior Center serves hot lunches Monday through Friday to individuals over 60 years, or the spouse of someone over age 60, and must check in by 11:45 a.m. for lunch. Reservations are requested by calling 357-3513, 24 hours in advance, and 48 hours, in advance, for a choice day. The suggested donation is \$2. The Duarte Senior Center is located at 1610 Huntington Drive.

Alzheimer's Safe

Return Registration

Safe return is a service of the Alzheimer's Association to help identify, locate and return Alzheimer's victims who wander and become lost. The one time registration includes identification items, preventative information, membership in the Alzheimer's Association, and participation in a nationwide search system. Call the Duarte Senior Center at 357-3513 for an appointment.

GLENDORA

Regional Food Bank Distribution Program

The La Fetra Center and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank invites SENIORS (Ages 60+) to participate in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Current Food Bank participants can receive a FREE food kit once per month which contains items such as canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, dry milk, cereals, and related products.

Participants must meet the following income guidelines to be eligible: one person household income must not exceed \$1,211 per month and a two person household income must not exceed \$1,640 per month. You must provide income verification and a photo ID with birthdate at your first visit. The La Fetra Center distribution takes place on the **Fourth Tuesday of Every Month** from 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. For additional information, please call the Center at (626) 914-8235.

Alzheimer's Peer Support Group

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's can be frustrating, challenging, and sometimes distressful. This peer support group is designed to share experiences, coping strategies, information, and ideas with each other, and to offer understanding and encouragement to one another. We meet the **2nd Thursday of each month** from 6:30-9:30 pm at Glenkirk Church, 1700 Palopinto Ave., Glendora, in Room #11. We caregivers look forward to lifting each other up as we journey through this season of life. For more info, visit glenkirkchurch.org or call Glenkirk's church office at (626) 914-4833.

Glendora After Stroke Center

A non-fee program for stroke survivors and their families. This supportive program offers re-learning (reading, writing, speech), caregiver support, current events, card games, snacks, resocialization, exercise, music, speakers, day field trips, and stroke support. Lunch is available (\$3 senior lunch or \$2.75 deli sandwich). For more information, please call Sonia Schuppach at (626) 963-6186. The program is **Wednesdays** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by The After Stroke Center and the Glendora Community Services Department.

MONROVIA

Tenth Annual Senior Blood

Pressure Screenings

The Department of Community Services invites active adults and seniors, 50 years and older, to attend a monthly blood pressure screening. The free program is hosted by Methodist Hospital. The program is designed to detect high blood pressure. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

Blood Pressure Screenings is at the Community Center, 119 West Palm Avenue on the **Second Tuesday of the month** from 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. and on the **Fourth Wednesday of the month** from 9:00am - 10:00am

Caring Crafters

If you have an interest in knitting, crocheting and hand work or would like to learn, join us at the Monrovia Community Center **every Wednesday**. The Friendly Crafters is a social group that meets every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is designed to foster friendships and provide social opportunities while crocheting and knitting. The group always welcomes new participants to teach and share new ideas! This free program is offered to all Seniors and Active Adults! Crafters meet every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Monrovia Community Center.

Senior Stretch & Exercise Class

Stretching is essential for our bodies. The Department of Community Services invites seniors to join our weekly senior stretching and exercise class. The class includes stretching techniques geared toward seniors over 50, though the class is great for anyone in need of a good routine. Movement increases range of motion, relaxation, and decreases risk of injury. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Bring a towel and bottled water. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Ser-

vices at (626) 256-8246.

Classes are at the Community Center, 119 West Palm Avenue on Mondays from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Fee: \$2 per class.

WEST COVINA

Go West Shuttle Service

The Go West Shuttle service consists of three alignments (Red, Blue, and Green) that serve destinations throughout the city including Plaza West Covina, Eastland Shopping Center, Heights Shopping Center, West Covina Civic Center, West Covina Senior Center, Cameron Community Center, and many more.

