

San Gabriel Valley TEMME

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

Jan 27 - Feb 2, 2022

Barger, Sheriff Detail Illegal Cannabis Fight

LOS ANGELES COUNTY -Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Sheriff Alex Villanueva, along with Congressman Mike Garcia, Assemblyman Tom Lackey, an FBI special agent and a group of subject matter experts from the public and private sector spoke to Antelope Valley residents on January 22, 2022 at a special Leona Valley community forum about stepped-up efforts to combat illegal cannabis production.

"I want illegal growers to know this: You are not welcome here," said Barger, whose district covers northern Los Angeles County, including the Antelope Valley. "I will do all that is within my power to stop illegal cannabis growth operations."

"Our department will continue to work in collaboration with other agencies in making a dent on illegal cannabis grows," Sheriff Villanueva said. "We look forward to this year and the continued partnerships."

Following California voters' 2016 vote to legalize recreational marijuana use by adults, hundreds of illegal marijuana farms have appeared. In the Antelope Valley, most have appeared since 2020, both in clearings bulldozed among desert vegetation and in houses that were purchased or rented by growers and gutted to hold marijuana crops. Marijuana



Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva hosted a community forum regarding illegal marijuan cultivation operations.

growers steal water, spread trash, cause air and noise pollution with industrial-sized electrical generators, poison wildlife with pesticides, destroy Joshua trees and other native plants, and intimidate neighbors.

In October 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved \$4.9 million for the Sheriff's Department to combat illegal grows in the Antelope Valley and illegal dispensaries in unincorporated areas countywide. Two months later, in January 2022, Supervisors

Sheila Kuehl and Barger introduced a county nuisance abatement ordinance that would levy fines of up to \$30,000 per day against illegal marijuana dispensaries and illegal marijuana

The community forum took place inside the Westside Christian Fellowship and was aired live on the Supervisor's Facebook

Congressman Garcia ad-

dressed the community mem-

bers in attendance. "I'm grateful to partner with L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Sheriff Alex Villanueva on the effort to combat the illegal marijuana grows. Since I first brought national attention to this crisis sweeping across our community, we have made significant progress," Garcia said. "However, more work remains, and we can't take our foot off the gas pedal. Eradicating these grows remains a top priority for

Walnut Valley USD Pays Tribute

me and I will continue to do all I can to ensure that we fully combat this problem and keep our community safe."

Assemblyman Lackey stressed the urgency of combatting cannabis. "Unlike other states, California has had a sophisticated illicit cannabis market far before its legalization. To make matters worse, we now have an open-door policy when it comes to illegal cultivation. It's a felony to grow cannabis illegally in every western state except California. Whether you're in favor of protecting the environment, protecting public health, or protecting public safety, we must do whatever we can to shut these operations down. Now is the time to act."

State Senator Scott Wilk, whose district covers northern Los Angeles County, thanked Supervisor Barger for organizing today's forum.

"If we are to be successful in tackling these illegal operations, it is going to take a concerted and coordinated effort by federal, local and state agencies," said Wilk. "I look forward to continuing our work to combat this threat to our region's safety and peace of mind."

(Information via news release from the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger)

"Coffee Wth A Cop" At Azusa Metro Station

By Joan Schmidt

AZUSA - Last Wednesday morning, fellow Monrovia Arcadia Duarte Town Council Member Linda Sells and I traveled to Asuza Metro Goldline's Station near Azusa Pacific and Citrus Colleges. What an interesting, informative excursion!

These "Coffee with a Cop" at the Metro Stations are held by the LA County Sheriff's Department. Their Transit Services Bureau or TSB serves more than 1400 square feet of the L.A. County Metro. Their Captain Shawn Kehoe and Law Enforcement Technician Ramon Montenegro and several deputies attended.

The Transit Bureau expanded its programs and has a Transit Mental Evaluation Team. A sworn-in deputy and mental health professional make up a team that is tasked with responding to people in mental health crisis and helping the homeless receive services. This year the program expanded; there are 10 teams at TSB.

While we were at the "Coffee", a belligerent person came from the train tracks and was yelling profanities. It was obvious he was in dire need of help, and the situation was taken care of in a professional manner. Linda and I thought, "What if it were 2 AM, we were traveling alone from work and encountered this person?" Very scary! People have NO IDEA how fortunate we are to have

Rachel Commacho, from LASD's Community Advisory

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LASD's TSB (Transit Services Bureau) Captain Shawn Kehoe and Azusa Police Chief Mike Bertelsen

Committee was there as they host these events, and provide the delicious coffee.

Azusa Mayor Robert Gonzales and Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Avila spoke with residents from nearby Roseglen Homes about safety and Metro's Security using a building for offices. The residents were happy and asked other questions also.

Azusa Police Chief Mike Bertelsen, Captain Robert Landeros, Officers M. Munoz and L. Ferrari and other officers greeted residents and answered questions. Mike Bertelsen has been Azusa's Police Chief for 2 ½ years; with the Department, 28 years; advancing through the ranks. He began as a jailer. He spoke of working with Pasadena, Arcadia, Monrovia, Glendora and Covina Police Departments as well as LASD, which includes both Temple Station and San Dimas Station. Azusa's unincorporated areas are in San Dimas Station's jurisdiction. They also have worked with CHP. There is a sharing of resources and information which is very beneficial. Chief Bertelsen also told me his city

is divided into three districts and a Lieutenant oversees each dis-

There is a problem along the Gold Line Staions because many homeless get off at the stations and hang out in the area. I noticed dialogue between Captain Kehoe and Chief Bertelsen; I am sure they had much to discuss.

I met Carlos Rios, Transit Security Community Liaison, System Security of Law Enforcement at METRO (Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority). He told me Metro includes all the buses and train system.

I heard someone say, "Joan, it's Judy Gerhardt, remember me?" Judy retired as a Commander at LASD a couple years ago; now she is the Chief of Metro's System Security of Law Enforcement! (I met her long ago when she was a Sergeant at LASD!)

We are so fortunate to have all these agencies working together to keep us safe, and reaching out to those who are homeless and/or with mental issues. God bless them and keep them safe.

to Teachers of the Year WALNUT - Walnut Valley Unified School District celebrated an extraordinary group of educators during the 24th annual Salute to Teachers virtual awards

on January 19. The 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year serve with courage and commitment and share a passion for making a positive difference in the lives of their students.

Congratulations to the following honorees: Julie Urbaniec -Castle Rock Elementary, Angelica Infante - Chaparral Middle School, Rachel Harrington - C.J. Morris Elementary, Stephanie Johnson - Collegewood Elementary, Melody Fernandez - Evergreen Elementary, Barbara Vanderheyden - Diamond Bar High, Samantha Trejo - Maple Hill Elementary, Geri Smith -Quail Summit Elementary, Marla Rickard - Ron Hockwalt Academies, Debra Brady - South Pointe Middle School, Kim Flick - Suzanne Middle School, Laura Saenz - Vejar Elementary, Sylvia Chen - Walnut Elementary, Kellee Lyons - Walnut High School, and Vicki Kim -Westhoff Elementary.

Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Matt Witmer and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Diane Perez hosted the recorded event with congratulatory messages from Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor, Board of Trustees President Dr. Tony Torng, and WVEA President Lisa Peterson. "These fifteen Teachers of the Year represent of over 700 teachers in Walnut Valley," said Superintendent Taylor. "Today is your special day where we recognize you and we say thank

At the culmination of the presentation, Sylvia Chen was announced as the 2021 District Teacher of the Year.

Sylvia has taught fourth grade Mandarin Dual Language Immersion at Walnut Elementary for the past five years. Being an English Learner after moving here



Top Teacher! Sylvia Chen from Walnut Elementary School is the 2021 WVUSD District Teacher of the Year.

from Taiwan in the sixth grade ignited Sylvia's passion to support her own dual-language students who face similar obstacles in speaking a non-native language. Her mission is ensuring each student feels seen and all curriculums relevant to their personal lives to make learning meaningful. "I invite you to reflect on the past two years with me with a grateful heart - because a lot has happened," Sylvia shared about the fast-paced education pivots due to the pandemic. "I'm grateful for the simple fact that we all get to be around each other again!"

Prior to the program, District leaders delivered gift baskets to honorees filled with generous donations from community supporters. Each Teacher of the Year received an engraved apple award courtesy of the Walnut Valley Educational Foundation.

