



# San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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Since 1997 • Published in GLENDORA, California  
A Weekly Adjudicated Publication Serving all of Los Angeles County

Volume XX, Issue No. 14

STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

April 6 - 12, 2017

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# Monrovia Unified Robotics Teams Advance to Championships in Houston, Netherlands

**MONROVIA** – Three Monrovia Unified robotics teams are gearing up to compete in different parts of the world after demonstrating technical proficiency in competitions and showing remarkable communication on the benefits of pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects to fellow students and the community.

The Suitbots and Droidnoughts from Monrovia High School will advance to the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) World Championships in Houston on April 18 and the Hippy Bots from Clifton Middle School will travel to the Netherlands to compete in the FTC Dutch Open Championship on May 19 and 20.

“Monrovia Unified has so many talented students, and they continue to reach new heights every year,” Monrovia Unified Board President Bryan Wong said. “I have complete confidence that our teams will make our District proud in Houston and the Netherlands.”

The Suitbots earned their spot in the Houston World Championships after winning the Connect Award at the Feb. 26 Los Angeles Regional Championships, qualifying them for the western



The Monrovia High Suitbots robotics team qualified for the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championships in Houston on April 18 after winning the Connect Award at the Los Angeles Regional Championships and placing seventh in its division at the Tacoma, Washington Super-Regional Championships.

Super-Regional Championships in Tacoma, Washington, March 10 through 12. The Suitbots won seven out of nine competitions in Tacoma, placing them in seventh and earning them a spot in Houston.

The Droidnoughts, who also advanced through the L.A. Regional Championships, were one of 20 teams from the western United States to receive an invitation to the World Championships through the FTC lottery process.

“The most important part of

our robotics program is ensuring our students are well-rounded in robotics and community outreach, which teach them life lessons they can’t get anywhere else,” Monrovia Unified robotics coordinator Tom Dobson said. “I am looking forward to seeing where our teams advance to next.”

The Clifton Middle School Hippy Bots are also preparing to compete in far-away places, receiving a special invitation to the FTC Dutch Open Championship, where the eighth-grade team will test its skills against high schoolers and college students as the only American robotics teams to compete.

At the L.A. Regional Championships, the Hippy Bots showed strong leadership as alliance captains, making it into the quarterfinals.

“It has been inspiring to watch the evolution of this all-rookie team. They are great kids – always willing to help other young teams,” Clifton robotics mentor Paul Flores said. “A world-class team requires a world-class effort from everyone.”

Monrovia Unified’s robotics activities are held after school and give students the opportunity to design, build and program robots and compete in a game chal-



The Monrovia High Droidnoughts robotics team, which advanced through the L.A. Regional Championships, was one of 20 teams from the western United States to receive an invitation to the Houston World Championships on April 18 through the FIRST Tech Challenge lottery process.



The Clifton Middle School Hippy Bots robotics team received a special invitation to the May 19-20 FIRST Tech Challenge Dutch Open Championship in the Netherlands.

enge. In addition to building robots, teammates take part in community outreach and record their connections to the engineering community, innovation, design process and programming skills in an engineering notebook, which is also a part of the FTC competition judging criteria.

Monrovia High School students and mentors are instrumental in mentoring and spreading robotics throughout Monrovia Unified School District, hosting younger peers in middle and elementary school for workshops and build sessions.

“Our robotics teams have flourished under the leadership

of our robotics mentors, who work tirelessly to bring STEM experiences to our students,” Monrovia Unified Superintendent Dr. Katherine Thorossian said. “These sparks of passion often turn into career explorations for our students, and we will ensure all students have these outlets to discover their interests as early on as possible.”

All three teams are currently raising funds for their trips. To support the Monrovia High Suitbots and Droidnoughts, visit <http://bit.ly/2mJ3CFQ>. To support the Clifton Hippy Bots, visit <http://bit.ly/2njYQmv>.

## Senator Anthony J. Portantino Recognizes Senate District 25’s Women of the Year



Pictured with Sen. Portantino, (L to R): Back row – Lisa Pitney, Marsha Ramos, Alta Skinner, Claire Bogaard, Dr. Geraldine Perri; Front row – Angela Aguirre, Sheri Bonner, Mary Najarian, Sen. Portantino, Alma Hernandez, Juanita De Vaughn

**PASADENA** – On Sunday, March 26, Senator Anthony J. Portantino had the privilege of honoring ten exemplary women from Senate District 25 in the courtyard of Pasadena City Hall. The California State Legislature first recognized March as Women’s History Month in 1987 and has continued the tradition. Each year members of the State Legislature recognize the exceptional women in their district with a celebration commemorating their efforts.

This year’s honorees of SD25 are different in age and unique in their advocacy. The strength of their efforts is reflected in their success and their life accomplishments.

• **Alma Hernández** — Glendale, Executive Director for SEIU California, an organization dedicated to electing candidates and passing policies that benefit SEIU’s 700,000 members and their families in California.

• **Alta Skinner** — San Dimas, Alta Skinner is a community

advocate, a compassionate volunteer and strong supporter of children with special needs in education.

• **Angela Aguirre** — Pasadena, Angela Aguirre is a Chicana Feminist poet who enjoys mentoring youth and using her creativity in meaningful ways.

• **Claire Bogaard** — Pasadena, One of the founding members of Pasadena Heritage, a community based historic preservation organization.

• **Dr. Geraldine Perri** — Glendora, Superintendent and President of Citrus College since 2008. She has over 30 years of college administrative and faculty experience.

