



# San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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# El Monte Union Celebrates Posada with Tunnel of Lights, Dancing, Tamales

**EL MONTE** – More than 400 families drove through a tunnel of Christmas lights, enjoyed performances by Folklorico dancers, received an authentic tamale dinner and treats from Santa, including pan dulce, during El Monte Union High School District's third annual Posada holiday event on Dec. 4.

Blending Mexican and American traditions, the District's Posada offered parents and students the opportunity to gather safely for a night of good food and fun. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Posada was transformed by staff and parent volunteers into a drive-thru parade.

Cars lined up outside the District office before touring through a Christmas light tunnel, popping open trunks to receive a tamale, rice and bean dinner, treats from Santa, EMUHSD mugs and other swag, as well as pan dulce for the whole family.

Families registered for the event in November; those who could not participate received contactless delivery of meals, gifts and treats on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Edith Echeverria, Director of



El Monte Union High School District staff and volunteers set up a tunnel of lights for families to enjoy during the District's third annual Posada event and drive-thru on Friday, Dec. 4.

Assessment, Accountability and Family Engagement, leads the team that staged the annual event.

"In the past, the annual Posada featured pictures with Santa, student performances and piñatas, and was a great way for us to bring our community together," Echeverria said. "It was important to our District to continue this tradition, doing it in the safest way possible, because we could all use some holiday cheer this year."

Staff members and volunteers from across the District came together to make the Posada

event possible. EMUHSD parents Cynthia Arredondo, Mountain View High School and Maria Celdon, El Monte High School, said hosting this event was important, especially after such a challenging year.

"It is nice to see our District providing our community with the opportunity to celebrate the holidays in the middle of this pandemic," Celdon said. "I also think it is important to emphasize that the District has made a great effort to ensure that this event is not only beautiful, but also safe."

EMUHSD Superintendent Edward Zuniga said the Posada event is just one way that the District reminds community members that they are appreciated and supported.

"This has been a year unlike any other, and while the number one goal of El Monte Union High School District has been the health and safety of our community, we also want to remind our students and families that we are here for them," Zuniga said. "Thank you to all of our staff, volunteers and everyone who made this year's Posada event possible. Our District is grateful for your hard work and commitment to our students."



Folklorico dancers performed for families during the El Monte Union High School District's third annual Posada celebration on Friday, Dec. 4 on a well-lit stage in the District Office's parking lot.



El Monte Union High School District Superintendent Edward A. Zuniga and Santa Claus wish families happy holidays during the third annual Posada celebration on Friday, Dec. 4.

## Glendora Police Identify And Arrest Robbery Suspect



### IN CUSTODY



**GLENDORA** - Glendora Police detectives identified and arrested the armed and dangerous suspect who committed two robberies in the City of Glendora within the past three weeks.

On November 17, 2020, and again on November 25, 2020, a suspect approached two lone individuals, brandished a handgun, and demanded a wallet and cell phone from one victim, and a purse from the second victim.

Last week, a Glendora resident provided a tip, which ultimately led to the identification of the suspect in these cases. On Wednesday, December 19, detectives located the suspect driving his vehicle in the City of Ontario. Glendora Police requested assistance from the Ontario Police Department with a traffic stop. The suspect failed to yield and a pursuit ensued. The suspect was involved in a traffic collision, fled from the vehicle on foot, and was taken into custody without further incident. The suspect, Bryan Cornejo, 27 year old male, from Duarte, was not injured in the collision.



A replica handgun used in one of the robberies

Cornejo was in possession of a replica handgun, which had been used in one of the robberies. Glendora detectives served search warrants at two residences, resulting in most of the stolen property being recovered. At the time of the two robberies in Glendora, Cornejo was on formal probation for a robbery he committed in 2019.

On Friday December 11th, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office charged Cornejo with two counts of 2nd Degree Robbery and one count of Felony Identity Theft.

Cornejo has a previous conviction for robbery which is a strike, however a sentencing enhancement based on that conviction can no longer be alleged during criminal filing under the new Los Angeles County District Attorney charging directives.

The Glendora Police Department would like to thank the public for their help in this case, and they ask if you have any further information on this suspect, or if you recognize him from any additional cases, to contact them immediately.

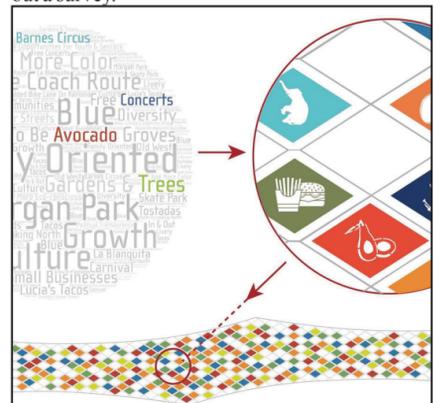
## Baldwin Park's Public Art Marquee

**BALDWIN PARK** - The City of Baldwin Park is working on a large Public Art Marquee that will be installed across Ramona Boulevard, near the downtown area. If you live or work in Baldwin Park, please help us by joining in the creation of the design of this marquee. Individuals and families are welcome to submit topics for one of over 300+ "papel picado" style metal plates that will decorate

the marquee! Go to [www.baldwinpark.com/communityfabric](http://www.baldwinpark.com/communityfabric), and submit your idea by filling out a survey.



Community Fabric



## Marines Toys for Tots and Breakfast at VFW Post 8620

By George Ogden

**WEST COVINA** - The Marines held their Toys for Tots toy drive and breakfast at the West Covina VFW Post 8620 on Dec. 12th. The Teufel Hunden Detachment and their members had a very successful toy drive and sold a ton of breakfasts during the morning event.

They provided eggs, potatoes, sausage and pancakes along with juice or coffee with the breakfasts. The community came out in force with toys and to drive by to get breakfasts. One person bought 21 breakfasts with the intent to take it to a cemetery to be with a loved one who passed.



Carlos Flores and Ignacio Verduzco preparing breakfast.

According to the marines, the donations were great as well as the breakfasts. Both the Marines and the VFW greatly appreciated the support during some really rough times.

# Duarte City Council Selects Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, Introduces New Council



**Bryan Urias, Mayor, District No. 6**



**Margaret Finlay, Mayor Pro Tem, District No. 4**



**Councilmember Vinh Truong, District 2**



**Councilmember Jody Schulz, District 3**

**DUARTE** - At its December 8 City Council Meeting, the Duarte City Council appointed Bryan Urias from District 6 as Mayor and Margaret Finlay from District 4 as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming year. The Council also welcomed back Toney Lewis as well as new Councilmembers Jody Schulz and Vinh Truong.

Mayor Urias was first elected to the Duarte City Council in November of 2018. During his first term, Urias served as the council representative on the Duarte Community Coordinating Council and an alternate for both the Gold Line Joint Powers Authority and the Duarte Community Services Council. For eight years prior to joining the Council, Urias represented Duarte residents as District 5 Director on the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board and also worked with the City as a staff member for then Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis and later Congresswoman Judy Chu. "It is an honor and a privilege to serve Duarte in this new capacity," said Mayor Urias. "The Council has challenging work ahead, and we're committed to building an even stronger future for our City."

Mayor Pro Tem Finlay formerly served as mayor for six terms. Her accomplishments include the installation of the

soundwall on the south side of the 210 freeway, expanding programs for senior citizens, serving as chairperson for the successful 1998 Measure B School Bond effort that improves aging Duarte Schools and developing many local services and infrastructure. Mayor Pro Tem Finlay and her husband raised five children in Duarte, one of which, James Finlay, currently serves as a Board of Education Member for the Duarte Unified School District. "I look forward to working with this Council to achieve our goals, which include updating the City's website to make information more accessible to residents and supporting our local businesses through recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mayor Pro Tem Finlay.

Toney Lewis, a lifelong member of the Duarte community and proud Duarte High School Falcon, will continue to represent Duarte's 7th District. He served for more than 27 years in multiple capacities as a member of the fire service. Additionally, he served as a longtime volunteer of the non-profit, Habitat for Humanity. Councilmember Lewis is proud of Duarte's diversity and looks forward to embracing it throughout his service. Some of his initial goals include increasing voter registration and community engagement.

Jody Schulz, a first-generation college graduate who holds a Master of Science degree, will now represent District 3. Councilmember Schulz has served the Duarte community as public safety commissioner. She will leverage her skills of tracking issues, analyzing data, increasing efficiency and advancing strategic thinking in her role. Councilmember Schulz is an active member of the community and belongs to several community organizations that represent Duarte's diverse population, including the Duarte Rotary Club, Duarte Chamber of Commerce and Duarte Women's Club.

Vinh Truong, serving Duarte's 2nd District, is the child of Chinese immigrants who came to the United States in the 1970s and settled in Duarte in 1985. Councilmember Truong attended Duarte schools through high school and went on to become a licensed life and health agent. He has held a seat on the Duarte Economic Development Commission and served as a board member of the Santa Anita Family YMCA. In 2019, Councilmember Truong was appointed to Duarte's Financial Advisory Task Force, which allowed him to learn about the City's financial condition and engrain in him the value of economic growth.

## Minute with the Mayor

In any given year we are met with challenges to overcome, and this year seems determined to tell us these challenges may overwhelm us. But still, we have seen Glendorans' determination to show their pride in community, banding together to support businesses and neighbors when we need each other most.