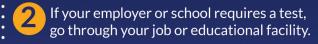
A special thanks to the following Salute to Teachers sponsors: Massage Envy, Schools First Federal Credit Union, Chaffey Federal Credit Union, Sandy Best - McGriff Insurance, Complete Business Solutions, Walnut Valley Administrator's Association, Yogurtland, and School Portraits by Adams Photography.

In addition, the top teachers received certificates of recognition from Congresswoman Young Kim, Senator Josh Newman, Assemblyman Phillip Chen, City of Diamond Bar, and City of Wal-

The 2021 Salute to Teachers program may be viewed at www.wvusd.org.

KNOW YOUR COVID-19 TESTING OPTIONS

If you have insurance, start by contacting your doctor or visiting your local pharmacy.





The San Gabriel Valley Lexaminer

A2 S.G.V. EXAMINER Jan 27 - Feb 2, 2022

WVUSD Trustees Celebrate Super Star Students, Parents

WALNUT - In keeping with tradition, the Walnut Valley USD Board of Trustees honored exemplary students and parent volunteers during the January 19 meeting. This month, Castle Rock Elementary and Suzanne Middle School stars were spotlighted along with the winner of the Superintendent's Holiday Card Contest.

Castle Rock Elementary Super Star Student Aimee Van Colenbergh is 100% committed to her academics and loves learning. The third grader is "principled, a critical thinker, and reflective," shared Principal Jason Eldridge during the presentation. Aimee is incredibly helpful to both her teacher and peers. Teacher Michelle Boots believes Aimee's greatest quality is her positive outlook. "Aimee is never, never, never, not smiling!" she said.

Castle Rock Community ways to fundraise, connect stu-Club President Katia Alsayed dents and community, and was lauded with the Partner in Education Award. The dedicated parent volunteer works ways to fundraise, connect students and community, and keep school spirit high. Through Katia and her husband's company, they gra-



Quail Summit Elementary fifth grader Arielle Hsieh recognized as winner in the annual

Superintendent's Art Contest. tirelessly to support students and staff. Katia has creatively navigated through COVID safety protocols to find unique ways to fundraise, connect students and community, and keep school spirit high. Through Katia and her husband's company they gra-

ciously donated 25 Chromebooks and two charging carts for student use. In addition, Katia serves the Castle Rock students and community with positivity and enthusiasm. "Katia, we thank you for your commitment to our school!" Principal Eldridge said.

eighth grader Ava Waggoner received the Super Star Student Award. "Ava strives to excel at everything she does!" shared Principal Dr. Amy Smith. She is the Orchestra President and a great public speaker - giving Weekly Words of Wisdom and providing morning announcements. She's dedicated to leadership through service as a Moosic Cowncil member and Girl Scout. Ava's a top-notch bass player that helps anchor the orchestra. Her teachers all speak to her outstanding character, willingness to help others, and drive to always do her best. They describe her as positive, encouraging, responsible, funny, respectful, and compassionate. "I'm really excited to honor Ava as an outstanding Challenger!" Dr.

Suzanne Middle School

Longtime Suzanne Middle School parent volunteer Joy Hsu was honored with the Partner in Education Award.

Smith said.



Suzanne Middle School eighth grader Ava Waggoner receives the Super Star Student Award.



Castle Rock Elementary third grader Aimee Van Colenbergh receives Super Star Student Award.

Joy helps with Community Club and has taken on the role as Coordinating Council representative. As a Mandarin speaker, she attends meetings to assist with translation and is beyond helpful during August registration days. "Joy makes valuable connections and helps families understand the culture at our school," Dr. Smith shared. As a member of Walnut CAPA, Joy has shared traditions with staff members, including Lunar New Year. Joy also helps organizes events such as Teacher Appreciation Luncheons and other celebrations. "We really appreciate all that you do for Suzanne Middle School!" said Dr. Smith.

Quail Summit Elementary fifth grader Arielle Hsieh was recognized as winner in the annual Superintendent's Art Contest. Her original winter wonderland-themed artwork was featured in a special holiday card for over 2,000 Walnut Valley USD staff members. She received a certificate of recognition, framed copy of her artwork, and Yogurtland gift card.

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Distribution of Athens Services Carts

AZUSA - Athens Services will be delivering to Single-Family customers in Azusa their new waste, recycling and organics carts the week of January 24th through February 11th. Carts will be delivered on their current service day and placed curbside. Beginning the week of February 14th Athens will fully transition to automated collection services.

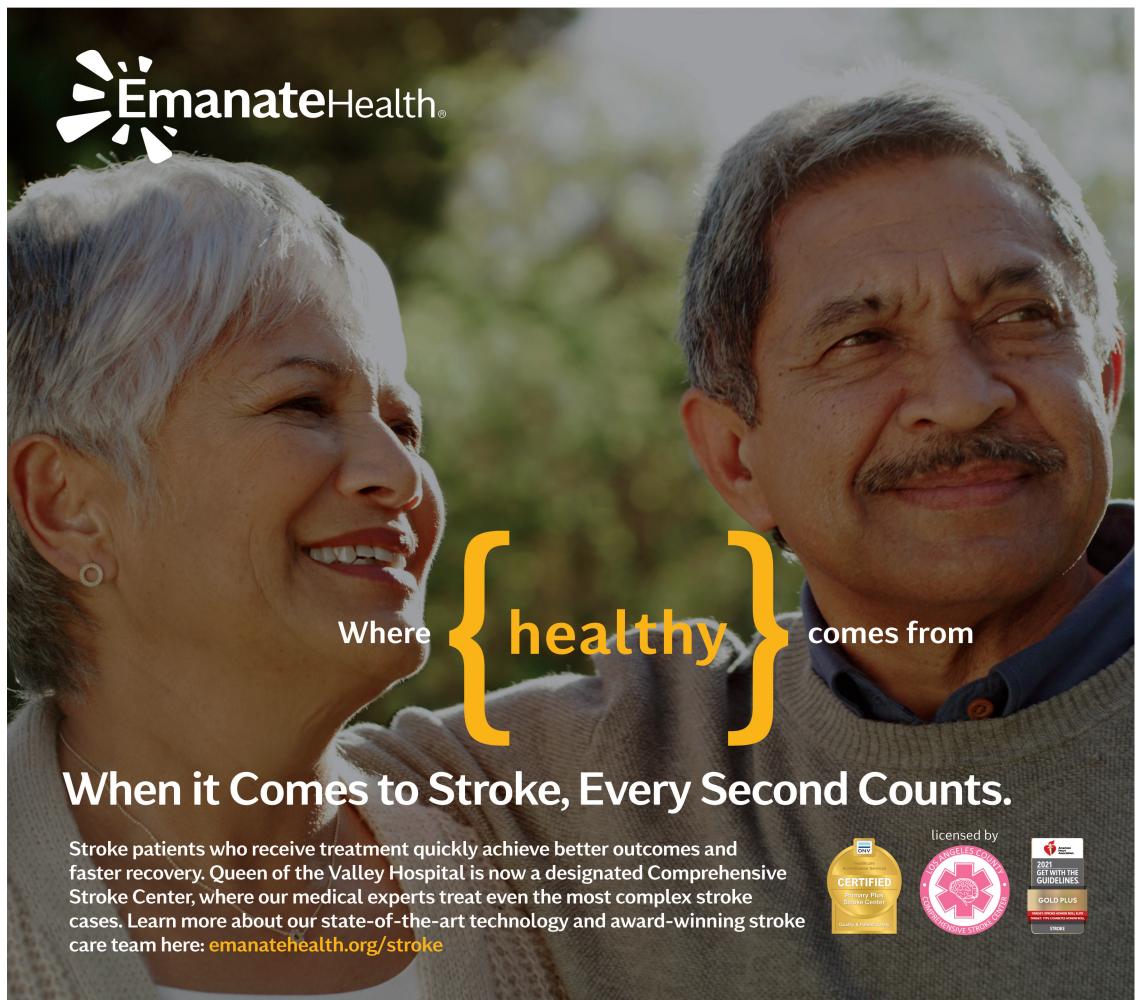
Got bulky waste? Please contact Athens Services 24 hours before your collection day at 888-336-6100 or https://athensservices.com/bulky-



item-pickup/ to avoid a missed pickup.

Contact Athens Services at have any questions.