• **Juanita De Vaughn** — Altadena, A natural leader, she has dedicated her life to her community and its needs.

• **Lisa Pitney** — La Crescenta, Vice President of Government Relations of the Walt Disney Company since 1996. She represents the company to city, county and state

governments throughout the U.S.

• **Marsha Ramos** — Burbank, Small business owner of Geosystems, an environmental, geotechnical and land consulting firm, serves on the Board of the Metropolitan Water District, and a community leader

• **Mary Najarian** — Glendale, A passionate supporter of her Armenian community, always responding to its call.

• **Sheri Bonner** — Pasadena, Sheri Bonner has been a part of the Planned Parenthood family for over 25 years and has served as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley.

“It is such an honor to be able to recognize the 2017 Women of the Year from Senate District 25 today,” commented Senator Portantino. “Their advocacy and service to the community serves as sterling example for us all.”

## Azusa Technology Moves to Glendora

By Jayam Rutnam

**GLENDORA** - Kenny Nguyen first opened his computer technology store in Azusa. Although he had many clients in that area, he found that by word of mouth, his reputation had spread all over Glendora. So much so, that he had more clients in Glendora than in Azusa.

As he visited Glendora to visit his clients, he saw that this quaint town may have more to offer, so he decided that this was a good time to make a move. Kenny Nguyen moved his computer service office to Route 66 in Glendora.

The first thing he did was to join the Glendora Chamber of Commerce where he met the Director Joe Cina. Upon talking to Joe, he felt that he had made the right choice. Azusa Technology with the assistance of the Glendora Chamber of Commerce, had its Ribbon Cutting a few weeks ago.

Kenny comes with many recommendations and referrals which he cherishes. He feels that if one of his clients should thank him in writing, he has made a major accomplishment.

In Kenny’s words, “As I visit different companies it has be-

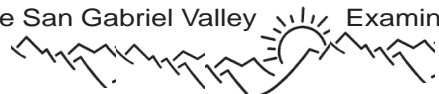


Kenny Nguyen owner of Azusa Technology stands in front of his new store on Route 66.

come apparent to me that regardless of what they make, sell or manage just about every small to mid-sized business has two things in common. They all rely upon their computer systems and data files, and they all seem to share a degree of frustration towards these computers, feeling as if they spend too much time reacting to issues outside their realm of expertise. COMPUTERS, NETWORKS & SERVER SOLUTIONS are our realm of expertise. As a fellow small business, we understand that time and energy

spent away from business of the day means opportunity and potentially revenue lost. We realize that a single crashed computer can cripple the way a small company conducts business. We have built our company around anticipating the technology needs and concerns of small businesses, providing exceptional service and support all at a fraction of the cost of what other big name corporate “Geeks” charge.”

Azusa Technology is located at 1112 East Route 66, Glendora, Telephone 626-963-6694.



# Inaugural All District DUSD Math Bee Sponsored By SWUN

**DUARTE** - On March 28, Duarte USD partnered with SWUN to launch the district's first annual Math Bee competition for 3rd grade students.

The inaugural event was attended by over 80 parents who came to offer support to the 26 students who successfully made it past the rounds at each of their school sites to advance to the district-wide level.

Each of the district's five elementary schools sent 5 participants and 1 alternate. At the district-wide math bee students went through four rounds of math problems leading to three awards in the last round.

Taking home the 1st Place trophy was Raul Martinez from Valley View Elementary. Placing 2nd was Tara Hoffman and coming in 3rd was Adrienne Custodio. Both students attend Royal Oaks Elementary.

SWUN Math is the adopted math program currently for Duarte USD students in kindergarten through 6th grades.

The creator of SWUN Math, is Si Swun, an immigrant to America and English learner who struggled with math as a student. As a classroom teacher, he drew upon his experiences to ensure incredibly high levels of success for a diverse student population, and Swun Math began.

It is a lesson design, embodying best teaching practices that incorporate Gradual Release of Responsibility and Zone of Proximal Development research. Swun Math analyzes district, school, and classroom data to provide concise and effective lessons for students to achieve mastery in content based on the Common Core State Standards in mathematics.

Swun Math also provides grade level specific professional development, beginning with initial sessions which include supporting teachers with demo lessons, co-planning, and co-teaching. Swun implementation includes pacing guides, assessments, and instructional strategies for effective instruction in mathematics.



(Photo provided courtesy of Duarte Unified School District.)

Administrators receive support with on-site coaching and monthly professional development by administrators who have

successfully implemented Swun Math at the school and central office level.

Already, as demonstrated by the performance of our 3rd grade

students at the Math Bee, SWUN Math has proven to be producing results in increased learning levels and math skills of our elementary students.

# Assistance League of Pasadena to Host Coffee and Informative Gathering

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

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

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

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

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

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# L.A. County Declares April As “Armenian History Month”

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY** – A motion by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn, and unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors, proclaims the month of April as “Armenian History Month.”

“With this proclamation, the Board of Supervisors recognizes the vast contribution of the Armenian community to our county’s economy and cul-

ture,” Supervisor Barger said. “The month of April holds significant meaning for our Armenian friends and neighbors and this resolution acknowledges the challenges and accomplishments of their rich history.”

“During Armenian History Month, L.A. County will celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the Armenian people worldwide and their contribu-

tions to our society as well as recognize the dark days of the Armenian Genocide,” said Supervisor Hahn.