For questions on the location of shuttle stops, assistance in locating the stop closest to you, and route schedules please call (800) 425-5777.

- The fixed-route service operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- The fare is only \$1.00 each way.
- No Service on Thanksgiving, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, President's Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

Senior Lunch

The West Covina Senior Center is an award-winning lunch program that provides a **daily lunch service** for seniors, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. The lunch program is funded in part by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

There is a suggested lunch donation of \$2.00 for those 60 years and older. Persons younger than 60 years old pay \$4.00, and persons with disabilities younger than 60 years pay \$3.00. West Covina Senior Citizens Center is at 2501 East Cortez Street.

Annual Egg Hunt To Be Held April 15th

WEST COVINA - The City of West Covina is excited to host its Annual Egg Hunt this year on Saturday, April 15th at Shadow Oak Park. The Egg Hunt is for all ages and will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.

Activities at Shadow Oak Park will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until 1:30 p.m. Be sure to get there early and make an egg bag, pet some animals in the petting zoo, or bounce through a bounce house obstacle course before lining up to participate in the Egg Hunt.

Street parking will be made available for the day. Be sure to get your picture taken with Bunny Brian, our special guest star of the day. You will be sure to have a hoppin' good time!

Shadow Oak Park is located at 2121 Shadow Oak Drive West Covina, CA 91792 between Amar and Nogales. For more information, please contact John Caropino in the Community Services Department at (626) 965-0328 or visit the City website at: www.westcovina.org.

'Egg'straordinary Spring Celebration

SAN GABRIEL - The City of San Gabriel Community Services Department and the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club invite you to the 73rd Annual Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt at Smith Park, 232 W Broadway on Saturday, **April 15**.

Come early and bring the whole family to celebrate spring together. The day starts at 7:00 a.m. with a tasty pan-

cake breakfast and continues at 9:00 a.m. with Pancake races, where contestants balance a pancake on their spatula while running 100 yards. At 10:00 a.m. the Egg Hunt will welcome children ages 9 and under. There will be an Egg Hunt for children who may need their parent's assistance too!

For more information, contact the Community Services Department at 626.308.2875.

Rosetta Stone at the Glendora Public Library

GLENDORA - Thanks to the generous donations from the Glendora community, the Glendora Public Library was able to purchase Rosetta Stone language learning software in 5 languages: Mandarin Chinese, German, Arabic, Italian and French. Visit the Library today to dis-

cover all of the language learning materials that the Library has available. For more information, contact us at (626) 852-4891 or visit our website www.glendoralibrary.org. The Glendora Public Library is located at 140 South Glendora Ave, Glendora.

United Methodist Holy Week and Easter Events

ARCADIA - We invite you to journey with us during Holy Week and celebrate Easter Sunday with us. No matter where you have been or where you are now, all are welcome to Church of the Good Shepherd, United Methodist (400 W. Duarte Rd. Arcadia).

April 13: Holy Thursday Service with Communion at 7 p.m. in the Chapel

April 14: Stations of the

Cross Meditation Walk in the courtyard any time between noon and 5 p.m.

Easter Sunday: Youth led sunrise service at 6 a.m. as well as traditional services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. There will be an egg hunt for children between the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services in the courtyard.

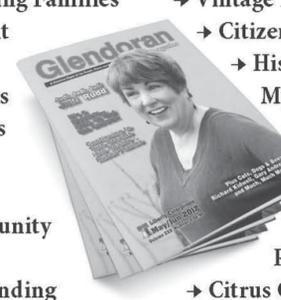
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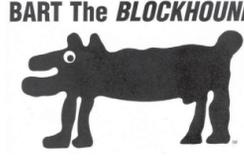
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Glendora Woman's Club's Fashion Show A Success



Some of the participants in the Glendora Woman's Club recent Fashion Show featuring fashions from the Dressbarn are pictured at the close of the show. They are, from left, the Rev. Luff Johnson, escort for the models; models Margaux Viera, Chris Ohrmund, Nada Yassine, Becky Rice, Angela Rines, and Pat Overstreet; Leslie, Dressbarn fashion commentator; Helen Storland, model coordinator; and on the stage area, Carl Berquist-Dvo at the piano. (Not pictured were Club President Carolyn Cunningham, show chair Joy Martau and co-chair Camille Clarke.)