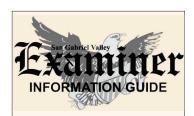
888-336-6100 or email cs@athensservices.com if you have any questions



Napolitano's Provision to Combat Drought & Boost Water Supplies Included in Bureau of **Reclamation's Blueprint**

Grace F. Napolitano (D-El Monte) praised the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's blueprint for implementation of the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which includes \$245 million for WaterSMART Title XVI's Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects, bill language Napolitano inserted into the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to better prepare communities in Southern California and the west for ongoing drought cy-

"We are thrilled to welcome \$245 million in new funding to combat drought, boost water supplies, and better meet the unique water needs of Southern Californians and millions of other Americans in the west," Napolitano said. "The Bureau



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Thank you for your cooperation.

WASHINGTON, DC-Rep. of Reclamation's Title XVI water recycling programs have proven to be some of the most cost-effective federal programs in improving water supply and will continue to provide longterm savings, while boosting job growth and lessening our reliance on imported water. I have been fighting for more than two decades to increase funding levels for Title XVI, and I applaud the Biden administration for recognizing this critical need with robust funding to back it up."

The language Napolitano submitted was based on her bill, H.R. 1015, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act, which aims to assist water agencies with the expansion, planning, design, and building of water recycling plants and modernizing water infrastructure in California and other western states.

"With a backlog of existing projects awaiting federal dollars, these funds will help bring more recycling projects online faster, adding jobs, modernizing our water infrastructure, and expanding our regional water portfolio in the process," Napolitano added. "The drought is not over—not here in Southern California, nor many other parts of the west. With climate change, population growth, and a global pandemic threatening vital water supplies, we must act urgently to safeguard our communities from water shortages and drought."

As Chairwoman of the Transportation Committee's Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee and a senior member of the House Natural Resources Committee, Napolitano successfully included in the law this and several other key provisions to deliver federal assistance to clean water projects, water supply projects, and environmental improvements and recreation.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021.

Fast-Food Sector Strives for Equity

SACRAMENTO - In light of Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez's resignation, Assemblymember Chris Holden has taken over authorship of AB-257 Food Facilities and Employment and announced several clarifying and substantive amendments to the measure that address stakeholder concerns. California's fast food industry employs over 557,000 Californians.

"As a former franchisee, I know that a one size fits all ap- Act, addresses this imbalance roach is not the correct step forward," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "We have a chance to lift up small business owners and essential workers with AB 257, and I look forward to working with franchisors, franchisees, employee representatives, and stakeholders to create an inclusive solution to move this bill through the Legislature."

AB 257 would resolve longstanding issues in the fast-food restaurant sector by creating a Fast-Food Sector Council that would promote industry wide collaboration and focus efforts on improving worker protections and standard operating procedures. The Council would include state agencies, employers and worker representatives to ensure an all-inclusive approach. The bill would enhance numerous local, state, and federal laws and regulations that have been instituted to require operational changes on the part of businesses to protect employees from infection since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council must conduct research and submit a report to the Legislature outlining their recommendations.

"Fast food cooks and cashiers and local franchisees are often at the mercy of global corporations like McDonald's. AB 257, the FAST Recovery of power by bringing workers and franchisees together to raise standards and protections across the California fast food industry," said Schoonover, SEIU California President and SEIU 721 Executive Director. "Assemblymember Chris Holden is uniquely qualified to champion this bill. He knows that frontline fast food workers are best-positioned to help propose and implement solutions to the issues they face on the job. And, as a former franchisee, he knows that local fast food operators need more power to make improvements for their workers and their businesses. We are confident that Assemblyman Holden, with the support of Assembly Members Wendy Carrillo, Evan Low and Luz Rivas will get this bill over

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the finish line."

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Cases, Hospitalizations, and **Deaths Significantly Higher Among Unvaccinated Residents**

LOSANGELES COUNTY- tected with four times the pro-With Omicron continuing to drive case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths to levels not seen since last year, Public Health is reminding residents that vaccines are still the best source of protection, especially against hospitalization and death.

From January 2nd through January 8th, unvaccinated people were twice as likely to contract the virus compared to those fully vaccinated without boosters. Residents who were vaccinated and boosted were even more protection from infection compared to those unvaccinated.

Additionally, vaccinated and boosted residents are also at significantly less risk of ending up in the hospital. When comparing unvaccinated residents to those fully vaccinated without boosters, unvaccinated residents were five times more likely to be hospitalized. Residents who were both vaccinated and boosted had even higher levels of protection and were 20 times less likely to be hospitalized compared to

As cases and hospitalizations remain high, of most concern is the increase in deaths. On Thursday, January 20, Public Health reported 102 new deaths, the highest daily number of deaths since March 2021. And for the seven days leading up to January 1st, Public Health data also showed that unvaccinated individuals were 23 times more likely to succumb and die from COV-ID compared to those fully vaccinated.

Duarte City Council To Hold Third Redistricting Public Hearing

DUARTE - The Duarte City Council is holding its third redistricting public hearing on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. All hearings will be held in the Duarte City Council Chambers (1600 Huntington Drive) starting at 7:15 PM.

Every ten years, cities with bydistrict election systems, like Duarte, must use new census data to review, and if needed, redraw district lines to reflect population shifts. This process, called "redistricting," ensures all districts have nearly equal populations, and therefore, representation in local elections.

Public input is an important aspect of the process, with residents being encouraged to participate in a series of public hearings during which they can share their thoughts on how Council district boundaries should be

Duarte's third public hearing on Tuesday, February 8, will focus on reviewing draft maps submitted by residents, gathering community feedback, identifying focus maps, and receiving feedback from the City Council on how they would like to revise the maps. If Duarte's City Council does not present revisions at this hearing, it may select a map and conduct a first reading of an ordinance adopting it with the second reading and map adoption taking place at the fourth public hearing on Tuesday, March 8.

Should the Duarte City Council make amendments to the preferred map, the first reading of the ordinance adopting the Coun-

cil's new district map will take place at the City's fourth redistricting public hearing on Tuesday, March 8 with the final map adoption occurring at a fifth public hearing.

Residents can submit their own map by using the paper and digital mapping tools available on the City's redistricting website, DrawDuarte.org. All draft maps should be submitted to Redistricting@AccessDuarte.com by Thursday, January 27, for consideration at the February 8 public hearing.

Learn more about the City's redistricting process, how to submit public comments, and how to draw a map by visiting Duarte's website: redistricting DrawDuarte.org.

Arcadia Announces February 1 Public Hearing On City Council Redistricting

ARCADIA – The Arcadia City Council is seeking public input on draft maps for the redistricting of City Council districts. Every 10 years, the United States issues a census to count the City's population. Upon the completion of the trict Map is realigned to reflect Arcadia's current population and demographics. The next

public hearing to review draft maps is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 240 W. Huntington

The draft maps will be available for public review at least Census, the City Council Dis- 7 days prior to the scheduled public hearing on the City's website at ArcadiaCA.gov/redistricting. For more informa-

tion regarding the City's redistricting process, please visit the City's redistricting page on the

If you have any questions regarding the redistricting process or wish to submit comments prior to the public hearing about draft maps, please email

CityClerk@ArcadiaCA.gov.

Woman Arrested for Running Over Man and a Deputy, Man Dies.

saw a man in his 50s and a

By George Ogden

EL MONTE - On Wednesday evening, Jan. 19, deputies were driving by a shopping center in the 9600 block of Garvey Avenue and observed a man and a woman in a heated argument. When all was said and done, the man was dead, a deputy injured, patrol unit smashed, a pursuit and the arrest of a woman.

It all started when deputies

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woman in her 30s fighting in the parking lot of a business, Garvey Center shopping mall. The deputies pulled in and detained the man... he was not arrested, just detained. When deputies went to detain (not arrest) the woman, she jumped into a vehicle and started to leave the parking lot. Deputies may have felt that half of the problem just removed itself.

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They were wrong. She made a U-turn and drove toward the deputies and the detained male, hitting the man as well as one of the deputies and smashing into the sheriff's patrol unit. She then fled the parking lot and took off down Garvey Avenue. Deputies gave chase and initiated a pursuit. Because of the damage to her vehicle, it became disabled and the pursuit ended a few miles from the scene. She was arrested and taken into custody.

The man she ran down died from his injuries. The deputy was taken to the hospital for his leg injuries.