Supervisor Barger will honor a distinguished leader of the Armenian community at each meeting of the Board until April 18 when the Board of Supervisors will proclaim the “Day of Remembrance” for the Armenian Genocide.

# Glendora’s New Chief Lisa Rosales at Rt. 66 Republican Koffee Klatchers

**GLENDORA** - Glendora’s new Police Chief, Lisa Rosales, is one of seven female police chiefs in Los Angeles County and is facing the myriad of challenges all policing agencies deal with today. Open communication and building positive relationships is a first on her “to do” list but she will touch on some of the serious situations

cities face today.

Come meet Glendora’s new police chief who was, in one article touted as having “an unorthodox policing style that might have raised eyebrows” and find out what that style is and what it means to Glendora and how it impacts all of us.

Join Rt. 66 Republican Koffee Klatchers on Saturday,

**April 8th** at Denny’s Restaurant, 546 W. Baseline Rd., Glendora (210 freeway at Grand Ave.). Sign in at 7:45 to 8:00 a.m.; Breakfast 8:00 a.m. and Chief Rosales will speak at 8:30 a.m.

Please RSVP to 626-963-3895. Cost: \$12 for breakfast; Coffee only \$5.

# Covina Police in 8-Hour Standoff, Man Arrested

By George Ogden

**COVINA** - On Friday, March 31, around 2 p.m., Covina Police responded to the 11000 block of N. Stephora Avenue when a neighbor called the police about the guy next door going crazy and freaking out. When police arrived, they knew the house. They had been there before involving the same man, Kevin Daniel Harmon, 20 who was dealing with mental and/or drug abuse issues.

When the Covina Officers went to the door, Harmon refused to let his grandmother open the door and prevented her from doing so. Harmon lives with his grandmother at the residence.

After a while, the woman was able to make a break for it and made it to the door and get out of the home, leaving Harmon inside.

Harmon then came to the door with a machete in hand and waved it at the officers. He retreated inside and then returned and threatened the police officers

with a hammer and finally throwing it at the officers. He again retreated inside and returned to the door armed with knives. He also threw these at officers.

After a number of hours of trying to negotiate with the man, the SWAT Team took over the situation.

They saw the man start a number of fires in the house and the officers felt that they had to make entry into to the home before the man could do more harm or worse, hurt himself.

The SWAT Team started to enter the home using a window around 10 p.m. That was when Harmon surrendered to officers.

He was taken into custody and charged with assaulting police officers, felony vandalism, arson, elder abuse and brandishing a weapon at police officers. He was taken to the psychiatric jail ward and being held with bail being set at \$50,000.00.

No injuries were reported during the eight hour standoff.

# Working Together To Stop Distracted Driving

**GLENDORA** - April is recognized as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. In California, the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), Glendora Police Department, CHP, local law enforcement, and community partners throughout the state are working together to make the roads safer by highlighting the dangers of being distracted while driving, especially by cell phones.

“Law enforcement would rather see everyone off their cell phones than hand out a lot of tickets,” said Rhonda Craft, director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “Take care of calling, texting, setting your GPS and everything else before you hit the street.”

Lawmakers agree that distracted driving continues to be a growing problem among California’s motorists. Assembly Bill 1785 went into effect on January 1, requiring all drivers in California to keep their cell phone out of their hands while operating a motor vehicle. Under the new law, a driver may activate or deactivate a feature or function of the cell phone or wireless com-

munication device by swiping or tapping its screen only if it is properly mounted or not being held in a driver’s hand. Specific information on the new law can be found at [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov).

The Office of Traffic Safety will begin a new public awareness campaign throughout the state in April emphasizing how the new law makes virtually all hand-held cell phone activity illegal - talking, texting, and using apps. The campaign aims to end distracted driving through education and raise awareness about the associated dangers. The goal is to change motorist behaviors and save lives, not just in the month of April but year-round.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 3,477 people were killed and an estimated 391,000 injured in motor vehicle collisions involving distracted drivers in 2015. That is a 9 percent increase in fatalities as compared to the previous year.

Glendora Police Department will join other law enforcement agencies throughout the state to

provide educational experiences as well as zero tolerance enforcement efforts to discourage distracted driving. Officers will have a special emphasis this month on enforcing all cell phone and distracted driving laws. The goal is to gain voluntary compliance by drivers, but sometimes citations are necessary for motorists to better understand the importance of driving distraction free.

Glendora Police Department is deploying extra traffic officers with grant-funded resources during the month of April in city locations with higher numbers of traffic collisions. Violators will be stopped and cited with fines set at \$162 for first time offenders. This campaign is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Glendora Police Department Chief Lisa Rosales extends her thanks to the Office of Traffic Safety for their support in working with the Glendora Police Department to make our city streets safer.

# Earth Day Festival 2017

**GLENDORA** - Glendora’s Annual Earth Day Festival will be held on Saturday, **April 22** at the Glendora Civic Center, located at 116 E. Foothill Blvd, Glendora from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This popular free community event provides a unique opportunity to learn about the environment in a family – friendly setting. It’s an entire day of “green” education, live entertainment, vendors, food and fun activities for all ages.

The purpose of the Earth Day Festival is to educate residents on ways to be environmentally aware and for them to learn how they can make a difference. The goal is to remind people to take action now to protect the environment before it’s too late.

Event activities are listed below and will be free of charge to the public.

**Collection Services** – A number of collection services will be available including: Confidential Document Destruction, Used Motor Oil and Filter collections, Safe Drug Drop Off and Beverage Container Recycling.