I'm Michael Allawos, Mayor of the City of Glendora. Your courage is inspiring, and City staff has worked diligently to do their part to persevere. During this pandemic, we have worked together and adopted a 3-year strategic plan, because we must continue to look to the future.

In response to social distancing guidelines and closures, we expanded our online services to the public, further improving our existing Virtual City Hall.

We've worked and continue to work with business owners and community leaders to establish and permit temporary parklets, to help keep businesses open and safe.

We've instituted a good neighbor policy within the community through vibrant discussions and



**Michael Allawos  
Mayor of Glendora**

a swift response to the Short-Term Rental dynamics in the City.

City leaders have worked with partner agencies to implement a Coyote Management Plan as part of our ongoing efforts to respond to the needs of residents and the wildlife that is part of our foothill community.

Glendora's leaders also sought innovative solutions to house and manage the City's homeless in our community while supporting local businesses, and achieving success toward helping to keep everyone safe by addressing an at-risk population.

Our relationship with the com-

munity remains steadfast, and strong offering facilities to local businesses to conduct socially distanced hiring events, and much needed socially distanced learning spaces for the Glendora Unified School District.

Throughout the pandemic, we've reached out to Glendorans to keep them up-to-date on the latest information, including updates from Federal, State and County officials via a dedicated COVID-19 portal on our website.

Our Minute with the Mayor video segments and highlighted features with our directors and staff, broadcast across our social media outlets, as well as offering all regular meetings and special meetings virtually, on our website, social media and cable channel.

We've accomplished a lot, but continue to look for new and innovative opportunities to aid our community and strive toward our strategic goals, bringing you our constituents along every step of the way.

Please stay safe, healthy and be kind to one another.

## 4 Ways to Uplift Small Businesses this Holiday Season

With nearly half of all Americans employed by a small business, these establishments need our support more than ever this holiday season and going into 2021.

According to the latest Wells Fargo/Gallup Small Business Index, 46 percent of business owners surveyed have seen a drop in revenue over the past 12 months, with some entrepreneurs seeing even more severe impact.

"Small businesses are at the heart of our communities and the key to millions of jobs," says Steve Troutner, head of Small Business, Wells Fargo. "Keeping holiday spending dollars in local communities is an impactful way to rally around small business owners."

Wells Fargo is sharing four ways to brighten the season for small businesses:

1. Shop local. While one-stop holiday shopping on leading e-commerce sites can be tempting, the simple act of purchasing something from your favorite local retailer can go a long way in keeping business afloat and money in your community. Returning or exchanging gifts? Ask for store credit instead of cash. It helps keep money with a small business and makes their cash flow more stable.

Many shops have safety measures in place, such as limiting occupancy or offering contactless pick-up. This year, some cities are even hosting virtual holiday markets, a great way to support local artisans, farmers and more while shopping for loved ones. Check your local chamber of commerce or neigh-

borhood association for details.

2. Eat local. Support your neighbors by dining at locally-owned establishments. Getting takeout or having food delivered? Order directly from the restaurant rather than through third-party sites that take a cut. When it comes to food shopping, opt for neighborhood grocers, which often carry produce from small family-owned farms and other locally-sourced goods. Many offer the same curbside pickup and delivery options as major chains.

3. Uplift diverse-owned businesses. Keep in mind that minority- and women-owned businesses have been hard hit by COVID-19. Many are counting on your patronage right now to help them survive the holiday season and into the new year.

To help entrepreneurs stay open and support local jobs, Wells Fargo is deploying approximately \$50 million from its Open for Business Fund to Community Development Financial Institutions across 32 states. The initiative focuses on increasing access to training and flexible capital that businesses can use for rent, utilities, payroll and other business needs. If you are

a business owner looking for assistance and resources, visit [wellsfargo.com/shoplocal](https://wellsfargo.com/shoplocal) to learn more.

4. Shine a light on your favorite business. Whether it's expanding outdoor patios and installing heat lamps or updating tech to facilitate contactless checkout, small businesses have had to get creative to stay relevant. One simple way of supporting businesses as they make these changes is to follow them on social media and give positive reviews on websites like Yelp.

As part of its "Many hearts. One community" campaign, Wells Fargo is highlighting the determination, resilience and creativity that so many small business have shown in 2020.

"Community has meant everything to me," says Kadjatu Ahene, owner of Dija's Touch Designs, which benefitted from Wells Fargo and Local Initiatives Support Corporation working together. "The challenges we're dealing with have brought us closer. Whether its friends and neighbors checking on me and my girls, delivering food and more, COVID has reminded us that we need each other to move forward in unity." (StatePoint)

## LASD Deputy Sheriff on Patrol Ambushed by Gunfire



**Suspect #1: Male Hispanic thin build**

**ALTADENA** - Detectives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Operation Safe Streets (O.S.S.) and Altadena Station are asking for your help identifying and locating the two attempted murder suspects. They are continuing their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the attempted murder of a Deputy Sheriff. The incident occurred on

Friday, December 4, 2020, at approximately 12:33 p.m.

Investigators have learned a Deputy was patrolling the 2500 block of Fair Oaks Avenue, in Altadena when she came upon a crime in progress. As she approached the group in her vehicle, two males, believed to be Hispanic, targeted the deputy. The First Suspect produced a firearm, and fired several gunshots in the



**Suspect #2: Male Hispanic thin build**

deputy's direction. The Deputy was not injured. Both suspects fled on foot and are still outstanding. It is still unclear what type of crime was being committed at the time of the shooting.

Suspect #1's black jacket and shoes were located nearby. He's seen pictured above running in socks.

Suspect #2's white jacket was also located nearby.

There is no additional information available at this time.

If you have any information

regarding this incident or suspects pictured above, please contact the Operation Safe Streets Detective C. Gutierrez at 626-798-1131. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Operation Safe Streets at (310) 680-2500. If you prefer to provide information anonymously, you may call "Crime Stoppers" by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477).



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## Napolitano, San Gabriel Valley Mayors Praise Congressional Passage of Route 66 Centennial Commission Act

WASHINGTON, DC - Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA-32) and mayors of cities in her district praised unanimous House passage of the Route 66 Centennial Commission Act (H.R. 66/S. 1014), sending the legislation coauthored by Napolitano, Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL-13) to the President's desk.

"Route 66 runs east to west through my entire district and continues to provide vital transportation, economic, and community benefits to our San Gabriel Valley and American society," Napolitano said. "Our local restaurants, shops, and other businesses, like so many others dotting the interstate from the heartland to the west coast, provide rest breaks for travelers, allowing them to sample all the local flavors of our communities that are proud to be connected by the Mother Road. As we are now just nearly 5 years away from the centennial, our legislation will aid the efforts of cities, like

those in my district, who are re-investing in Route 66. I commend our mayors, local chambers of commerce, and LA County for their ongoing work to revitalize and preserve Route 66 for future generations."

"Congresswoman Napolitano has always been a great leader in our community. I am very pleased to have Congresswoman Napolitano champion the H.R. 66. This will bring in the much-needed infrastructure improvements and enrich our livelihood and catalyze new economic development all throughout route 66. Thank you for your hard work once again." - Mayor Samuel Kang, City of Duarte

"In 2003, Glendora was the first city in California to change the name of its main street - which until 1964 was U.S. highway 66 and also known as Alosta Avenue, back to Route 66. We are proud to support Congresswoman Napolitano's bill to create a commission to commemo-

rate the 100th anniversary of Route 66." - Mayor Michael Al-lawos, City of Glendora

"For generations, our community has 'gotten its kicks on Route 66.' We are so proud to have one of America's most iconic roads running through our city. The historical designation of Route 66 will allow it to continue to be an integral part of our region's culture and economy." - Mayor Tim Hepburn, City of La Verne

Route 66 runs through the cities of La Verne, San Dimas, Glendora, Azusa, Duarte, and Monrovia, known in most of Napolitano's district as Foothill Boulevard and Huntington Drive. The commission created by the Route 66 Centennial Commission Act would be made up of representatives from each of the eight Route 66 states and would recommend activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary in 2026. The Route 66 Ahead Partnership supports this legislation.

## Holden Introduces Legislation to Extend and Expand Dual Enrollment

SACRAMENTO - Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced legislation to extend, AB 102, and expand, AB 103, dual enrollment opportunities for California students. Specifically, AB 102 would eliminate the 2027 sunset date for College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships, while AB 103 increase access to dual enrollment opportunities for students in juvenile court schools.

"Dual enrollment increases the number of college graduates, reduces time and money spent for college, and helps close the achievement gap," said Holden. "Making dual enrollment permanent means more school districts will be able to invest in creating these partnership agreements that benefit their students and prepare them for college."

Dual and concurrent enrollment provides high school students access to college-level coursework. In some cases, students earn both high school and college credit for the same course depending on approval from local school and community college governing boards. Assemblymember Holden first established the College and Career Access Pathways program in 2015 (AB 288) and has since passed numerous bills to increase and expand dual enrollment opportunities through these partnerships.

According to an October 2018 Career Ladders study, students who participate in dual

enrollment at a community college during high school are more likely to graduate and enter college and more likely to complete a certificate, degree, or transfer. A key finding was that students most under-represented in community colleges often benefit the most.

AB 103 would allow juvenile court schools, through the county offices of education, to participate in College and Career Access Pathways partnerships in the same way local school districts do. Students in juvenile court schools experience high rates of educational instability, and are likely to be behind in credits. As the quality of court school education varies widely, many students express that they feel disengaged from school, or that they are constantly repeating material that they have already covered. Increasing educational opportunities, like dual enrollment, for students in juvenile hall could provide a turning point that leads to academic success and future employment.