How these two people are connected is unknown. Their identities were not released.

The woman was arrested on suspicion of intentionally hitting the man and the deputy with her vehicle. She will most likely be charged with murder and attempted murder of the deputy. Bail was set at \$1,000,000 with pending court appearances.

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Omicron: Are you Ready?

Any opinions are mine based on the research I have done. I am not in the medical field; if you have any concerns you should talk with your doctor.

Omicron, are you ready for it? Last week I wrote that everyone is going to get it. My next door neighbor's household had it two weeks ago. Their family consisted of an elderly woman, her caregiver, young adults and children. My family got it one week ago. It started with my son being sick and then testing positive. I continued to test negative. Then my son's girlfriend test positive, along with her son. I continued to test negative. A couple of days later, waking up to a very hoarse sounding voice, I tested positive. I wondered what this was going to entail for me. I knew it was inevitable for me to catch it, so I was glad to get it over with and be done with it.

I immediately called my doctor. She believes in Early Outpatient Treatment (EOT), so I knew I would start getting treatment right away. The goal was to keep me out of the hospital at all costs.

She ordered some labs for me. Quest Laboratory would not take me because I tested COVID positive. LabCorp didn't have any open appointments for another week. I discovered that there is a mobile lab called American Mobile Phlebotomy Service. They come to your house to do the blood draw. She drew my blood, got my insurance information and submitted the specimens



Karin Schott to LabCorp. The cost for her service was \$100.

My symptoms consisted of headache, sore throat, cough, muscle ache, fatigue, some loss of taste, congested nose, but no fever. My doctor then ordered some over prescriptions and over the counter medications for me to use. Since I had already been prepared, I had many of these things already. Prescription medications consisted of hydroxycloroquine, azithromycin, albuterol and nebulizer. Over the counter medications consisted of aspirin, high dose of vitamin c, high dose of vitamin D, zinc, N Acetyl Cysteine (NAC), and providone iodine nose spray and mouth wash. These are all to be taken for two weeks. Today is day seven. I still have a slight headache, cough and a feeling of fa-

Some doctors will not treat COVID. Some doctors say go home, isolate and monitor your symptoms. When you get to the point of not being able to breath, call 911. The goal should be to keep you OUT of the hospital. Before you need it, find a doctor that does EOT. Contact your doctor first and see if they do EOT. When I contacted my local doctor, she told me she didn't believe in it. I had to find another doctor, should I contract COVID. I did all the research before I need-

Because you have COVID, you will be utilizing medical services via telehealth or email. Some areas to check for physicians that offer EOT are:

https://pushhealth.com h t t p s :

www.synergyhealthdpc.com/covid-care/

h t t p s : / covid19criticalcare.com/ivermectin-in-covid-19/covid-19care-providers/

https://aaps.wufoo.com/reports/z1tdq8q714w7gyj/

Remember these doctors have not been pre-screened. You must check them out before you need them and see if they meet your

Covid was worse for me than I had anticipated, but yet I am glad to have gotten it and be done with it. Be safe, be prepared.

Karin Schott is a long-time Glendora resident, having lived in the city since 1989. Currently retired, having spent 34 years as a software engineer. She spends her time with gardening clubs, dancing classes, yoga classes and volunteering for Glendora causes. She defines herself as a "truth-seeker".

Reflections on a Prickly Subject

As a long-time succulent aficionado, I was recently trying to understand why they have become more trendy and ubiquitous than ever before. They pop up in photogenic Instagram accounts. local plant shops specializing in curated cacti, and even on restaurant dining tables. I had to laugh at the headlines of some of the articles that I stumbled upon. "Succulent Mania: The Perfect Fad for a Rootless Generation," declared one column in the February 7, 2020 Guardian.

This "mania" often seems directed at Millennials. The recurring theme is that taking care of plants makes us Millennials feel "grown up," especially when traditional markers of adulthood, such as being married, having children, and owning a house, have been delayed or are seemingly out of reach. At least that's what Jazmine Hughes posited in a June 2017 New York Times Magazine column. In addition to generational distinctions, other commentators frequently point to the relatively low-maintenance care needed by succulents as a defining reason for their more universal appeal.

Frankly, I'm not satisfied by any of these explanations. Yes, I'm a Millennial who loves succulents. But this is not a sentiment that I developed because of my specific demographic cohort. The "Millennial" label often attached to succulents seems more like a marketing or branding scheme enabled by social media. It also buries the lede: Succulents are remarkable and resilient in their own right. Perhaps that is the true reason why I and many others are drawn to them.

Before I go any further, an important clarification. All cacti are basically succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. Succulents refer to plants that store water in their leaves and stems. Cacti are a variety of succulent, but by no means the only type,



Farrah Hassen

differentiated by areoles-small bumpy structures out of which hairs, spines, flowers, and branches may grow. It's not as straightforward as it seems. Not all cacti are prickly, for instance. And some succulents have thorns.

Many people encounter succulents as a popular first houseplant. They are generally easy to care for, which is a testament to their toughness and ability to survive despite some neglect. However, they are also diverse and more complex than they may first appear. For instance, their sunlight and watering needs vary by species. They are also not immune to inattention, disease, pesky gnats, mealybugs, or fungal

I have come to know their hardiness, individual care needs, and distinct personalities through years of firsthand experience. Some of my succulents have endured cross-country flights and long drives across California. My red hot chili pepper cactus, dubbed "Churro," learned the hard way just how bumpy the Interstate 5 North commute can get after I picked it up from Morongo Valley's Cactus Mart last year. Nevertheless, it survived the journey and has thrived since then. Last Spring, I was able to enjoy its delicate, deep-orange blooms for the first time, a stark juxtaposition to its prickly, slender cactus fingers.

Succulents are also highly

decorative. They provide instant bursts of color across desert landscapes. The towering and spiky saguaros of the Sonoran Desert and the shorter, bushy, fluorescent vellow cholla cactus of the Mojave Desert are both iconic in their habitats. Even in botanic gardens like The Huntington, succulents are often the scene stealers when their varieties share soil space. During a recent visit, I observed the sheer beauty and whimsy of cylindrical barrel cacti planted next to curly echeveria with spiraling rosette

Succulents are also a study in contrasts. During a trip to Tiburon in Marin County a few years back, I first discovered the captivating black rose aeonium, with its distinct, large burgundy-black leaves resembling flowers. Hardly someone's first impression of a succulent. I now grow several of my own and eagerly await their small yellow blooms in Spring. Contrast the aeonium with the massive Peruvian apple cactus in my backyard. Its sizeable, thick columns only bloom at night to reveal massive, cream-colored

Perhaps my own fascination with succulents is even simpler than these cultural and botanic reasons. I grew up with them in the SGV and sought to channel their resilience in my own life. The first cactus I ever remember seeing is the prickly pear, which grows extensively in my family's backyard. I was mesmerized by their flat branching pads, sharp spikes, edible red fruit, and blooming yellow flowers. Decades later, I still see them when I visit my parents, ever humbled by their true grit.

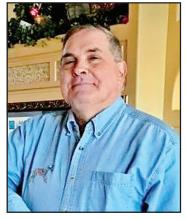
That's a lesson worth propagating, Millennial or not.

Farrah Hassen, J.D., is a writer, policy analyst, and adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science at Cal Poly Pomona

MY TURN: Some Of The Best Ideas Are The Ones No One Believes

One of the most significant things I miss about this move from Donald Trump to Joe Biden is the lack of vision. Dennis Prager on his radio show said, a long time ago, that Joe Biden has no original thoughts." Nothing that isn't provided for him by someone else, "handling" him. Donald Trump, on the other hand, was always coming up with ideas outside of the box and beyond the normal predictable way of thinking. Greg Gutfeld described Trump's press briefings as unusual because he would "spit ball' ideas right in the middle of a press briefing announcement." Trump was all about throwing ideas against the wall, like spaghetti, and seeing which ones stick. I didn't just come to this thought. I observed it year's ago. And now after having Biden as President for a year, and a year after Trump is no longer President, I miss what could be seen as each day when we would wonder, "What is Trump going to come up with next?" I missed that curiosity.