**Community Bike Ride** - This leisurely family friendly ride begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs through Glendora’s Historic neighborhood. The ride is approximately 4.5 miles in length and takes roughly 45 minutes to complete. Register ahead of time by visiting [www.CityofGlendora.org/](http://www.CityofGlendora.org/) register and typing in the search code “Earth Day”. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot between Vista Bonita Ave and Wabash Ave.

**Youth Activities** – Make art using recycled books, jump in our bounce house, view an animal magic show, participate in an eco-friendly scavenger hunt, and visit the selfie stop with “Mighty Mike” of Athens Services. Other youth activities

include face painting, gardening, a chance to take the “Earth Day Pledge”, and a viewing of Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax”.

**Shuttle to the Nature Center and Colby Trail** - Shuttle service will be provided to and from the Nature Center and Native Plants Garden, located at the Colby Trailhead, and operated by the Glendora Community Conservancy.

**Eco Tour of Glendora** - A fun and informative shuttle tour designed to learn about

Environmentally friendly projects and points of interest in Glendora!

**Explore Big Dalton Wilderness Area** – Shuttle to the north end of the city, tucked in the Glendora canyons. Hike the trail and discover the different ecosystems, from the riparian belt with streams traversing the trails to the Oak Woodlands where Oaks twist and turn to

reach specks of sunlight.

**Explore the Exciting World of Plants** – Participate in this hands on activity that will introduce youth to a variety of different types of plants. Kids will engage their natural curiosity and wonder by gardening and planting their own flowers and shrubs.

**Earth Day Workshops** – Learn how to select plants that will survive and thrive in a drought at the Drought Tolerant & Native Species Plants Workshop. Maintain a successful garden at the Smart Gardening & Composting Workshop or maximize the use of rain water at the Garden Design with Rain Barrels Workshop.

Come join the city in making a difference. For more information or to become a vendor, please visit our website at [www.CityofGlendora.org/earthday](http://www.CityofGlendora.org/earthday)

# Mt. SAC to Host 2nd Disability Faire

**WALNUT** - Mt. San Antonio College will host the 2nd Annual Disability Athletics Faire, an activities event for the community’s disabled population, on Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This event is free and open to people of any age with any disability.

More than 13 different activities will be available, including kayaking, skateboarding, and rock wall climbing. The

goals of the event are to increase the quality of life and health of people with disabilities and to raise awareness of disability sports and physical activities.

For more information and to register, visit <http://disabilityathleticsfaire.scilic.org> or call the Service Center for Independent Life at (909) 621-6722.

**San Gabriel Valley Examiner**  
INFORMATION GUIDE

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San Gabriel Valley Examiner, published weekly by Eumo Enterprises, has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles, California in Court Case No. KS 005341.

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- We also believe in accuracy in fact and context. Journalists should be accountable for any news or subjects they write about.
- 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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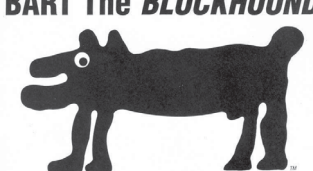
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# GOP and HJTA Slam Proposed Gas Tax Increase

Governor Jerry Brown and the democrat legislature are proposing raising the gas tax by 12 cents a gallon, a 43% increase, to raise \$52 billion to fix the state's roads. Diesel fuel would increase from 16 cents per gallon to 36 cents per gallon or go from 5.75% to 9.75%

Along with the largest gas tax increase ever, is an additional proposal to raise vehicle registration fees, on a sliding scale, but an average of \$50 a year and a first ever fee of \$100 on emission-free vehicles.

L.A. Times showed a chart indicating how that sliding scare would work.

Those with vehicles valued under \$5,000 would pay an additional \$25 registration fee; \$25,000 to \$34,909 value would pay \$100; and \$60,000 or higher would pay an additional \$175. Question: Can a person driving a \$60,000 car afford more easily an additional \$175 a year increase in registration fees than a low income person driving a car valued at \$5,000 or less afford a \$25 increase?

State GOP leaders and Chair, Jim Brulte have said, "California has the highest poverty rate in the nation and the Democrat's ac-



**Lois M. Shade**  
Former Mayor of Glendora

tions, contrary to their words, target our working class and most vulnerable populations time and time again." The sliding scale democrats are proposing prove that.

According to the Press Democrat the state is facing a \$59 billion deferred maintenance on state highways and \$78 billion on local streets and roads. Democrats insist our infrastructure is at crisis level and this tax is needed immediately to prevent further deterioration and additional costs. Governor Brown has set a deadline for passage of this bill on April 6th, just before legislators go on Spring Break.

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' As-

sociation (HJTA) says this plan Brown has come up with will add \$5.2 billion annually for the first 10 years and \$52 billion over 10 years. Part of the argument to support this additional tax increase is the fact the state has not raised the excise tax on gasoline in 23 years. David Wolfe of the HJTA says it is all a matter of spending priorities.

An Assembly Republican by the name of Vince Fong (R-Kern County) is vice chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee and serves as the chief Republican whip is proposing AB 496, supported by his Republican colleagues, that would stop diverting transportation dollars to other accounts and require those monies to remain set aside for transportation purposes.

That leaves me asking, first, where is the guarantee all that new gas tax money and vehicle registration money will actually go to fix streets and highways?