"Despite the high aspirations of youth in the juvenile justice system for postsecondary educational attainment, the system fails to support access to college," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "AB 103 provides an opportunity for a uniquely vulnerable population to make academic progress and jump-start their college education."

## Holden's Legislation Aims to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

SACRAMENTO - Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced legislation, AB 100 that would set a limit on the amount of lead leaching from drinking water faucets and fixtures.

"We all expect the water we drink will keep us and our children healthy, and not make us sick," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "This legislation ensures that faucets and plumbing fixtures sold in California leach as little lead as possible."

Lead is a severe neurotoxin that damages the brains and central nervous systems of young children. Lead is also a carcinogen and harms organs. Low levels of lead in children

cause IQ loss, learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and impaired hearing.

Currently, consumers have no idea when they go to a hardware store if the faucet they buy is safe or not. Faucets can leach lead when they are used. Holden's bill would restrict the amount of lead leaching from faucets and fixtures to no more than 1 microgram, which is five times lower than the current industry standard.

"We want to ensure that Californians can feel comfortable when purchasing new faucets, and are not ingesting lead that we know to be dangerous to our health," said Holden

## From the Desk of West Covina City Manager David Carmany

## West Covina Explores Methods to Improve Local Public Health

WEST COVINA - On December 1st, the West Covina City Council directed staff to explore methods to improve local public health - including alternatives to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Through community awareness and a robust mask donation program, the City of West Covina has relatively low infection rates compared to the Countywide daily rates. The City wants to maintain low rates of infection and is exploring the most effective course of action.

West Covina City Manager David Carmany has engaged consultant medical advisor Dr. P. Basil Vassantachart, MD to assist in evaluating options. Dr. Vassantachart is a family medicine specialist, managing multiple primary care, family practice, preventive medicine and industrial facilities. In the late 1980s, Dr. Vassantachart formed a doctors



David Carmany  
West Covina City Manager

group to take over management of Alhambra Community Hospital. "To better serve our community, we must look at options West Covina has in providing public health services and assisting the State and County in fighting the pandemic. Dr. Vassantachart will be a vital part of determining the best path for our City," stated Mayor Tony Wu. "Our

community wants to ensure that needed risk benefit analysis are performed when coronavirus measures are enacted. Having Dr. Vassantachart's expertise and experience is critical," stated City Manager David Carmany.

The City continues to strongly encourage everyone to continue wearing masks when around others, practice socially distancing, wash your hands often (20 seconds or use hand sanitizer), and avoid crowds. Please visit the Center for Disease and Control and Prevention Guidelines for additional information. "We're looking to the horizon. We want to work together with the public health community and other agencies to find a way through this crisis," explained Mayor Tony Wu. For questions or to learn more about West Covina contact City Hall at (626) 939-8401.

## Bobcat and Lake Fire Private Property Debris Removal Deadlines Approaching

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The County of Los Angeles has begun Phase II of the Private Property Debris Removal process for survivors of the Bobcat and Lake Wildfires. Property owners with fire debris on their properties must apply for one of the two following options and submit the appropriate forms by the deadlines.

Option 1 is called the "opt-in" Government-Sponsored Fire Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program. This program is a no direct cost debris removal service for property owners who qualify and sign up. Work is completed by State-contracted professional crews and is coordinated by Los Angeles County. If a property owner opts-in, they must complete and submit a Right of Entry "ROE" Form before January 15, 2021. Commercial and publicly-owned properties will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Option 2 is called the "opt-

out" Los Angeles County Local Fire Debris Removal Program. This program is for property owners who choose to remove debris using their own resources or who do not qualify for Option 1. If a property owner opts-out, they must complete and submit a Local Fire Debris Removal Program Application & Work Plan or a Partially Burned or Damaged Structures Application by January 31, 2021. All debris removal work must be completed by March 15, 2021.

Completed applications can be submitted in-person at the Antelope Valley Office of Building and Safety located at 355 A. East Avenue K-6, Lancaster, CA 93535. Please call (661) 524-2390 before delivering forms to the office. Documents can be dropped off at the office Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Forms can also be mailed to Los Angeles County Public Works, Environmental Programs

Division, attention Bobcat Fire and Lake Fire Debris Removal Team, P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802.

Property owners can also email completed applications to either bobcatfire@pw.lacounty.gov or lakefire@pw.lacounty.gov. Please limit file size to 150 megabytes (MB) and contact the Public Works hotline at (626) 979-5370 if you do not receive confirmation within 2 business days.

For more information or questions, please read our Frequently Asked Questions. Property owners can also call the LA County Public Works Debris Removal Hotline at (626) 979-5370 or send an email bobcatfire@pw.lacounty.gov or lakefire@pw.lacounty.gov for additional help.

Additional Los Angeles County wildfire recovery resources can be found at lacounty.gov/recovery.

## Foothill Gold Line Board Re-Elects Leadership, Welcomes New Member

Board unanimously approves Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and La Verne Mayor Pro Tem Robin Carder to continue as Board Chair and Vice Chair, and welcomes Claremont Council Member Ed Reece as its newest member

MONROVIA - At their December meeting, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority (Construction Authority) Board of Directors voted unanimously to re-elect Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval as Chair and La Verne Mayor Pro Tem Robin Carder as Vice Chair. In addition, the board welcomed Claremont Council Member Ed Reece to the board. Councilman Reece was sworn in for a 2 1/2-year term during the meeting, after being appointed by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments last month. The continuing leadership of Chair Sandoval and Vice Chair Carder, along with the addition of Board Member Reece, comes at an important time for the \$2.1 billion, 12.3-mile Foothill Gold Line light rail project. The westernmost 9.1 miles of the project (from Glendora to Pomona) is currently undergoing major construction, and the Construction Authority is seeking the additional funding needed to complete the entire project segment to Claremont and Montclair.

"I know I speak for Vice Chair Carder as I thank our colleagues for their continued confidence in us, as well as welcome Council Member Reece to the board," stated Chair Sandoval after the vote. "This past year has been filled with uncertainty; but as we

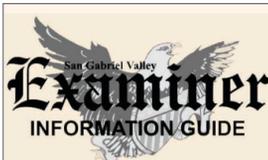
look to the future, it is as important as ever to ready our region for growth and prosperity. I look forward to leading the board this coming year and continuing to see the significant progress being made on a project that will improve the lives of our communities for generations to come."

Chair Sandoval and Vice Chair Carder have led the board since late 2018. During their leadership tenure, the project's Alignment design-build contract was awarded to Kiewit-Parsons, a Joint Venture, and the project segment from Glendora to Pomona has advanced from final design into major construction despite being in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Major construction activities are now underway throughout the project corridor, and the project segment is anticipated to be completed in 2025. If an additional \$450 million in funding is secured by October 2021, the entire project from Glendora to Montclair will be completed altogether as part of the Alignment design-build contract, with an anticipated completion year of 2028.

"I look forward to serving on this board with such an accomplished group of leaders," stated Council Member Ed Reece upon his swearing in. "Completing the project to not only Pomona, but

to Claremont and Montclair, is a critical step to improving mobility and the quality of life for our region. I look forward to helping support that effort and being part of this important project in the coming years."

The Foothill Gold Line board is made up of elected and appointed representatives from throughout the project corridor. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, the board currently includes Ontario Mayor Paul Leon, Claremont Council Member Ed Reece, Los Angeles city representative Melchor Ilomin, Ontario Council Member Alan Wapner (non-voting), Pasadena Council Member Gene Masuda (non-voting), and South Pasadena representative Dan Evans (non-voting). The Governor's appointee is currently vacant. Mayor Sandoval was recently reappointed to the Construction Authority board as the Metro representative, replacing now-retired member John Fasana; leaving an opening on the board for a new San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) appointee. Councilman Reece was unanimously selected as the SGVCOG appointee on November 19, 2020; Glendora Council Member Mendell Thompson is the SGVCOG's Alternate.



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- We believe in growth. Therefore, complaints or mistakes erroneously committed will be entertained and investigated diligently and corrected accordingly.
- We believe in performing our journalistic work to the best of our ability and will continue to present the facts clearly and fairly.

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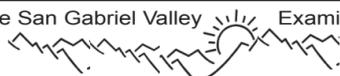
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## Swamp Rats Destroy Delta Eco-System

While Northern California environmentalists have accused Southern Californians and the Central Valley farmers of draining off abundant amounts of their water at the risk of destroying the unique environment of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, they actually have a much bigger problem they've failed to address.

The real culprits are the Nutria, known as Swamp Rats. They are 3-foot long, big, orange-toothed mammals and rodents that love fresh water and look exactly like the smaller rats you might find in your own backyard. They were brought into the U.S. from South America in 1899 and again in the 1930s by the fur traders, escaped captivity and have become a scourge destroying the natural eco-system in the Delta area. And, not just the California Delta but the Chesapeake Bay environment and other state water systems in Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Washington, and Oregon.

About the size of a racoon or a beaver, they breed year-round, with 2 to 13 pups in each litter and able to start breeding again 2 days after producing that litter. Gestation period is 4 months and able to breed at 4 to 7 months old according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. S.F. Chronicle took that basic information and reported, "A single female has been known to give rise to 100 offspring in a year."