More than a year ago, I wrote this: A new emblem or seal was depicted and presented, designed to represent the new "Space Force." Of course, since it was generated from President Donald Trump, everybody has had to feel the need and exhausting habit of ridiculing it. Some said it looks like the symbol from Star Trek. So what if it does? Funny how everybody is a Star Trek and/or Star Wars nut going to Comic-



Charles Lopresto

con and dressing up at Halloween or going to Barns & Noble, but when Trump talks about the real thing everybody says "whoa."

My question is this. Why is President Trump, the influential leader of the free world, not allowed to have a vision. Isn't that the bigger picture we talk about when we complain about his tweets or petty feuds. Where is the man with the big picture, the vision, the look at things beyond him? He is doing it... but because it is Donald Trump, support or

consideration is not allowed? In the late 1940's, a Department of the Army, so active in the recently ended World War, was proving to be out of date, out of step with the advancing geo-political needs and advancing technology. A new branch of the service was created just as the cold war was looming. It was called the United States Air Force. Does anyone know somebody that was around in those days that thought the USAF and the vision of such a branch was a joke? Was it something to laugh at and call the administration that made it official, a bunch of crack pots?

In the early 1960's, President Kennedy said "we will land on the moon and do the other things." He said within the decade we would get it done. Any jokes directed at JFK?

We have always been a country of vision and expect no less from our leaders. And advancing societies have always had vision. Going back to the days of Columbus and the explorers when visions of a new world were laughed at by some. But they, the ones laughing, became the forgotten ones.

If you think the whole concept of a "Space Force" is ridiculous, fine. That is your choice. But remember all the other things that were impossible, ridiculous and never will see the light of day. Wasn't it Dick Tracy in the 1940's that had a wrist watch that he could talk into and see data? A sort of mini-computer? What about drones, driverless cars, a "Univac" computer normally the size of a building on your portable phone? How many things do we have that our parents never heard of? It goes on and on. If Jobs, Bezos, or Gates talks about it, we go "OH" and "AH," but Trump says it and he is as nutty as we all knew he was. Funny though, how much that nut has accomplished that no one wants to admit to. Just walk around Manhattan and see some of it yourself.

The Year is Starting Off Crazy,

We are not through the first month of the year and all kinds of stuff is happening. The rains came and we had some flooding. Most of us got pretty lucky with that one, especially those who live in the foothills. Flooded streets are to be expected. Some people try to drive through the flooded areas, not a good idea. A couple of reasons. One is that you could stall your engine and you are stuck there. If the waterline is above the door, and you open that door, good chance you will be in for some expensive repairs. Your electronic seats will short out and their goes your electrical. Also, there may be some unseen obstacles, like potholes or solid objects that you can hit and damage your vehicle. Avoid these areas.

We had a couple of days of very windy days. We had trees down, damaged roofs, damaged wires and the loss of power. How many of you lost your canopies, trampolines and other "fly away" items? What do you do about that? First, you should try and tie



Floods, Winds and Lost Power

George Ogden That's just the way it is!

down all these items, if not, go see some of your neighbors and see if they are willing to "return" your items. They may be reluctant because they may enjoy their new EZ-Up and trampoline.

This loss of power hit a lot of areas. It closed down streets, businesses and shopping centers. Your neighborhood may have experienced loss of power for some extended time, in fact, a few of you may still be in the dark. So what happens here? You may find your food will start to spoil. Remedy, eat it! If you need help, call me. Seriously, what can you do about this? Don't

move your food and take it to a friend's house. Get some ice from the store and put it into an ice chest. By the way, as soon as you do all of this the power will come back on. Now, for those extended out-

open the refrigerator door. Re-

ages, your cell phone will need to be charged. How do you do this? Charge it from your car. It shouldn't take long. This way you can still use social media to let the world know that "my power is out!"

The only fun thing was those Sunday football games. For those of you without power and wanted to watch the games and couldn't, well, you missed the best two games of the season. They were absolutely fantastic.

Okay, enough of rubbing it in. Hope all you got through this mess okay and with little or no damage. Just be careful out there. You don't want to become a sta-

"That's Just the Way It Is!"

Cal OES Awards \$47 Million to Help Nonprofit and Faith-Based Organizations Enhance Security and Safety

SACRAMENTO

Strengthening efforts to protect Californians from hate-motivated violence, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) on January 25 announced the awarding of \$47.5 million to 290 community groups across the

The funding, which was proposed by the Governor and approved by the legislature in the 2021-22 state budget, provides grants for physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs

"No Californian should have to fear for their safety when going to a house of worship, community center or reproductive health clinic," said Mark Ghilarducci, Cal OES Director and Governor's Homeland Security Advisor. "These strategic investments are an important part of the broader effort to improve intelligence gathering, harden infrastructure and protect our communities from threats of violent extremism."

Administered by Cal OES, the funding is through the State Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which provides funding for physical security enhancements and other security related activities. Possible upgrades include reinforced doors, gates, shatter-proof glass and window film, security personnel, access control systems and more.

Funds are awarded through a competitive grant process for which organizations, particularly those targeted on the basis of race, religious affiliation, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, immigration status or similar criteria may apply.

The \$47.5 million awarded follows the \$15 million awarded under the same nonprofit security grant program in 2019.

HOUSE OF FOOD AND PRAYER FOOD BANK



Fighting Hunger by Feeding the Hungry Stephen Casey and Eileen Casey set up and operate the

House of Food and Prayer Food Bank. Located at the: Vineyard Monrovia Church on 223 S.

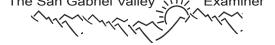
Encinitas Ave. Monrovia Ca. 91016

Day and Time: Every Friday from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm. We are helping our local communities to fight hunger through local churches and other events to distribute food to the people who are outside living on the street.

The Food Bank provides a variety of Produce, Vegetables, Meats, Dairy Products, Juices, Water, Sports Drinks, Sodas, Teas, Cereal, Chips, Crackers, Bread, Pastries and Bakery goods, Canned goods, Asian Food Items occasionally random items, Masks and Hand Sanitizers and much more. If you need prayer for anything we also have people that

will pray for you.

Blessings



During recent weeks we've witnessed more Americans speaking out against a wide array of nonsense and finally seeking more "common sense". Maybe that's one reason the stock market has been so robust - foreseeing a long overdue return to san-

Many Americans have also retreated to their Covid cabins rethinking the value of vaccinations, lockdowns and the newest more transmissible strain, Omicron. One result might be the beginning of the end of legalized madness. It appears that more Americans realize that if we let the crazies preside over us recent insanity could continue for the rest of our lives. Unfortunately, some extremists still think they hold the high ground, but recent signs of sanity hopefully will show them they do not.

How and when will this China originated pandemic be over? As the less deadly Omicron variant sweeps across the U.S. infection numbers are surging and hospitals stress due to a shortage of healthcare workers. New Jersey reinstated a public health emergency due to this situation, while California has even ordered COVID-positive medical staff (that are asymptomatic) to stay on the job. Hospitalizations are climbing higher than last winter's peak - before the widespread distribution of vaccines - due to Omicron's extraordinary case number spread.

Despite the toll on the healthcare system and other essential services, Omicron patients are 74% less likely to end up in ICUs and 91% less likely to die than



Economic Analyst & Former Glendora Mayor

Delta strain patients (according to the Kaiser Permanente in Southern California). Other studies indicate that Omicron is less severe but will likely herald in a new era of weaker forms of COV-ID becoming an endemic illness, comparable to the flu.

White House policy makers, trying to salvage this incompetent Presidency, are focused on stimulus, voting rights, and inflation. However, the President's misunderstanding of where inflation comes from is hindering that response. Two solutions he has pursued so far - giving people more money so they can afford more expensive stuff, and treating a macro problem as if it is a micro problem (blaming corporate greed) - are more likely to make inflation worse by fueling demand and exacerbating shortages. We need solutions which will increase supply and unblock supply chains. But Congressional Democrats instead see the constant threat of Covid as the top issue. Let's see how the Biden promise to deliver 500 million Covid test kits to households throughout the US works out.

Inflation is all over the news, whether it is in business, con-

sumer, or political news. We simply cannot escape it and will continue to suffer from it. Even though economic growth remains strong, the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index recently fell to a 10-year low as both inflation and product shortages are making Americans angry. When President Biden cites robust economic growth for the surge in inflation and shortages, few believe him. It is very odd for a President's popularity to be plunging when economic growth is reported to be "resurging", but that is exactly what is happening. Biden's credibility is near zero.