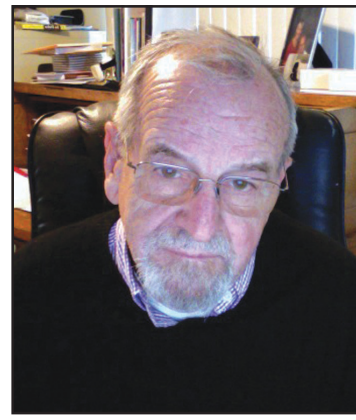
If we are in crisis mode on street and highway repairs, why are we still sinking money into the bullet train, known as the "train to nowhere" that is way over budget, reduced size and way behind schedule?

# Health Care

Eureka! I have finally found a policy President Trump supports with which I can agree. And it is about one of the nation's most divisive issues—Health Care! Following the total collapse of the Republicans' alternative to the Affordable Care Act, perhaps we need to back up and hear what the President said about the sort of legislation he really wants. In January of this year he made the following pronouncement during an interview with the *Washington Post*: "We're going to have insurance for everybody. There was a philosophy in some circles that if you can't pay for it, you don't get it. That's not going to happen with us. ... People covered under the law can expect to have great health care. It will be in a much simplified form, much less expensive and much better."

Trump's proposed system would be a significant improvement over what is called Obamacare, and a thousand times better than the disastrous House proposal. Under Trump's design every American will be adequately covered by a medically superior system and at less cost to both the citizens and the government. People would choose their physicians, and no one would have to shop from state to state for the best deal. I, for one, want to support the President, and push Congress to adopt such a plan.

So is there anywhere we can find such a model? Can anyone cite a system that guarantees universal coverage, superior care and at significantly lower costs? Many of us already have such a plan! It's called Medicare, and it covers almost all our health-related expenses. We get to choose our physicians, have no monthly payments, only a few modest co-



**Charles H. Bayer**

payments, and we receive first-rate care.

If you are looking for that sort of coverage, have a gander at what is in place in almost every modern industrialized nation. In some places it flows from a socialized economic model, and truly is socialized medicine. So in our investigation we will leave those nations out of our survey as being beyond what our national mood could swallow. But in nations with a mixed economy, the medical system in place covers everyone, even tourists and other non-citizens. Physicians and nurses are not on any government payroll, and the hospitals are privately owned and operated. Anyone with the means to seek help outside the system is welcome to pay for it. But their testimony will almost always suggest that in the national system they receive superior care. What is eliminated is the giant slice of health-related costs that go to insurance companies. Drug costs are also substantially reduced, since a single customer is able to favorably negotiate. And then there are the gigantic corporate salaries!

Consider the costs this system generates wherever it has been tried. Here a sampling of comparative expenditures per person, spelled out in US dollars.

Mexico - \$ 916

Japan - 3,035  
United Kingdom - 3,309  
Australia - 3,433  
Canada - 4,445  
Norway - 5,388 The world's second most expensive health care system.

United States - **8,233!**

It would be difficult to suggest that US costs are that much higher than any other place in the world because of our superior scientific know-how. In almost every index from infant mortality, to recovery from serious surgery, to life expectancy, we trail other industrialized nations. Most of us probably have relatives or friends who live beyond our shores and who are more than eager to testify about the excellent medical care they regularly experience. While it is true that in some places elective surgery may be somewhat delayed, in terms of technology, the training of providers and the quality of care, these systems are almost universally applauded.

The Democrats who gave us Obamacare, were too intimidated to suggest that a better answer would have been a single payer system which might well have resulted from adopting "Medicare for everyone." In terms of universal coverage, cost containment and superior quality, it may still be the answer to America's health care dilemma. The best answer to America's quest for a superior system may be available if we just look either beyond our borders or to the insurance plan our seniors already have.

So President Trump, I stand ready to celebrate with you the adoption of a system that meets all your criteria—insurance for everybody, much less expensive, and much better.

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

# "Time Jockey" - Rail Growth

By Joe Castillo

**Mobilizing LA....** In 1909, the City of Los Angeles annexed San Pedro as commercial shipping interests had taken charge in Santa Monica and Redondo Beach leaving Los Angeles without a shipping solution. By 1913, a plan to build the Port of Los Angeles was firmly underway. The United States decided to create a 9,250 feet long breakwater at San Pedro making the City of Los Angeles the recipient of largest manmade port in the world. The Port would become the primary point of entry on the West Coast and freight lines were competing to provide connections from the port to all destinations in the United States. Freight traffic meant increased revenue for rail companies, and four lines were all trying to get their share of the new source of revenue.

The Pacific Electric, Southern Pacific, San Pedro, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City and partially the Santa Fe lines were already servicing the San Pedro wharf and beach area. The Pacific Electric was already shipping large amounts of lumber and other tree products becoming the number one transporter of those commodities in the world. Over 642

million board feet of lumber were moved by the Pacific Electric in 1910, taking the valuable commodity to Southland communities to build the expanding number of houses in the region. Fifteen large steamboat companies were delivering products and passengers regularly to the port with over 284,000 passengers arriving and then boarding a Pacific Red Car line to southland destinations.

By 1916, freight business brought in nearly 24% of revenue to the Pacific Electric Company, with passenger traffic accounting for the primary source of revenue for the company. Passengers wanted to see the southland and special lines were built to accommodate them. One of the locations was the Verdugo Mountains north of Glendale which met many of the passengers desire's to 'get out to the country'. Located on North Brand Boulevard in Glendale was a favorite picnic site for Angelinos and within a short walk was Casa Verdugo, a Spanish-style restaurant featuring exquisite Spanish cuisine.