These animals eat 25% of their body weight each day in plants, and eat the whole plant - leaves and roots ... all of it - so the plant is gone for good. And, by doing this in the Delta and other estuaries, they are destroying many of the bird nesting areas across the country along with the



**Shade's Perspective**  
Lois M. Shade

Former Mayor of Glendora

sustaining needs of other life. Nutria burrow and are destroying not only the root systems of the vegetation in the Delta, but also damaging levees that prevent flooding, and, S.F. Chronicle reports, they have the potential to take out docks, wharves, building foundations, roads, streams, canals and even erode the structure of dams and other parts of our water system.

Nutria are not just eating their way through the Delta but have developed a taste for agricultural crops. They can devour a vegetable garden in less than half a day; and, love rice, corn, soybeans, clover and wheat.

Beyond destroying the ecosystem and the infrastructure in any area Nutria invade, Mayo Clinic says they present health issues for the human population. One of the diseases is Tularemia, a rare, but infectious disease, carried by other rodents such as squirrels, that attacks skin, eyes, lymph nodes and lungs. A bacterial infection that is treatable and curable, but still a severe infection that is transferable to birds, sheep and domestic animals - dogs and cats. There are serious questions about swimming in or drinking the water in the area where the Nutria have established a habitat.

The Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003, P.L. 108-

16, was signed into law by President George W. Bush and provided eradication of the Nutria in Maryland, Louisiana and other states; and, restoration of marshland destroyed by the Nutria. This law limited the federal share of costs to 75% and limited administrative costs to no more than 5%.

In October, President Donald Trump signed into law, a bill authored by Rep. Josh Harder, D-Turlock, and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) providing more funding to eradicate the Swamp Rat that was undermining the irrigation systems in the Central Valley. California became eligible for \$1.75 million of the \$12 million pot available to all states, including Maryland and Louisiana, to trap and sterilize the Nutria. Funding could also include dogs to track down the animals and their nests to finally eliminate the threat to marshlands, farmers and human health.

Nutria, thought to be eliminated 50 years ago here, was discovered three and a half years ago in Merced County and has spread quickly to Fresno, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Mariposa. Fifty people assigned to eliminate the Swamp Rat have killed 2,000, but found one pond with 220 surviving nicely.

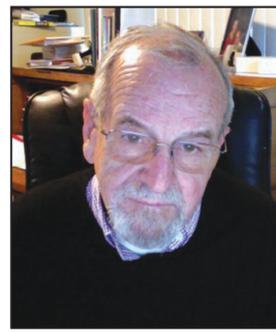
Our U.S. estuaries provide 75% of our commercial fish catch valued at \$1.9 billion nationwide with another \$8 to \$12 billion in recreation activities. If California's task force and water leadership authorities don't move forward and make eradication of this destructive rodent a priority, the Nutria will destroy the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, surrounding infrastructure and the economic contribution made to the state budget faster than any of those charged as water-hungry farmers and us Southern California MWD customers ever can.

## How That Manger Child Has Molded My Life

Whatever else you might assume as you read these columns, the root and heart of my commitments flow from that manger child. This week I want to tell you how my life is shaped by Jesus. It all begins with the Christmas story. Some time before Jesus' birth, a pregnant Mary visited her kinswoman, Elizabeth. Mary felt blessed by God and sang an ancient song, that included the following words. "God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich God has sent away empty."

Mary's child was subsequently born in a barn. His first visitors were rural boys, whose bottom-rung job was to protect a flock of sheep during the long Judean nights. When the powerful sought to kill this infant, Jesus and his parents became poverty-stricken migrants, and crossed the border to what they hoped was a safer country. This was not a couple of honest citizens just doing their duty by registering to pay their taxes. Had that been true, why would Herod have sought to kill their child and thus force this fragile family to flee the country?

The child later grew up in a town about which it was said, "Nothing good will ever come from that place." His father was a simple craftsman, and his friends were fishermen. In his first sermon, delivered in his hometown, he outlined what was to be his life's work. The text he chose came from the prophet Isaiah, who had lived centuries before. "God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...to proclaim release to the captives...to restore sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed." And that was the com-



Charles H. Bayer

mitment by which he lived and worked until the entrenched had had enough of his social radicalism and executed him along with two other political criminals.

His three-year ministry centered on welcoming all those the well-placed in society had despised and belittled. Among them were the poor, who "heard him gladly," the diseased, government underlings, foreigners, prodigals, Samaritans, children, women, the mentally ill and a sturdy collection of other nobodies. Here were the very people his mother had affirmed before his birth and to whom he had committed himself in his first sermon.

It is interesting that many of the stories that have been generated in the secular readings of the Christmas account also identify the nobodies as the heroes.

"All of the other reindeer laughed, and used to laugh and call him names.

They never let poor Rudolph "join in any reindeer games."

It was the littlest angel who hung the star. It was "The Other Wise Man" in Henry van Dyke's story, who somehow understood the profundities of the holy birth. Amahl, the forgotten wiseman, secretly arrived with the 'Night Visitors and alone discerned the meaning of their journey. It was the "little drummer boy," whose

"pa rum pum pum pum" was the humble gift that made the baby smile. Here were fictional nobodies who became somebodies. And that is the heart of the gospel: the good news of Jesus.

In his birth, life and ministry, Jesus has been the guide and example, for all I believe and do. My commitments must continue to be clear: justice for the nobodies, the left out, the poor and oppressed must remain at the center of my life. The implications for how I relate to individuals and what I want to be the goals of society at large must be determined by that ethical imperative. My profound regret is that I have often failed miserably to live up to that vision.

I have often been asked about the relationship between these columns and my faith. In the Christian world, including the church, I speak "religionese." In the larger world I speak "secularese," which is really just a translation of "religionese." But it encapsulates the same ethical imperatives devoid of doctrine. In the gospel accounts, Jesus never said, "believe in me," but only "follow me." Beginning with Mary's song, that vision describes what the world might look like if God's reign would come on earth as it is in heaven. And it all begins with compassion for the left out one at a time, and social justice for all the world's nobodies.

Beginning with that social imperative, I have endeavored, often poorly, to stand with those for whom the well-placed in the world have little regard—the nobodies Jesus believed to be somebodies and treated them that. It the Christmas story where I first encountered the mystery.

Contact Charles Bayer at [candwbayer@verizon.net](mailto:candwbayer@verizon.net)

## Vaccines Coming Soon For Some, But College Students May Have To Wait

Amid good news regarding the efficacy and release of vaccines to combat the coronavirus, many college students find they are likely to continue their education online this spring.

With limited vaccine supplies and priority given to healthcare professionals, first responders and the elderly and immunocompromised, those who are in the age group that are considered "college age" may have a months-long wait for a vaccination. As 2021 unfolds, it is likely that college campuses, locally and across the nation, will be open for hybrid courses only, and the majority of students will take courses online.

This fact, along with other discouraging aspects of the pandemic, may be weighing heavily on the minds of prospective students. A recent survey by Lane-Terralever, a marketing agency for higher education, found that one-third of students are reconsidering the value of higher education. Another recent study by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center found that college enrollment fell na-



By Dr. Edward C. Ortell  
Citrus College Governing Board Member

tionwide this fall, with community colleges and low-income students showing the greatest declines.

In truth, however, those who will be seeking employment once life regains some sense of normalcy will find that education beyond high school has never been more important.

There's no doubt that the 21st Century workplace has embraced technology for nearly all segments of employment. It is estimated that upwards of two-thirds of jobs this decade will require

some education beyond high school. And higher education still reaps significant rewards. According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office, students who receive a degree or certificate from a California community college will nearly double their earnings within three years.

Online courses have also been shown to have some advantages over face-to-face learning. The ability to identify students' specific needs, create personalized learning, and provide instant feedback are aspects that have contributed to increased student success. In addition, students can save money by living at home and avoiding the cost of housing and transportation.

The low cost of community colleges make them particularly attractive. Various community colleges in the San Gabriel Valley offer rolling admission for many courses. Counseling and financial aid information is available for new and continuing students, as are tutoring and other support services.

For some students, keeping food on the table and a roof overhead has derailed their college aspirations. But community colleges are uniquely designed to help students from all walks of life overcome hurdles to higher education. The opportunities are there, as are an army of highly trained faculty and staff that help will make students' dreams into reality in the new year and long into the future.

About the Author:  
Dr. Edward C. Ortell is the senior governing board member at Citrus College and a Professor Emeritus at Pasadena City College. He has served on the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) state board of directors and 11 terms as president of the Citrus College Board of Trustees.

## MY TURN: The Truth Bothers Some, And The Lack Of Truth Bothers Others

I heard an old quote that has been around in some variation or another for years. It goes like this: "Conservatives hate it when they are told lies. Liberals hate it when they are told the truth."

It seems for years Donald Trump, citizen, Donald Trump, candidate and Donald Trump, President, has told us his beliefs and his observations. They have been controversial for sure, out of the box consistently and bluntly "honest." For decades he told us about the trade deals he didn't like seeing American politicians engaging in. He told TV interviewers how China was ripping us off. But all establishment people wanted to talk about was Russia. And claiming they knew what they were doing in making those foreign agreements.

When he ran for President, he mentioned the wall and why it needed being completed and got ridiculed for that. Then illegal immigrants were flooding across the border. And when the Obama administration built cages to control the flood of people, they denied doing it. A few years later, they laid the blame on Trump.