In this inflationary environment, despite the lack of trusted Washington leadership, millions of Americans are pouring more money into the stock market, seeking higher yields and protection from inflation. Gold is also at five-month highs. Internationally the Chinese economy is in disarray and the globe is struggling with the ongoing Omicron outbreak. As you look around the world the U.S. still looks like an oasis, with higher interest rates, a capitalistic culture, and 50 states that compete with each other for business and workers. Hopefully two sane Democrat Senators will continue to block the current leftist insanity being pushed by most Washington Democrats!

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

I welcome your questions and c o m m e n t s : kenherman46@hotmail.com

Your Money - Ask Julia

I did an estimate of my tax amount due for 2021. Is there still any way to reduce it?

You have until April 15, 2022, to take action. If you qualify, (mostly based on income limits), you might consider putting around \$5,000 (around \$6,000 if you are 50 or older) into an IRA (Individual Retirement Account). (Roth IRA's don't give you an upfront tax break.) Some lowerincome taxpayers might qualify for a Retirement Savers Tax Credit. Note that a tax credit has a lot more impact on your tax bill than a tax deduction.

Is there a penalty for not having health insurance?

The biggest "penalty" would be the financial impact if you or a family member required expensive medical care and you don't have insurance. The Feds did away with the penalty, but California is among a few states that still have a penalty for not having health insurance. If you did not have health insurance in 2021, the California state penalty is at least \$800/adult and \$400/dependent under 18 years old. President Biden is trying to reinstate the Federal penalty and the Affordable Care Act healthcare plan (aka ObamaCare). It's wise to have a policy in place so that you are covered, just in case. Check with a licensed health insurance agent who will shop the different plans for you, explain the differences, and give you options to choose from for your family.

After 15 years, my house is paid off. Now, my CPA says I should get a mortgage so I can write off the interest. Sounds wrong! Is there another way to



Julia Yoder lower my tax bracket?

Financing a paid-off home in order to get the mortgage-interest write-off is throwing your money away. You would be paying roughly \$2 - \$3 in mortgage payments per \$1 of mortgageinterest deduction. It also takes time to recover the costs involved in getting a mortgage. Since you do not need the investment earnings at this time, you could look into repositioning your investment dollars into a Roth, or into a tax-deferred product. That way, you'll only pay taxes on the earnings when you decide to use the money. Note: RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) is not required on a Roth IRA. RMD will be required at age 72 for other tax-deferred investments.

What are the different retirement accounts, and which one is best?

There are traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, 401(k)s, Simple IRAs, SEP IRAs, Solo 401(k)s, and Roth 401(k)s. With some, you contribute as a deduction from your wages through a financial company your employer has selected. With others, you contribute directly through an institution, usually a bank or insurance company. There are advantages and disadvantages with each type of account, so determining which one(s) you qualify to utilize, and which of those are best for you, comes down to an individual, educated choice. Learn what you can online, and consult with a good financial profession-

On our tax return, can we deduct the mortgage interest we pay on our home mortgage and our line of credit?

Taxpayers are no longer allowed to deduct mortgage interest paid on a home equity lineof-credit or on a 2nd mortgage loan. You can only deduct mortgage interest on a mortgage loan up to \$750,000. If your total (main mortgage plus home-equitv line of credit) is less than \$750,000, you might want to consider refinancing both loans into one main mortgage so that you have the choice to take the mortgage interest deduction. Often, the Standard Deduction is higher than Itemizing. Check with your CPA before making any changes.

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

rd XIIIst 1988 CAR DOC What You "AUTO" Know By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

Teens Safety On The Road

road is a subject dear to my heart. I'm often asked what parents should look for in a car for their teen driver. Of course, a lot of teens dream of a fancy sports car but that certainly isn't the safe choice for young, inexperienced drivers. Teen drivers, between the ages of 16 to 19 are far more likely to have a crash than any other group. They tend to underestimate dangerous situations and they don't always react to them appropriately. It is hard for a mature, experienced driver to always make the right snap wheel to avoid an accident. Everything happens way too fast. When you are brand new at driving it gets worse.

Keeping teens safe on the you pick a car based on price or looks think reliable and safety first, then choose the safest car you can afford to buy. Air bags, stability control and excellent tires are a good start. Large to mid-size cars are safer than small cars because they are heavier. 16 models with the highest crash rates included 11 small cars. I know it is natural to assume that a smaller car is easier to handle and many times the teens like them because they appear sportier, however they are not the safest choice.

You also don't want to buy judgment when behind the a car that has a lot of horsepower or one that has too little. Too much speed and power are, of course, dangerous but lack of power can be equally I always advise that before dangerous as they are too slow during lane changes. You might also share with your teen that California traffic tickets are mighty expensive these days.

When you narrow down your choice of vehicle, check out the crash test scores on Safercar.gov. If you are buying a used car, please have it inspected carefully by us at Certified Automotive Specialists and let us know it is for a teen driver as we may be able to give you more insight into the safety of the vehicle.

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 CertifiedAutoCa.com

Hometown Service You Can Count On!

How To Dispose Of Your Bulky Waste

Athens Services provides in your trash carts are consid-Single-Family residences and Multi-Family customers with FREE bulky item collection, but items for pickup must be scheduled in advance. To arrange a pickup, please contact Athens Services at least 24hours before your collection via https:// athensservices.com/bulkyitem-pickup/ or by calling (888) 336-6100. To avoid a missed pickup of your bulky items, you must contact Ath-

ens to schedule the pickup. Not all items that do not fit ered bulky waste!

Bulky Items include: furniture (including chairs, sofas, mattresses, and rugs); appliances (including refrigerators with and without freon, ranges, washers, dryers, water heaters, dishwashers, plumbing fixtures, small household appliances, trees, shrubs, brush trimmings or other materials that are tied together forming an easily handled package not exceeding four (4) feet in length or thirtyfive (35) pounds in weight, and other similar items, commonly

known as "White Goods").

Bulky Items ARE NOT: car bodies, Construction Debris, Electronic Waste, universal waste, and items weighing more than sixty (60) pounds, exceeding four (4) feet in width and eight (8) feet in length, or items that cannot reasonably be moved with equipment of the type which, pursuant to industry standards, would normally be carried in a truck collecting Bulky Items. Excess bags of trash not fitting in your barrel will not be considered bulky

Covina-Valley Unified School District Delivers More Than \$6.1 Million in Savings to Local Taxpayers

COVINA – Covina-Valley Unified School District recently refinanced some of its General Obligation (G.O.) bonds, resulting in decreased interest rates and saving taxpayers \$6.1

Under the leadership of the Board of Education, Covina-Valley Unified sought to refinance the bonds to take advantage of historically low interest rates in 2021. The refinancing reduced the interest rate on the

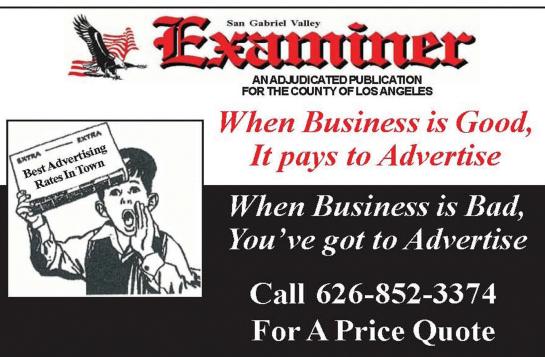
prior bonds from 4.67% to 2.91%.

This move will result in \$6,133,480 in savings to local taxpayers from 2023 to 2044 and lower the repayment ratio on these bonds from 1.42 to 1. The refinancing applies to all current interest bonds.

The bonds have funded facilities improvements across the District, including the construction of the Covina-Valley Unified School District Field and Dr. Mary Hanes Professional Development Center.

While the District itself will not receive any part of the savings, Covina-Valley Unified pursued the opportunity strictly to benefit local taxpayers as part of their continued support for the District's students and their education.

"The District consistently aims to benefit local taxpayers by seizing opportunities to refinance old G.O. bonds with higher interest rates and replace them with new bonds with lower interest rates," Covina-Valley Unified Superintendent Elizabeth Eminhizer said. "Since 2013, the District has saved taxpayers about \$24.7 million through 2052."