By Joan Hallidy
GLENDORA - The Glendora Woman's Club's recent Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon continues to be a successful fundraiser for the club's service projects and philanthropies, said Club President Carolyn Cunningham.

Some 120 guests attended this year's Fashion Show, themed "Step Into Style," and viewed the latest spring and summer fashions from the Dressbarn, with commentary by Leslie. Providing the music during the show was Carl Berquist-Devoe at the piano,

said show chair Joy Martau and co-chair Camille Clarke. Helping to make the club's annual event a continuing success were the more than 30 clubmembers service on the show committee, the table sponsors, merchant donors, Glendora Chamber of Com-

merce, Quality Instant Printing, the club's four departments, and member donations. Major Sponsors were Athens Services, Andrews Inc., Jackie Doornik Realtor, Barry Garapedian - Morgan Stanley, Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Glendora Plumbing, Inc.

Also acknowledged were the five local publications publicizing the event, Ritz Catering Service, and the recognition listing of the Fashion Show's Gold and Silver Sponsors. And a "Special thanks" from Club President Cunningham to club members and community residents who have continued to support the club, its projects and activities through the years.

For information about membership, service projects, or special events, call Karen at 626-375-5200; for information about renting the clubhouse for an event or meeting, call Ryan at Ritz Catering 909-592-1130.

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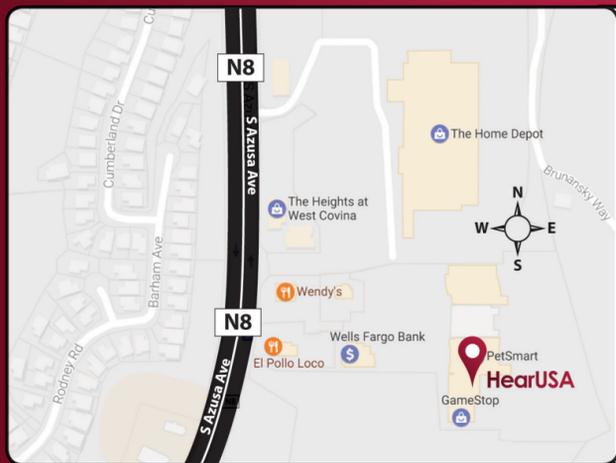
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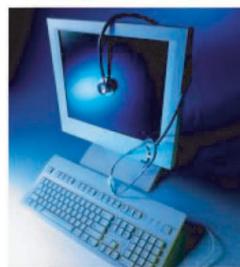
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Visit A Castle And Help Raise Funds For A Great Organization

GLENDORA - Have you ever wanted to visit a castle? Well, here is your chance! On Saturday, **April 22nd** from 4-7 p.m., the Glendora Welfare Association will be holding its 3rd Annual Fundraiser at the Rubel Castle in Glendora. Tickets for the event are only \$50.00 per person and tickets are limited.

The Glendora Welfare Association has been providing year-round emergency services to

Glendora residents since 1958. The GWA is a private non-profit 501.c (3) organization whose purpose is to be there when our neighbor needs a helping hand, not a handout. Through fundraisers such as this one, they are able to help Glendora residents with emergency shelter, assistance with utilities, bus fare and referrals for other services. The Glendora Welfare Association relies on donors that include local busi-

nesses and churches, service organizations, private citizens and events like this one.

The night will include heavy appetizers and dessert, wine, music, live and silent auctions and much more!

For more information about the event or if you would like to learn more information about the Glendora Welfare Association, please contact Karen Knust-Grachen at 626 483-1342.

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