When President Trump gave his state of the union speech in January of 2020, he mentioned a little know virus in China but all the opponents wanted to do was continue their obsession with impeachment. Then they ridiculed him, accusing him of racism, when he banned travel with China in order to slow down and hopefully prevent its spread. They hated when he called out the Chinese and refused to call it a European virus or some other nonsense.

These are just a few examples of how Trump telegraphs so many issues and situations in controversial and unorthodox manners and is later proven right. He said monuments that we



Charles Lopresto

would never expect to be vulnerable to destruction, turned out to be. He predicted riots from BLM and ANTIFA and he was told he was insensitive. And he was predicting a Covid virus vaccine by the fall of 2020, and the people who treated it with disbelief even had to go as far as delaying announcement of it to make themselves appear correct after all. He called out the media for being fake and crooked for just that type of behavior. He called out the Hunter Biden and that was kept from the electorate as much as possible by his opponents in the media. He promised he would help the military, support law enforcement and bring peace treaties to the Middle East and he

kept those promises. He said he would get minority voters to come in larger numbers to the GOP and they did.

And most frustrating of all, he telegraphed the impending voter fraud and people hated him for bringing that up. After all, voter fraud was supposed to be what Trump, himself, did with the Russians to defeat Hillary Clinton. But Trump proved the culprits were Hillary herself and the Democrats.

Now we find out more about Hunter Biden and his foreign monetary relations, as a federal investigation has begun. And in the same news cycle, we discovered corruption with Eric Swalwell and his Chinese contact. More shady foreign relations.

And what did we learn from all of this?

We learned how once again the Right is angry at the lies that were told and the Left is angry at the truth now being told. The truth that President Donald Trump has been saying all along, but no one wanted to hear.

As usual, the truth bothers some and the lack of truth bothers others.

## Man Shot and Killed in La Puente Area

By George Ogden

LA PUENTE - Deputies responded to a call of a possible shooting in the 1000 block of Greenberry Drive in La Puente area on Tuesday, Dec. 8th just before 7 p.m. This is in a residential area near California Ave. and Amar.

The first responders found a man down in critical condition. The man in his 30s was transported to a local hospital

where he died a short time later.

The man's identity was not immediately available and there was no suspect information available.

The sheriff's department is looking for anyone who may have seen or heard something around that time. If anyone can help, they are urged to call their local police department.

### LA COUNTY SLOWS THE SPREAD



### How to Report an Outbreak at Work

- Call: 888-397-3993 to report 3+ confirmed cases of COVID-19 within 14 days
- Infected employees **SHOULD NOT** come back to work for at least 10 days or longer if they still have symptoms
- Close contacts **SHOULD NOT** come back to work for at least 14 days

Get more tips to keep your business & employees safe:  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus)



## More Covid Isolation At The Wrong Time?

As presidential election legal disputes continue, multiple COVID-19 vaccine announcements provide better news. The stock market looked like a rocket launching into space. Every stock went up. Quickly a pattern emerged - a rotation out of growth stocks into value stocks. Companies battered by COVID looked to benefit from potential country reopening after widespread vaccinations. Big tech and growth stocks were suddenly poised to be out of favor as, hypothetically, every American might soon get back on planes, eat at restaurants, spend more money at malls, and finally again enjoy the good life.

While stocks continue trading higher as we head into what is seasonally a good time for the market, ongoing election uncertainty as well as more Covid-19 restrictions appear to be big threats to a continuing V-shaped economic recovery. As confirmed COVID cases establish new records, and hospitals in some states are being overrun with patients, we may not have seen the peak of this dreaded "second wave". While it is against human nature to be locked in our homes for long periods of time, I expect that mandatory masks, social distancing, and restrictions on the size of groups will remain the primary way to slow the spread of Covid-19 while waiting for coming vaccines.

In the meantime, it appears that consumer spending may not be impaired by new restrictions this holiday season. However, as consumers again become more isolated due to rising Covid-19 cases, concerns are brewing about some holiday sales. The big box retailers are prospering from their online divisions, while other businesses suffer.

**In A Nutshell**  
What's up in the Economy?



**KEN HERMAN**  
Economic Analyst  
& Former Glendora Mayor

With total coronavirus cases exceeding 15.5 million it looks like we are headed for more COVID shutdowns. The trajectory of new cases may be about to overwhelm some healthcare systems again. While Donald Trump is less inclined to damage America's economic activity while fighting this coronavirus, most media outlets state that Joe Biden will soon be President. That happening would not be good news for many American businesses relying on our freedom of movement.

COVID shutdowns are deflationary in nature, as they tend to suppress business activity. They also create wild economic distortions, as they switch economic activity from store purchases to more digital buying. This significantly boosts online sales, but it's a bust for most other businesses. One strategy for outperforming the major indexes in 2020 has been to invest in what is booming under COVID and avoid what is suffering. Preferred investments now appear to be changing as the news of the Pfizer vaccine caused a violent rotation into what had been hurt by COVID, like energy (out of what has been helped by COVID, like technology).

I suspect that Democrats will somehow try to blame the accelerating pandemic on Republicans. Meanwhile, the future of the Senate is coming down to the

Bull Dog state's runoff elections. This critical but ugly battle continues to take shape. Potential Democrat control of the Senate would open the way for a host of socio-economic changes that could come in a parade of bills hitting the House floor when the new Congress is sworn in. It would have been helpful if Republicans had received more recognition for their positive pandemic responses. A more honest media would also help Republicans win the upcoming Georgia Senate races and maintain Senate control (minimizing movement toward socialism in the USA). Media fairness could also put Republicans into an infinitely better position for the midterm elections. Unfortunately, much fake news continues.

The far-left leaning media does not give President Trump the credit he deserves for his Project Warp Speed's impact on vaccine developments. Most media outlets also ignore the progress which has been made in new therapeutic medications to minimize the health threat to those Americans who do get Covid-19. Why aren't significantly dropping death rates (for people confirmed with this China coronavirus) not newsworthy? Despite Operation Warp Speed's fast vaccine delivery being Trump's ongoing objective, much media focus is on what might occur if the ongoing challenged election results remove Trump from office. Time will tell what the courts decide related to what appears to have been a very corrupt election in many key states.

**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

**Want a more peaceful Christmas and Holidays? Give kindness.**

Be courteous to other drivers and shoppers. Be pleasant and patient to all those who are working while you are shopping or traveling. None of us like to wear a mask, but it helps others feel more safe, so just wear your mask. (Maybe it'll help reduce the spread of seasonal colds and flu.) Christians, be the Good Samaritan. And remember, if you drink alcoholic beverages, or take any drugs, don't drive. DUI stands for Driving Under the Influence (of alcohol, drugs, medications).

**Is it too late to get a lower rate without a lot of origination, etc., fees? I'm currently paying almost 6-percent interest rate on my old 30-year mortgage, which seems high. The loan started at \$350,000, I currently owe \$110,000, and my monthly payment (not counting property taxes and insurance) is \$2,000. I'm on a fixed income.**

Providing you qualify (income, credit scores, other debt), and based on your current rate and payment amount, you could considerably lower your monthly mortgage payment. Don't procrastinate, as interest rates are not expected to stay this low for much longer. Keep in mind that an independent mortgage broker has access to a much larger selection of loans and rates than any bank or credit union. Findamortgagebroker.com (Let me know if you need a referral.) There are refinance loans available now that match the number of years you have left in your current loan. However, a 30-year mortgage could dramatically



**Julia Yoder**

lower your current payment. Refinancing does cost and it takes time to recover those costs.

**Each month, I regularly invest a set amount to purchase the same stocks. Should I sell my stocks and buy different ones?**

I am not licensed to give you advice about stocks. A general rule in buying stocks or real estate is: Buy when the prices are low and sell when the prices are high. I encourage my clients to invest where their money is safe (based on the strength of the company). As Will Rogers said, "I'm not as concerned about the return ON my money as I am the return OF my money." Over the last 19 years, my clients who have their investments in fixed-indexed annuities or indexed-universal life insurance policies enjoyed some of the stock market gains, while suffering no losses.

**Is there an investment that will pay me like a pension, starting now, so I have income for life?**

Depending on your specific situation, you might have several options. If it turns out to be the

best and right thing for you, you might consider an Immediate Annuity. You can get the same security as a monthly pension check, it is simple, and it is tax efficient.

**We decided to buy a newly constructed home. The builder's salesperson emphatically said that we have to get our financing from his lending company to get the discounts and perks that we can apply to the closing costs or to upgrades. Is that true?**

The bottom line is that builders can entice, wheedle, and woo buyers with great deals, but it is illegal for them to threaten you. If a buyer does feel threatened, they should first stand their ground, then complain to the builder and to the state and federal consumer affairs officials. Most builders will say they are just giving you the choice of using their lender. Read the fine print in your contract. (It could be worthwhile to have a real estate attorney look at the contract, too.) You might discover that you could use that builder's lender, get all the discounts and perks, and then refinance.

**Ask Julia by email:**  
juliayoder@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/Real Estate Broker 01238153/ Member of Nat'l. Ethics Assoc. Accident-Medical-Dental discount plans: CalStarBenefits.com/28485

## The Hazards Of Running On Fumes

Are you one of those people that wait until a warning beeps or the low fuel light illuminates? Do you feel confident you can go several more miles before actually running out of gas? Do you make a game of "I think I can, I think I can" meaning I think I can get to a gas station on just fumes alone? If so, read on!