Prevent Outbreaks at the Workplace

- GET VACCINATED AND BOOSTED when eligible
- WEAR WELL-FITTED SURGICAL OR MEDICAL GRADE MASKS if you work indoors & are in close contact with others.
- PHYSICAL DISTANCING
- FREQUENT hand washing & surface cleaning
- WORKING air filtration & ventilation
- SICK LEAVE for sick employees

STAY SAFE LA COUNTY

Get more tips to keep your business & employees safe.





REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE



Around the Valley & Senior News

"TIME JOCKEY" - Official Language

English or.... The United States has no official language. There are those who say it has always been English but it has never been enforced. But even though history would prove otherwise, the misinformation still continues to circulate. As usual, the proponents for an English only language requirement for the United States, fail to recognize Native Americans were here long before the Europeans started arriving in North America. Over 1,000 dialects were spoken by Native American people but the arrival of Europeans saw the demise of the Native American lifestyle leading to the reduction of spoken dialects. Today, only 200 dialects are still spoken throughout the United States, continuing the spoken Native American language as the first language of the United States.

The early European settlers were from England, France, Germany and Spain, and brought their own languages with them. When the British allowed colonists to hold their own elections, they agreed that ballots be written in English and the more common languages for the area where



Joe Castillo

elections were to be held. Even bilingual and dual language education was taught in the classroom and as immigration increased over the next century, the inclusion of multiple languages in voting, education and society expanded.

The War with Mexico brought about new immigration and language issues. When the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, it specially stated that those Mexican citizens who lived north of the Rio Grande, would be allowed to speak their Native Spanish language. The stipulation was agreed to and as the Southwestern states were constitutionally

organized, English and Spanish were allowed throughout their society. In the 1850's, California allowed bilingual government services and even when the first California Constitutional Congress was held, translators were provided for those delegates who did have a good understanding of the English language. And when the first California Constitution was drafted, approved and finalized, it was written in both English and Spanish.

But California's population continued to grow with the Discovery of Gold, and by 1879 the Spanish-speaking population became a minority and bilingual government services, ballots and education became optional in selected areas with a Spanishspeaking population. Immigration has always brought issues with language uses and has been a veiled method of discrimination. By not providing multi-language services including within voting and education, then those permanent and naturalized citizens whose primary language is not English, are at a disadvantage. Perhaps United States Congressional leaders recognized that a country which provides equal rights for all, is a country which speaks multiple languages.....

Joe Castillo is a freelance historical writer who has been covering Southern California history for 11 years and has written 5 books on the topic. He bereached joeacastillo@aol.com.

Seen Or Heard Around Town And All Around

By Ed Torres

1. Some smaller cities in the area, reportedly, for voting purposes, have been separated into Districts (similar to large cities)... Thus, eventually, instead of every council member being elected by voters throughout the city, and directly representing the whole city, an individual council member (under the new arrangement), will specifically represent the district in which the council person lives – and will only be elected directly by the voters living within the individual District...

2. For communities everywhere, and therefore, in this "reading area", too, there are crime statistics available. online... In some sections of any city, for various reasons, there are higher crime rates than in other sections... smaller cities are organized into Districts, some council members might find higher crime rates in their *Districts*, and be expected to be more responsive to crime issues, and to the problems of drug addicts and the mentally ill within the voting District... Will council members then do a better job?

3. The term "silent majority" first became part of American political speech in the 1960s... The term *generally* referred to Americans who overall were quiet in how they shared their views, about how the government

was functioning on their behalf, whether good or bad. People whose views were difficult to understand because they did not make-waves, folks who did not create public controversies they just went to work and came home to their families.

4. Nowadays, it is not unrea-

sonable to believe that there are Independents, as well as members of all political parties (of all races and ethnicities), who could be classified as part of a "Silent Majority", ones who might decide in coming elections, that they do not like the direction politicians are taking the nation, and who will begin to disregard what "their political party" tells them – yes, ones who will vote only for the politicians who more closely represent their traditional views, regardless of their Party.

5. This year there will be elections throughout the region – and politicians surely are aware that most communities have problems with "squatters", those who live-on-the-streets and riverbeds, or in the hills and parks and parking lots — many who are drug addicts or are mentally unstable, who disrupt neighborhoods in various ways and create fearsome problems for normal people... Overall, politicians are not being compassionate nor fair to anyone, when they allow this problem to persist.

6. Street people have been around for years in some cities, because the decisions of politicians there allowed the problems to fester. Along the way, shallow thinking national and state politicians, in effect, encouraged the expansion of the problem to cities and towns previously not infected, by making little or no effort to control the use of illegal drugs — and by helping drug addicts and the mentally ill to roam freely... Some say that "street squatters" have rights, so normal

folks should just shut-up... Seriously?!

7. These street people, reportedly, are eligible to receive assistance checks from local, state and federal governments — "Taxpayer monies at work, Ru-

ining communities and lives": how 'bout putting-it-on-a-glossybillboard?!... Additionally, some organizations provide free bicycles and tents for them, making them more mobile and problematic for miles around! Because of this issue, and others, the "silent majority" might silently unite, and vote-the-bumsout, politicians who allow this dread to continue.

8. By the way, some "Progressive" politicians and voters say that drug addicts and mentally ill folks are "harmless people" until-they-kill or harm. Then they frown and fret, and fret and frown some more, but do little else...

9. When Biden ran-for-office, he promised student collegedebt would be "forgiven", that taxpayer money would be used to pay off college loans, but the president has not done so — MAYBE because he did not know that he doesn't have the authority to do that, or, he did know, but misled the voters.

10. Additionally, the president has a dilemma – if he "forgives" the student loans, what about those students who paid off their loans through hard work? Or those who did not go to college - shouldn't they get some money too, to pay off their credit card debt; or to pay off other loans they might have; or to give "stimulus type checks" to them, equivalent to the kind of loan forgiveness given to college loan holders?... So, with elections coming up, if he *forgives* student loans, he might gain votes for his Party, but lose votes too – yes, a political dilemma.

Comments/suggestions: honnod1@yahoo.com

ESGVRWF Regular **Monthly Meeting**

Health & Wellness Fair

COVINA - The East San National Guard, Lieutenant Gabriel Valley Republican Women Federated (ESGVR-WF) is having their regular monthly meeting this Friday, January 28th at 10:30 a.m. at South Hills Country Club in Covina.

Speaking this month will be John Harrold, retired Los Angeles County District Attorney, former Executive Vice President of the Los Angeles County District Attorney Association, Special Attorney General for the State of California handing prosecutions for the California

GLENDORA - Learn how

to create a healthier lifestyle by

attending the free Annual

Health and Wellness Fair on

Thursday, January 27th from

12:30pm to 3:00pm at the La

Fetra Center; 333 E. Foothill

Subject to current LA County

Health Department Guidelines.

City of Glendora Community

Services Department. Over 20

No registration required.

Celebrate wellness with the

Blvd in Glendora!

Colonel, California JAG, Reserve status, and a former Mayor of Glendora.

Laurie Harrold is current president of the Eastern Bar Association, and 30-year member of the Mt. Sac Paralegal Advisory Board. John and Laurie Harrold are partners in the Law Offices of Harrold and Harrold and will share about their trip to Florida for the O'Reilly/ Trump History Tour last November and provide an update on the Recall George Gascon efforts.

businesses and agencies will be

present giving out information

on a variety of topics such as

transportation, public library

programs, financial planning,

healthcare, first aid safety,

memory care, insurance, can-

cer support, healthy eating, el-

der care, and more. Free

screenings will be available.

Don't forget to enter your name

For more information please

in the raffle.

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As you obligate yourself to Bear the burdens of those

around you who do not take their interest to heart..do

not be surprused when all is said and done that you

were the blame for their misgivings...

call (626) 914-8235.

Gholar and Richie DUARTE - In recognition of Duarte Historical Museum, at Black History Month, the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Asso-

A Conversation With

ciation will present a conversation with Barbara Gholar and Brian Richie hosted by 20- year radio veteran Chris Loos on Feb**ruary 20**, 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the and Kendrick Lamar.