L.C. Brand had established a rail line between downtown Los Angeles and Glendale in 1903 but

then sold to the Huntington-Pacific Electric Company to complete the project. The end of the line was a Glendale location known as "Bliss" and passengers gladly rode the Pacific Electric Line to reach the favored destination. The rail system seemed a great way to see the Southland but it was fraught with safety hazards along the way. The trains were so quite that even though speeds up to 70 miles per hour were reached, the trains could not be heard by unsuspecting pedestrians who were fatally killed while crossing the rail lines. One accident in Lamanda Park was extremely violent when a Santa Fe locomotive and Pacific Electric line collided at the Sierra Madre and Walnut crossing. As a result of the safety hazards, an automated flagman signal or 'wig-wag' was established by every major railway system in the United States. Freight, transportation, and enjoyment were all services that the Pacific Electric Railway provided but each trip carried risks which came with the fastest evolving mode of transportation in Los Angeles.....

Joe Castillo is a freelance historical writer and can be reached at [joecastillo@aol.com](mailto:joecastillo@aol.com)

# Dogs Don't Belong on Your Lap When You Are Driving

The other day, I was driving and almost got hit by a pickup truck. I saw the man having trouble steering the truck. He was looking over and working around his dog which was in his lap and sometimes hanging out the driver's window. Can this be any more dangerous than it looks? I decided to research this a bit.

I have found that dogs have been killed because of the airbag being deployed in minor crashes. Drivers have also been badly injured when their dog's ended up being smashed into their face and chest from the deployment of the airbag. One man had his neck broken when the dog was jammed into his throat during an airbag deployment. The dog died from



**George Ogden**

*That's just the way it is!*

restrained pets, though no one has solid numbers.

A recent event... Investigators suspect that a woman who died in a head-on collision on the Key Peninsula had been distracted by a dog on her lap, according to a report by the News Tribune. The woman was driving on Route 302

Cellphones were the top distraction -- the cause of 18 percent of the fatalities and 5 percent of the injury crashes. Pets are counted among other distractions such as disruptive passengers, misbehaving children or drivers who attempt to put on makeup or read.

Author Stephen King suffered several broken bones and a collapsed lung when he was hit by a driver who claimed he was distracted by his dog. This was life changing for him and he will never be the same.

In a crash, an unrestrained pet can turn into a deadly projectile or get crushed by a driver or passenger who is thrown forward by the collision.

"A pet that weighs 50 pounds, in a 35 mph collision, is projected forward like a cannonball with 1,500 pounds of force, and that can cause critical injuries to the folks in the front seat," Miller said.

Restraining a pet also keeps the animal from running off after a crash and possibly getting hit or causing another crash, or from getting in the way of first responders, she said.

Some states have laws that specifically forbid animals in your lap while driving. California is working on it.

Animal activist are actively supporting such a law to help keep animals safe. However, there is a "Catch All Law" that can work to help protect citizens and pets. "Distracted Driving" can get you a ticket!

As much as we can say it, "don't do it, keep your pets safe" people will ignore this and continue to drive unsafe with their dog on their lap.

*"That's Just the Way It Is!"*



**Man's best friend is not a driver's best friend.**

the high impact and thus being crushed between the airbag and the owner. The owner is paralyzed.

While lawmakers have been banning drivers from texting or using cellphones, many motorists are riding around with "that" dangerous risk -- their dogs. There are laws in the making.

Experts say an unrestrained dog -- whether curled up on a lap, hanging out the window or resting its paws on the steering wheel -- can be deadly. Tens of thousands of car accidents are believed caused every year by un-

when her car crossed into oncoming traffic and collided with another vehicle, investigators said. A mother and daughter in the second vehicle were injured. The dog also was killed.

"An unrestrained pet can be distracting -- if the pet is seeking your attention, putting his face right in front of yours, starts chewing up the upholstery or is vomiting because he is carsick," said Katherine Miller, director of applied science and research for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

## Letters to the Editor

Opinions Are The Writer's

### SB 54: A public safety risk for ALL California residents

Public safety and local control were placed ahead of partisan politics when West Covina's City Council voted to oppose SB 54, California Senate President Pro Temp Kevin De Leon's 'sanctuary state' legislation. I and other concerned local area residents attended the March 29, 2017 press conference held at West Covina's city hall with State Senator Joel Anderson and local area officials. It was very informative. Kudos to the local officials who spoke up for public safety!

West Covina's Police Chief Dave Faulkner gave outstanding explanation on how local law enforcement actually works with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Faulkner stated local police do not enforce immigration; do not go 'door-to-door' looking for illegal immigrants; and do not hold illegal

immigrants when stopped for a minor infraction of some kind. Faulkner said the issue is communication between local police and ICE regarding felons in custody who committed serious crimes, e.g., rape, child molestation, drug trafficking, etc. If SB 54 passes, communication between local law enforcement and ICE stops. Such situation can result in federally-wanted illegal immigrant felons convicted of serious crimes being released into our communities instead of being turned over to ICE—that is a threat to public safety.

State Senator Joel Anderson said 'Dreamers' are protected under California's TRUST act, legislation passed in 2013 limiting our state's cooperation with Federal authorities. Anderson explained SB-54 shields felons

which places Dreamers at risk because it stops communication between local law enforcement and ICE. So instead of picking up a federally-wanted serious felon from a local jail, ICE agents would be forced to go directly into communities looking for these serious felons. ICE must follow federal, not state law so if they find a Dreamer a home, federal law requires they pick the Dreamer as well as the felon—that is a scenario local officials would like to avoid.