I've known a few people in my time who enjoy the challenge of pulling up to the gas station on fumes. Sure...they have lost a few times and had to hoof it to the nearest station, buy a gas can and walk back to where their trusty vehicle finally stopped. Some even brag after this experience that now they actually know

for sure how many miles they can drive after the fuel warning lights up! I'm happy those people enjoy such games and challenges, but playing that game can have costly, not to mention damaging results for your vehicle.

Most vehicles have an electric fuel pump located inside the fuel tank and are actually submerged in the fuel. The fuel pump is an electric motor that spins at a high rate of speed. Spinning mechanical parts create heat and need lubrication, which is why the pump is at the bottom of the fuel tank completely covered with fuel.

The fuel pump is always spinning as long as the engine is running, which makes it more

important not to run low on gas. When your fuel gauge reads below ¼ of a tank, the fuel pump is starting to be exposed to air inside the tank, instead of the cool fuel.

If you put your hands together and rub them back and forth as fast as you can, you will create heat, when you stop, it will take a few minutes for them to cool down. However, if you put them under water they cool down immediately. Maybe not a great analogy, but I think you get the idea.

Overheating fuel pumps is the number one cause of failure. The cost of replacing a fuel pump on most cars is roughly \$600 to \$1000 and some cost even more.

The best thing you can do for your vehicle is fill it up when it gets to a quarter tank. It will save you money in the long run and keep your car running well. Sure...it doesn't have the same challenge as driving on fumes, but when it comes to your vehicle, it is always wise to consider damage control...both to your car and your wallet!

Certified Auto Specialists: the friendlier and more helpful auto shop! 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!**

## Newsom Launches "Vaccinate All 58" Campaign based on Safety and Equity as First Vaccines Arrive to California

LOS ANGELES - As the first doses of the Pfizer vaccine arrive in California, Governor Gavin Newsom launched "Vaccinate All 58", California's campaign for a safe, fair and equitable vaccine for all 58 counties in the state. The Governor joined Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, one of the first locations in the state to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, as first doses were administered. Across California, vaccines will be administered in phases by prioritizing groups according to risk and level of exposure. Initial doses will go to California's essential health care workers and those among our most vulnerable in long-term care settings.

"Hope is here. As our first doses of vaccine arrive, the promise of ending the pandemic is on the horizon. By taking collective, inclusive action across all 58 counties to get people vaccinated, we can get through to a healthier future for all," said Governor Newsom. "This is a moment for hope, and it is also a time to remain vigilant as we face the most intense surge yet. While we have prepared for this surge with beds and equipment, staffing shortages are real and impact our medical system. There's light at the end of the tunnel and I am calling on all Californians to do our part to get us through this - wear a mask, reduce mixing, stay home, stop the spread and save lives. Together we will get through this."

"This is a tremendous scientific achievement and a moment of hope for all Californians," said Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency. "But it is not a moment to let down our guard. COVID-19 is spreading like a wildfire throughout our state and we need to stay home and wear a mask to preserve our health care delivery system until the vaccine is widely available and adopted in our state."

California is determining its distribution guidelines in an open

and equitable fashion as initial vaccine supplies will be very limited. At first, vaccines will be provided to health care workers and those in long-term care settings in accordance with the CDPH Allocation Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine During Phase 1A. This is expected to be followed by essential workers and others at highest risk of becoming infected or severely ill with COVID-19.

"In distributing this life-changing vaccine, safety and equity are paramount. It is critical that we provide all Californians with the tools they need to get through this health crisis, from information to the vaccine, and the 'Vaccinate All 58' campaign does just that. That is how we get to the other side of this pandemic, and to healthier outcomes for us all," said Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins.

"What impresses me most about this campaign is the awareness that we must focus on communities that have sometimes been neglected, whether the reasons involve race, language, ethnicity, or something else," said Speaker Anthony Rendon. "We can succeed only by sharing information with these communities and making them partners in the task of getting California vaccinated. The Legislature looks forward to partnering with com-

munity leaders as we spread the word about stopping the spread."

To accomplish the twin principles of safety and equity, California drew upon the knowledge of many leaders and subject matter experts.

To review the COVID-19 vaccine for safety and efficacy, California formed a Scientific Safety Review Workgroup. Joined by Washington, Oregon and Nevada, the Workgroup is comprised of nationally acclaimed immunization and public health experts. The Workgroup worked concurrently and independently to review the FDA's actions related to COVID-19 vaccinations. This past Sunday, the Workgroup confirmed the Pfizer vaccine is safe for public use. They will continue to evaluate other COVID-19 vaccines following federal review processes.

Two workgroups are working to ensure the vaccines are distributed equitably: a Drafting Guidelines Workgroup is developing California-specific guidance for the prioritization and allocation of vaccine when supplies are limited, and the Community Advisory Vaccine Committee is providing input and feedback on the planning efforts and resolving barriers to equitable vaccine implementation and decision-making.

# Around the Valley & Senior News

## "TIME JOCKEY" - Petaluma

By Joe Castillo

**Hidden Gem...** Hidden in the lush hills north the San Francisco Bay, west of Sonoma and just south of Santa Rosa is the beautiful vintage town of Petaluma. Its downtown area is still home to many early 20th century structures which add a distinctive appearance to the historic town. Incorporated in 1858, Petaluma followed the growth of its big neighbor to the south in San Francisco. A railroad magnate by the name of Peter Donohue led the first effort of establishing regular service of the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad which ran from the wharfs of Marin County north to Santa Rosa. Donahue's service would eventually open up the rest of the Sonoma Valley to railroad transportation building the first commercial center in the region. But Petaluma became the Egg center of California when the first practical egg incubator was invented by two local residents, Isaac Dias and Lyman Byce. The invention put Petaluma on the fast track to leading the economic boom for a struggling

city. Starting in 1885, Petaluma grew into a major center and construction expanded with the city. Ornate and elaborate buildings were constructed with iron-cast facades and Italianate details. Most of the buildings still remain in place today, taking visitors back to a long-ago era. In 1892, the Carlson-Currier Silk Mill Company built a mill in the Petaluma factory section of town. The company would go on and eventually manufacturer parachutes for use in World War I & II. The building still remains but is has been converted into a modern hotel with a known hotel chain. In 1918, Bert Kerrigan of the Chamber of Commerce proclaimed Petaluma as "The World's Egg Basket" and establishes the first Egg Day Parade, a tradition that continues in the 100 years since with the renamed Butter & Egg Parade and Festival. And finally, in 1940, with the chicken population booming in the city, production of eggs reaches an all-time high. Petaluma achieves the incredible milestone of pro-

ducing 32 percent of the eggs in all of California. Originally part of 1834 Rancho Petaluma land grant awarded by Governor Jose Figueroa to Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the grant covered over 66,000 acres and cover a vast area from the Pacific Ocean east to the Napa-Sonoma valleys. Vallejo would build his large adobe, which is still a California Historical Site, and name it the Rancho Petaluma Adobe where he would establish a large ranch and agriculture presence in the area. Petaluma, Spanish for "back hills" would go on and takes its place in California's growth and development era as led by Vallejo. Today, many historic structures and sites still remain as a tribute to Petaluma's past but you'll always be able to find someplace where eggs will be on the menu....  
*Joe Castillo is a freelance history writer who has been covering Southern California history for 11 years and has written 5 books on the topic. He can be reached at joeacastillo@aol.com.*

## Things That Are Just Annoying!

One thing that I find annoying is our government, from county, to state, to our federal government. They are nothing more than power hungry fighting children looking out for their best interest and not of the people. Those that voted for them did it to the rest of us. This really annoys me.

However, on a lighter note... How about those containers that say "Peel Here" to open and they never peel right no matter how hard you try?

How about those plastic utensils you get with your food order? You stick your fork into the meat and try to cut it with that plastic knife and then you end up breaking the fork leaving all four prongs in your food. Now what?

You go to the supermarket and buy only a couple of items and you get a receipt that is two feet long. It has everything on it you don't need to know. You have to hunt for the items you purchased



**George Ogden**  
*That's just the way it is!*

to make sure you were charged correctly. You get coupons for things you don't need. Lucky me, I can get 20% off on my next purchase of tampons, really??? Take note people, I don't use them...

Who likes Reese's Peanut Butter Cups? For those of you that do... what annoys me is trying to get that wrapper off the candy. Everything seems to stick to it and God forbid, you let it get to room temperature, it becomes a chocolate mess.  
You get an email, or an invoice

or something that you need to print that one page. So you print it, only to find that it prints the last line in the next page. Great! You buy a cake or cupcakes and can't wait to get to eat this special dessert only to find the best part, the icing, stuck to the lid. Good luck on trying to lick this off without getting it all over your face.

How about those instructions that are in such a small font you really can't read them? What bothers me most is the fact that they do this with medication. Sadly, seniors who often have their eyesight deteriorating can't read these at all.

Something that is annoying is buying a package that has instructions on it and you didn't realize that it was in a language you don't speak. So... good luck.