777 Encanto Parkway in Duarte. Admission is free. Space is limited. Loos has worked in top markets in the U.S. and has interviewed the likes of Eminem, Mike Tyson, the Black Eyed Peas

ACROSS

- 1. Shout from a ship?
- 5. Shout from the bleachers and don'ts
- 11. Infamous Henry's number 12. One with COVID, e.g.
- 13. Fighter jet button
- 15. Resting stops
- 16. Not guilty, e.g.
- 17. One of Singapore's official languages
- 18. *Home of last year's Super Bowl winners
- 20. Armor chest plate
- Bowl MVP

- 21. *Given name of 2011 Super
- 22. African grazer
- 23. Greek woodland deities 26. Ramones' hit "I Wanna Be

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD - THEME: SUPER BOWL

- 30. Big fuss
- 31. Like certain Chili Peppers (2
- words) 34. Cattle call goal
- 35. Scatterbrained
- 37. Bonehead
- 38. In a different direction 39. Jeté in ballet
- 40. More so than eggy 42. Conducted
- 43. Christmas firewood (2

coach

CROSSWORD

- words)
- 45. Annotator and commentator
- 47. Soda-pop container
- 48. Unpleasant and offensive
- 50. SWAT attack, e.g.
- 52. *Super Bowl I and II winning
- - 5. "The Hobbit" hobbit
 - 7. Colloquial approval
 - 8. Cold cuts counter
 - 9. South American tubers

 - 12. Not dense
 - Bowl appearances

56. Cain's unfortunate brother

55. Pertaining to a pope

- 57. Gives a hand
- 59. Anoint 60. Bébé's mother
- 61. Season to be jolly
- 62. *Most Super Bowl wins by
- one team
- 63. Snoop 64. Carhop's load
- **DOWN**
- 1. *Roman number of this year's
- Super Bowl 2. " Misbehavin'"
- 3. Santa Maria's traveling partner
- 4. Despair in the face of
- obstacles
- 6. "Caribbean Queen" singer

- 10. Pig's digs
- 13. Make corrections 14. *Florida team with no Super
- 19. Return punch

- 22. Come and
- 23. Lamentably
- 24. Bye, to Edith Piaf 25. Bottom line
- 26. *2022 Super Bowl stadium
- 27. Upholstery choice 28. *Archie to Super Bowl MVPs
- Peyton and Eli
- 29. Exploits 32. *Super Bowl Halftime show
- Snoops's "last name"
- 33. Hardly a beauty 36. *Like some teams
- 38. Oenophile's concern
- 40. Many, many moons
- 41. Empower 44. Big Dipper's visible shape
- 46. Oppressive ruler
- 48. On the wagon 49. Nail salon board
- 50. Feminine of raja 51. Mt. Everest to Earth
- 52. Aladdin's light
- 53. Christian of fashion 54. Result of a brainstorm
- 55. Rudolf Nureyev's step 58. Stallone's nickname





С Р S S A W K S M Ρ Ε 0 R $A \mid R$ O|TС 0 Ε |H|O OMTE D Ν M R U TOE S S L Α 0 0 0 В A|H|Ε M M Р Ε R Α Ν X Ν D OlM Χ Ε 0 S L Ν E|R R Α M S C Α SE Ν G 0 GA 0 Ε Ε R Т Α Ε Τ C OOR В Α Τ G Ε Ν Τl Η Εl N S Α Ν $H \cup M$ 0 Р $U \mid M$ R Ν G Α SP R S Ε Ε M Α

January 20, 2022 Puzzle Solution

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Colleen Flores' Path to Becoming La Verne's 22nd and First Female Police Chief

LA VERNE - The new year is off to an exciting and historic start in the San Gabriel Valley as La Verne's new Chief of Police, Colleen Flores, assumes her influential role as the city's 22nd Chief of Police and first female Chief in the department's 116year history. Chief Flores' path to reaching this incredible milestone, however, actually began due to chance encounters with police officers in a restaurant as a young adult.

"Like many hardworking youths, I took a job as a hostess to help support myself when I was 15-years-old. As it turned out, the restaurant was a popular spot for local police officers to stop for their lunch breaks and write their reports, which gave me an opportunity to ask them a multitude of questions," Chief Flores said with a laugh.

Noting her intense interest in the area of law enforcement, one officer suggested she get involved in the Explorer program with the local police department. Explorer programs essentially offer young adults an internship opportunity to explore a career



Colleen Flores assumes her influential role as the city's 22nd Chief of Police and first female Chief in the department's 116-year history.

directly with police officers.

"It did not take long for me to take this officer up on his suggestion, and so I officially began my law enforcement career as an Explorer with the Upland Police Department," said Flores. "It was a great learning opportunity and

in law enforcement by working made me that much more passionate about the work. We also have an Explorer program here in La Verne, which I highly recommend to anyone considering this career field."

> While her path to becoming a police chief was challenging-at one point, Flores was balancing

Both suspects remain in cus-

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tody pending their court date.

multiple responsibilities including serving as a police cadet while simultaneously attending school and working at the restaurant-she looks fondly on her journey and her experiences with various police departments in California. The magnitude of having the title as first female police chief in La Verne is also not lost on Flores. She has expressed special appreciation for all the women in law enforcement who came before her, noting their journeys and battles throughout their careers which made it possible for her to lead as a woman today.

"I know I am leaving the La Verne Police Department in good hands," states former Chief of Police Nick Paz. "Chief Flores' commitment to building and growing a community-driven police department will ensure she is successful as La Verne's leading officer."

With extensive experience in law enforcement and deep insights into the La Verne community, Chief Flores is fleshing out several goals for the future of the city's public safety. Her first priority is to work collaboratively with her trusted team and continue her implementation of team building workshops. She strongly believes planning and preparation are key to successfully running a police department, and is excited by the breadth of experience, expertise and insight her fellow officers have to offer.

With the full support of the La Verne City Council, former Chief of Police Nick Paz and City Manager Bob Russi, Chief Flores promises to bring new energy to the La Verne Police Department while respecting and honoring La Verne's "small town" traditions and virtues.

(Information via news release from the City of La Verne, City Manager's office)

The Winds Came and Left an Aftermath Nightmare



George Lozynsky took this photo of a tree down in the eastbound Badillo Avenue between Lark Ellen and Vincent Avenue in West Covina. The tree took down all the power and telephone lines and damaged the fence and other property at Grove Center School. By George Ogden

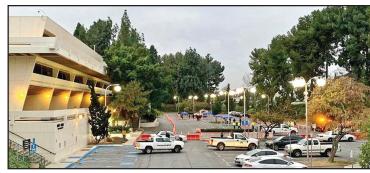
WEST COVINA - The winds came and left, but not until it created havoc across the San Gabriel Valley. Power is still out in some places with some streets still blocked because of fallen trees.

There was extensive wind damage to properties with all kinds of. Anything that wasn't tied down was blown around. Those canopies and EZ-Ups took a hard hit. Many ended up in the neighbor's

yards. Power outages where everywhere and in some areas it still hasn't been restored. There were a number of traffic accidents due to people NOT STOPPING at inoperative traffic-controlled intersections. You must stop if

they are not working. Various cities are still on the mend trying to restore power and to clear roads.

Free Covid Testing Sites in West Covina



West Covina's City Hall testing facility. Enter through the Library on West Covina Parkway.

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WEST COVINA - The City of West Covina has opened two additional COVID-19 testing sites. The first site is at Shadow Oak Park which has begun offering services recently, from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome. Shadow Oak Park is located at 2121 Shadow Oak Drive, West Covina.

West Covina City Hall will serve as the second site and is offering testing on from 7:00am to 7:00pm. The City is partnering with ASG Corps to offer this ser-

There is also a test site at West Covina Senior Center on Cortez Ave. just west of Citrus Ave. Call the city prior to going to see if there are any issues.

Catalytic Converter Theft Suspects Arrested by Glendora Police

GLENDORA - On January 20, 2022, at about 2:13 pm, Glendora Police Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of West Route 66 for a catalytic converter theft that just occurred. The suspect 5 vehicle was located using the City's FLOCK license plate reader system. A Glendora Police ত Officer located the suspect vehicle parked in a business parking lot. The two suspects subsequently ran to avoid apprehension.

Glendora Police Officers and Detectives contained the area. The two suspects were located and a felony stop was conducted. Saul Osorio Henriquez, male 34 years of age and Julian Avila, male 29 years of age were arrested for grand theft, vandalism, posses-



Osorio Henriquez is on county probation for vehicle theft and Avila is on Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) for assault.

sion of burglary tools, and delaying a peace officer.



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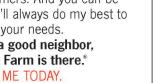
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