(Individuals interest in learning more on this public safety issue may watch an unedited video of the press conference is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L71d8N0mQ3c>.

The bottom line: SB 54 not only takes local control away from local law enforcement, it increases the likelihood individuals convicted of serious felony crimes here illegally will be released into our communities, and puts all of us—citizens, legal residents, and the undocumented—at risk. SB 54 must not pass.

Jerri Potras  
West Covina

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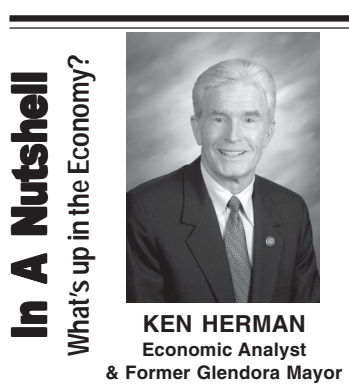
# The Markets Sweet Spot

A major shock came late Friday (March 24) to the Capital Markets with a sell-off after it became clear that the Trump Administration would not be able to "repeal and replace" Obamacare - or the 3.8% tax on investment income. The infighting in Congress over these "repeal and replace" measures raised additional fears that individual and corporate tax reform might be postponed, but Wall Street thinks that these fears that the "Trump Trade" is stalling are clearly overblown, since the Trump team will now move on to focus on getting other (more significant to the economy) tax cuts through Congress.

Wednesday, March 15, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) raised key interest rates 0.25% to 0.75%, to get more in line with rising long-term market rates. Even though Fed Chair Janet Yellen said that three interest rates hikes were possible in 2017, she also signaled that 2% is not a firm ceiling on inflation. This essentially means that the Fed is not overreacting to rising inflation but is showing confidence in economic growth. The bottom line is that Yellen is very cautious and does not want to rattle the financial markets. She succeeded so far, as both the stock market and Treasury bonds rallied and interest rates settled down a bit.

More importantly, the Fed statement said that the stance of monetary policy should support some further strengthening in labor market conditions and a sustained return to 2% inflation. The committee expects that economic conditions will evolve in a manner that will warrant gradual increases in the fed funds rate.

The thrust of the directive is that the committee sees economic conditions improving enough that it is confident in sustained inflation around 2%. Over the past 12 months, the CPI is running at a 2.7% annual pace, the



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

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

highest rate since February 2012, leaving the glide path clear for further rate hikes this year.

In their statement, the Fed was careful in maintaining their median projections for the change in real GDP, the unemployment rate, and PCE inflation, which supports the view that the committee is not speculating on the impact of fiscal stimulus from Trump initiatives without knowing the details and the timing of any fiscal stimulus package. The Fed has "cried wolf" too often, so they will not speculate now on any future stimulus in the form of tax reform, repatriation of capital, budget cuts, or deregulation.

As such, the Fed's median federal funds rate projections for 2017 and 2018 were left unchanged at 1.4% and 2.1%, respectively. The projection for 2019 was bumped up slightly from 2.9% to 3.0%. The market can live with a 3.0% fed funds rate as it would signal a pretty healthy economy with strong wage growth.

Separately, Fed Chair Yellen emphasized that the fed funds rate target is the committee's key policy tool, creating an impression for market participants that the Fed isn't in a hurry to reduce its balance sheet.

That single impression sparked a surprisingly significant rally in the long end of the yield curve following the FOMC announcement. The 10-year bond saw its yield drop by 10 basis points to 2.50% in reaction (as

short-covering activity is probably aiding in the move). That drop in the long end of the yield curve as well as profit taking in the U.S. dollar fueled equity markets to the upside as investors basically liked what they heard.

The major take-away of this Fed meeting is that the market pretty much got its "Goldilocks" outcome - a rate hike that acknowledges improvement toward the Fed's objectives, a forecast sticking with a plan for only three rate hikes this year, and a reiteration that the committee still thinks a gradual normalization path in the fed funds rate will be warranted for the right economic reasons. The wider understanding - that the Fed doesn't seem to be in a hurry to reduce its balance sheet - turned out to be the cherry on the sundae.

Even better, the stock market acted in a more grown up manner than after previous rate increases. The move was constructive and not euphoric. After all, the cost of money just went up and rising interest rates can prove to be a headwind. But all in all, the Fed is exhibiting a kind of new confidence not seen before.

So, with the Fed good to go, energy prices at multi-month lows, a mild winter under our belts, and most economic data points indicating a strengthening first quarter, growth and income investors may well want to get in front of the next earnings reporting season by owning top-rated, dividend-paying equities that reward shareholders by growing dividend payouts by 10% to 20% per year. This may be the "sweet spot" for long-term investing, especially for investors that rely on dividend income above CPI inflation rates.

**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

*I owe taxes, but I don't have the money to pay now. What can I do?*

File your completed tax returns on time, and select a payment plan. The penalty for filing on time, but paying late, is far less severe than the penalty for filing late when you owe.