People will always find things that will annoy them...  
*"That's Just the Way It Is!"*

## Residential Refuse and Recycling Rates to Increase Beginning January 1, 2020

**DUARTE** - Effective January 1, 2021, Duarte residents will see a modest increase of approximately \$0.72 cents to their monthly residential refuse and recycling rates. This estimated rate adjustment from \$26.71 to \$27.43 is based on the most common form of residential service covering one 90-gallon trash container, one 60-gallon recyclable container and one 60-gallon green waste container. The City of Duarte's solid waste services agreement with Burrtec calls for a review and adjustment of rates annually. Rates are adjusted up or down based on various cost factors including Consumer Price Index, fuel prices, tipping fees, and State mandates such as

minimum wage increases. This year's adjustment is a 2.7 percent increase based on the cost factors. Burrtec also requested a slight \$0.03 cent increase for residential street sweeping raising the fee from \$1.90 to \$1.93 per month. Commercial customers will also experience rate increases. The most common level of refuse service, one 3-yard bin serviced once per week, will increase by \$8.63 per month from \$190.61 to \$199.24. Commercial street sweeping will also see an increase in 2021 by \$0.07 cents going from \$3.66 to \$3.73 per month. Duarte continues to maintain some of the lowest rates in Los Angeles County.

Burrtec Waste Services began providing franchised refuse collection and recycling services in the City of Duarte in 1996, with the most recent contract extension approved in 2020. In recent years, Burrtec completed the conversion of the diesel fleet to alternative fuel trucks, implemented a used oil curbside collection program, and integrated free paper shredding and compost giveaway at Community Cleanups, introduced a construction and demolition processing option, and most recently, rolled out a new commercial food recycling program. For more information on Burrtec Waste Services and the cost increases, call 1-(800) 325-9417.

## Millions of Americans are Facing Hunger This Holiday Season

Millions of people nationwide face hunger every holiday season. And this year, the COVID-19 pandemic thrust even more Americans into this vulnerable position.

Before the COVID-19 crisis began, one in nine people, including 10 million children, already lived in a food insecure household. Communities of color are disproportionately affected by both poverty and hunger. For example, one in four Native American and Alaska Natives experience food insecurity. One in five Blacks and one in six Latinos experience food insecurity. As a result of the pandemic, unemployment has soared and the need for food assistance has increased.

"Unfortunately hunger impacts Americans every day of the year, but we know that this holiday season will look much different than last. More families are accessing food banks than ever before, and many of them for the very first time, which is why it's really important for everyone to come together to help

fight hunger this holiday season," says Casey Marsh, chief development officer for Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization.

Fortunately, efforts are being made to meet the sharp rise in food insecurity. As part of its "Many Hearts, One Community." holiday campaign, Wells Fargo is fulfilling its commitment to help families in need through the Feeding America network of 200 food banks by year-end. This is a continuation of Wells Fargo's decade-long relationship with the Feeding America network which, since the start of the pandemic, has included efforts such as turning Wells Fargo corporate properties and branch locations into mobile food distribution centers. Additionally, during this holiday season, grants will be made internationally to food banks operating in Wells Fargo's global footprint.

"It was life-changing," says Andrea Thomas, a single mother

who received food assistance in Mesa, Ariz. "I didn't have to figure out if I was going to pay for groceries or pay for rent to keep my household afloat."

So how can you get involved? There are 200 Feeding America member food banks across the country, many of which need volunteers to help pack food boxes, distribute food at drive-through pantries and more. Feeding America food banks have adjusted their practices to ensure social distancing to keep everyone safe. Contact your local food bank to see how you can help families in need. You can also join the fight to end hunger by making a donation. For more information, visit [feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org).

While the issue of hunger is timely during the holidays, it doesn't stop once the season is over. Year-round philanthropy, volunteerism and innovative efforts like drive-up food banks, can help meet the needs of families across America. (StatePoint)

## Covered California Open Enrollment

The 2021 Open Enrollment period for Covered California has now begun. Millions of Californians have enrolled in affordable high quality health coverage through Covered California since the landmark program began, resulting in around a 10% increase in the amount of Californians who have health insurance.

Between now and mid-January during the Open Enrollment period, you or a family member are able to enroll or

**2021 OPEN ENROLLMENT IS HERE! NOV 1 - JAN 31**

This way to health insurance >

make changes to a Covered California plan as needed.

To enroll in a plan or make changes, visit the Covered California website [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com) or call toll-free 800 300-1506.

**Santa's HOTLINE**  
Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> • 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Have a magical conversation with the one and only Santa Claus!  
Children can call (626) 386-6804 to be connected to the North Pole.

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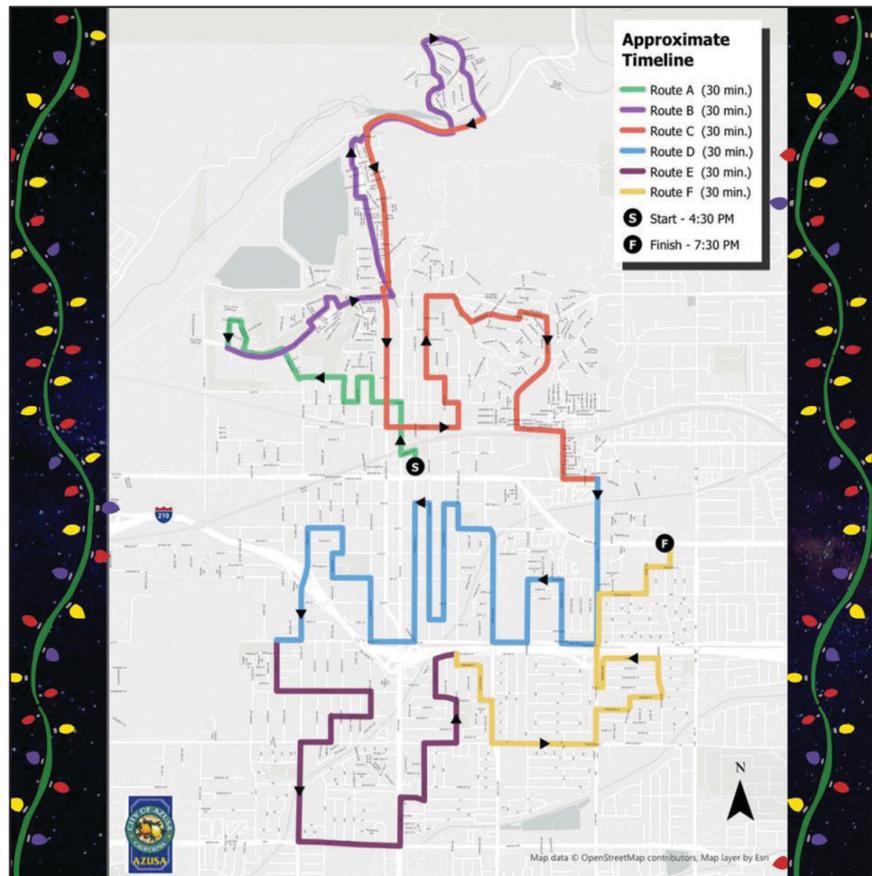
Today, collect your pixels of wholesomeness into a mosaic of goodness to share with your fellow man

# Azusa Santa Tour

**AZUSA** - Santa is coming to Azusa for a tour! This year has had its challenges and we will not be able to host Breakfast with Santa. In an attempt to spread some holiday cheer, we have invited Santa to visit our Azusa neighborhoods on Saturday December 19, from 4:30pm-7:30pm.

Take a look at the Santa Tour map to check the time that Santa will be visiting your neighborhood. Santa will spend approximately 30 minutes passing through each neighborhood. Please be safe and maintain your distance from moving vehicles during Santa's visit.

As a reminder, please adhere to the current health orders. Everyone should be practicing social distancing and wearing a mask during the Santa Tour.



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PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
LIBRARY SERVICES DIVISION

## Letters to Santa

Get your Letter delivered to the North Pole!

Drop off your Letter in the Library's Bookdrop!

**DECEMBER 1-18**

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234 N. Second Avenue, Covina, CA 91723 | (626) 384-5303  
Please visit the City's website at [covinaca.gov](http://covinaca.gov) for more information about City Programs and Services.

CITY OF DUARTE PRESENTS

## Santa's Sleigh Ride THRU DUARTE

**December 16 • 17 • 18**  
**5:30-9:00pm**

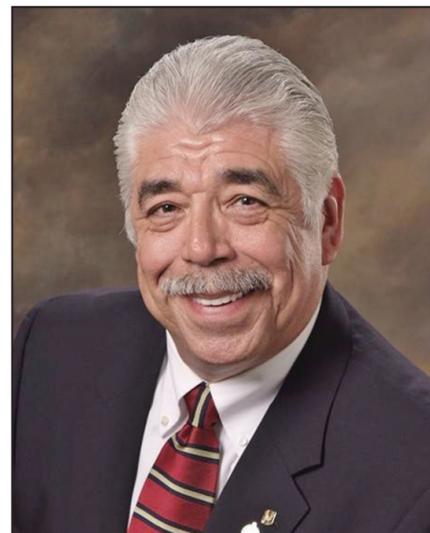
Santa will be sleighing thru all Duarte neighborhoods spreading some Christmas cheer! We encourage all residents to come outside of their homes, stay 6-feet apart from those not in their household, and wave to Santa as he comes thru town.

TO ENSURE YOU DON'T MISS SANTA, FOLLOW OUR "SANTA FINDER" AT [ACCESSDUARTE.COM](http://ACCESSDUARTE.COM)

# Upper District Ushers in Newly Elected Board with Swearing-In Ceremony



Director Katarina Garcia



Director Charles Treviño

**MONROVIA** - The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) conducted its first meeting under a new governing board following the oath ceremony for Board Directors Ed Chavez, Charles Treviño, and Katarina Garcia. District Counsel administered the oath of office to the newly elected directors via teleconference. Although the oaths were conducted through Zoom, which has become synonymous with the pandemic, congratulatory remarks and local support remained unchanged. Upper District's water retailers, agency staff and local elected officials attended the meeting to welcome the incoming board members.

With this new term, Directors Chavez and Treviño will be entering their fourth term in office, serving 16 years since they were elected in 2008. Director Garcia is newly elected to the Board and is the first Latina and Asian-Pacific Islander to serve on the Upper District board.

Director Garcia is elected to her first term in office and will represent Division 4 which includes the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora, Irwindale, and West Covina. Garcia is a science teacher at West Covina High School where she teaches Biology and AP Environmental Science. Her passion for water can be found in her commitment to educate her students on the importance of conservation and sustainability. Director Garcia's priorities will be focused on water sustainability for the region and continuing the District's leadership in water education and conservation programs for the youth.

Director Trevino represents Division 2 which includes the cities of South Pasadena, San Gabriel, Rosemead and portions of Temple City and Arcadia. Trevino expressed his commitment to water sustainability and representing Upper District's on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California where he has advocated for the regional water needs of the San Gabriel Valley.

Director Chavez will continue to represent Division 3 which includes the cities and unincorporated areas of Industry, Hacienda Heights, La Puente, North Whittier, South El Monte, and West Covina. Chavez has been a strong supporter of Upper District's recycled water projects and finding alternative solutions for groundwater sustainability and water management. Director



Director Ed Chavez

Chavez has served as Board President for the past three years, most recently overseeing Upper District's 60th Anniversary.

The Upper District is governed by five elected directors representing geographic divisions within Upper District's boundaries. Each is elected to serve a four-year term. With the recent election, the Board now includes Directors Ed Chavez, President (Division 3), Charles Treviño, Treasurer (Division 2), Anthony Fellow, Secretary (Division 1), Katarina Garcia (Division 4), and Jennifer Santana (Division 5).

Upper District's mission is to provide a reliable, sustainable, diversified, and affordable portfolio of high-quality water supplies to the San Gabriel Valley; including water conservation, recycled water, storm water capture, storage, water transfers and imported water. Upper District services nearly one million people in its 144 square mile service territory. Governed by a five-member elected board of directors, Upper District is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Annually, more than 78 billion gallons of water is used in Upper District's service area. For more information about Upper District, please visit our website [www.upperdistrict.org](http://www.upperdistrict.org) or call 626-443-2297.

# Gifting Your Child a Mobile Device for the Holidays? What to Know

Does your child's holiday wish-list include a mobile phone or other electronic device? With kids and teens spending more time online than ever these days due to social distancing guidelines and remote-learning, you may feel the time is now to gift them their very own device.

However, as a result of all that additional screen time, families should be doubly sure that kids use their devices safely and responsibly. After the holiday gifting excitement settles, consider these tips:

- **Driver's safety:** While no one should ever text and drive, newer drivers need to be especially mindful of the road and the operation of their vehicle. Have a serious discussion about distracted driving. Cell phone usage was responsible for 12 percent of moderate-to-severe crashes of teen drivers studied by AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety in 2015.
- **Extend the device's life:** Let's face it, devices are highly breakable and easily lost. Extend the life of your child's device by ensuring the gift is accompanied by a protective case and warranty. Talk to your child about what to do if the device gets wet, and have a backup plan for the event that it's lost and your child needs to reach you. Installing a location monitoring app can help you locate the device in a pinch.



- **Set ground rules.** A few ground rules can help ensure your child uses their new device responsibly. These rules may involve schedules for when the device can be used for purposes unrelated to school, as well as limits on what apps and sites your child can access. Talk to your kids about such topics as healthy digital habits, the need for screen-free time each day, and how and why to report cyberbullying and other inappropriate or abusive online behavior.
  - **Make your rules stick.** In so many areas of parenting, creating rules is easier than getting your child to follow them. However, a parental guidance app can help make your digital rules effective. For example, OurPact allows you to remotely set up automated schedules for when internet, apps and the device itself are unavailable. Features include URL whitelisting and blacklisting, daily screen time allowances and iMessage/SMS blocking, helping you ensure your ground rules stick and that all the apps installed on your child's device pass your approval. Available at the iOS App Store and Google Play Store, parents can also sign up for an account at [www.ourpact.com](http://www.ourpact.com).
  - **Lead the way.** Don't text during dinner. Put your phone away when you are driving. Build goodwill and mutual respect by following the same rules you give your child.
- If a digital device is in your child's future this holiday season, be sure that gift comes with the know-how to use it safely and responsibly. (StatePoint)

# Serena Lin of Glendora High School An Exceptional Volunteer

By Jayam Rutnam

GLENDORA - Serena Lin, who is 17 is a student at Glendora High School where she is a senior. Wanting to perform some kind of public service during the pandemic, she offered to do whatever she could at the Pasadena Senior Center.

Serena has a passion for serving the senior community. Pre-pandemic, she volunteered in person at an assisted living center, leading crafts and reading poetry. In the spring when the outbreak restricted direct contact with vulnerable populations, she looked for another way to stay engaged. Serena connected with the Pasadena Senior Center which has continued its services virtually. There, she facilitates the social hours, shares short-films and poems she makes for them, and guest hosts panel discussions.

With the pandemic, she realized how big the need was among isolated seniors. As a poet, musician, and filmmaker, she produces videos to cultivate meaningful conversations between young people and seniors. She has been collecting footage from her interviews with individuals and groups of



GHS Senior Student Serena Lin busy editing a short film.

seniors on life experience and wisdom for her newest film project, "Minute Monologues"

Students and young people watch the videos, providing feedback. A recent pilot garnered responses from over 50 students. "I was struck by the quality of the reflections the students wrote after watching the videos. Some wrote paragraphs, and others talked about their own experiences and even new habits they'd adopt" said Serena.

The seniors experience the joy of watching their impact when Serena shares the highlight from the youth's responses. One noted that "the issue of generation gaps has become prevalent, but Serena's videos can connect people of all ages." Others thanked her

for creating something that they can share with their grandchildren and start a conversation. Another participant said he was struck by the "calmness" of the videos, grateful that young people who tend to be "bombed" by social media took the time to share their reflections on the seniors' advice.

Serena's desire to use her talents to help others has many shades. Serena began her own crafting business in middle school, selling origami crane products to raise money for water filters in South America. This evolved into her own company, Simply Cranes, to make customized, unique Messengers for companies and individuals. The company gives half of its profit to support causes such as women's education and social justice.

On a more personal level, she has made many senior friends, and through them, Serena has helped them give personalized "Uplift Notes" to their friends who are going through tough times. Each item is custom-engraved with the recipient's name. Serena hopes to expand her efforts to more student communities in southern California and is working toward creating that network.

According to Serena, "We can never fully identify with the isolation of some of our seniors, and it's not just during the pandemic." "People in my generation have big dreams and aspirations. I'm just trying to do what I can with the skills and resources I have now to make an impact"

# Where's Santa? Did You See Him?

By Michael Allowos

GLENDORA - Since the official Glendora parade was canceled this year like so many other parades due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Santa thought he would bring a bit of Christmas cheer and magic to both young and young-at-heart residents of Glendora.

Since Santa's reindeer were resting up for the big day, Jan's Towing helped out by driving Santa and his sleigh around town led by the other big guy Glendora's Chief of police Mr. Matthew Egan, accompanied by the Los Angeles County Fire Department with their signature search and rescue helicopter flyover to start the Santa run throughout the City.

Santa's route weaved in and out of Glendora, from North



Santa with Glendora's Chief of Police Matthew Egan and South to East and West covering over twenty miles of surface streets over a three-hour time period stopping periodically for pictures and getting those last-minute Christmas wish lists.

We all give our thanks to Santa for helping us feel special for this holiday season.

# Kiwanienne Food Drive



Members of the Glendora Kiwanianne (l to r) Rose Wentz, Jan White, Tammy Houser, Debbie Deal (Club President) and Jo Cox display an assortment of food club members donated to Shepherd's Pantry this month to help feed the hungry during the holidays. The Kiwanianne is a Glendora service club which sponsors fund raising projects to help the youth and senior citizens in the community. This year's theme for the club, according to President Debbie Deal, is Busy Bees of Service. The group will continue to sponsor service projects throughout the year to help the community. The Kiwanianne has been meeting virtually during the pandemic. For more information about the Kiwanianne, go to [Glendorakiwanianne.com](http://Glendorakiwanianne.com).



## Blood Drive Irwindale Senior Center

Location: Dining Hall  
16 116 Arrow Highway  
Irwindale, CA 91706

Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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## SPARK OF LOVE

### HOLIDAY GIFT CARD & TOY DRIVE

Join the LVFD this holiday season and bring cheer to the children in need within our community. We have made changes this year to our traditional toy drive to comply with COVID restrictions. In lieu of toy donations, we are encouraging your support of GIFT CARDS or you may donate a gift online through our Target Registry.

[tgt.gifts/SparkofLove2020](http://tgt.gifts/SparkofLove2020)

Donations are appreciated and will be accepted through December 18th.

\*Note: To maintain COVID compliance, we will not accept any toys dropped off at the fire stations

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### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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