*I need more time to file my tax returns. Is there a grace period?*

Your tax returns, or extension with payment if you owe, are due April 18, 2017. There are exceptions, so check with your tax preparer, or look it up on the internet. If you need up to six more months to file your returns, file IRS Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File, and California State Form FTB 3519 Payment Automatic Extension for Individuals. NOTE: An extension to file is NOT an extension to pay. Be as accurate as possible in your estimation of what you owe; if there's a dramatic difference between your estimate and what you actually end up owing, the IRS might void your extension and charge you interest and penalties. You can use the paper Forms and make certain the postmark is no later than April 18, or you can complete the Form online. You can pay via direct debit from a bank account, charge it to most major credit cards, or call and pay (800) 272-9829, or (888) 729-1040. If you typically include a Schedule C with your returns, but you don't anticipate owing any income taxes, you must either file your returns or



**Julia Yoder**

file for extension by the April 18 deadline.

*I used the standard deduction, but wish I had itemized. Is there anything I can do?*

You can file an amended return within a three-year period.

*We have to pay taxes on the income (dividends and interest earnings) from our investments. We made enough that it looks like they'll either reduce our monthly checks, or we'll have to pay taxes on our Social Security. Is there a way for us to invest without having to pay all these taxes?*

You might be able to safely reposition your investments in such a way as to not incur income taxes. The first step toward accomplishing what you want is to schedule an appointment with a financial professional for a review of your current financial position, your goals, and your needs.

*I put in some information online indicating that I'm interested in applying for a home loan. I was called, texted, and*

*emailed by a dozen different people. I hate that! Is there a secure site online to apply for a home loan?*

Yes. <https://blink.mortgage/app/signup/p/allsourcemortgage/juliayoder>

*We have about 10 years before retirement. What do we need to be doing now?*

There are basically three financial phases through life. Phase One is when we focus on building an asset base that can generate income later. Most folks use tax-advantaged, employer-sponsored retirement plans, IRAs, Annuities. Some also use real estate. Phase Two involves taking income from those accumulated retirement funds and/or other sources. This involves considering how to create the income that cannot be outlived, and even finding ways to increase income over time. Inflation and health care costs can dramatically affect retirement income needs. And finally, Phase Three is leaving a legacy to heirs and/or charities.

**Ask Julia by email: juliayoder@yahoo.com**

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## New California Law Puts Charge in Lead-Acid Battery Sales

**SACRAMENTO**—Beginning April 1, 2017, sales of lead-acid batteries will be subject to two \$1 fees. Manufacturers will pay a \$1 fee for every lead-acid battery sold to a retailer, wholesaler, distributor, or other person for retail sale in California. Consumers will pay a \$1 fee on each purchase of a replacement lead-acid battery.

As signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, the Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Act of 2016 requires retailers to register, collect, and remit the fee to the Board of Equalization (BOE); and manufacturers to register and remit the fee to the BOE. Manufacturers who are considered retailers are required to collect the \$1 California battery fee as well

as pay the \$1 manufacturer battery fee. Retailers who purchase and import lead-acid batteries from a manufacturer who is not subject to the jurisdiction of California must pay the \$1 manufacturer battery fee.

A lead-acid battery – the type commonly found in vehicles – is any battery that weighs more than five kilograms (11 pounds), is composed primarily of both lead and sulfuric acid, and has a capacity of six or more volts. Retailers will charge a refundable deposit, subject to sales tax, when a consumer purchases a replacement lead-acid battery and does not simultaneously provide a used lead-acid battery to the dealer.

The fee is expected to generate \$26 million annually. Reve-

nues collected will be deposited into the Lead-Acid Battery Cleanup Fund, where they will be used to investigate, evaluate, clean up, remediate, remove, monitor, or otherwise respond to any area in the state that may have been contaminated by the operation of a lead-acid battery recycling facility.

Beginning April 1, 2022, manufacturers will no longer be required to collect and remit the \$1 fee. Instead, consumers will pay a \$2 fee upon purchase of a replacement lead-acid battery.

Online registration is now available. More information can be found on the Lead Acid Battery Fee Guide at [http://www.boe.ca.gov/industry/lead-acid\\_battery\\_fees.html](http://www.boe.ca.gov/industry/lead-acid_battery_fees.html)



## THE CAR GURU

WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW

By Gene Morill - Certified Automotive Specialists

## Signs Your Brakes Need Attention

**Noises** - A scraping sound means metal is rubbing metal and that tells you that your brake pads are worn out and need to be replaced. A squealing noise doesn't always indicate a problem depending on the materials used in the pads but shouldn't be ignored as it could also mean the pads are worn or your system is missing a gasket.

**Swerving** - If your vehicle swerves to one side when you apply the brakes the front brakes need to be checked to make sure the "power" of the brakes are evenly distributed. This could

indicate a leak or a mechanical problem or a miss-match of brake pad brands on either side. It is best to have it checked out if you notice this issue.

Signs you need to have your vehicle towed - Pedal to the floor is a sign that the car has a leak or a bad master cylinder. This is a situation where you need to get your car towed in for repair immediately. Do not drive your vehicle if this occurs. Another issue is when your brakes "lock" as this is caused by a damaged pad.

Keep in mind that your brak-

ing system endures a lot! The components are constantly bombarded by water, road grit, heat and contamination of its fluid. We suggest you have your brake system inspected once a year so it can do what you need it to do...bring you to a stop!

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

**Hometown Service You Can Count On!**

## Mt. SAC to Host 11th Health Professions Conference

**WALNUT** - More than 1,000 students are expected as Mt. San Antonio College hosts the 11th Annual Health Professions Conference complete with a MASH-style military field hospital on Friday, **May 5**, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., at various locations on campus. Sponsored by the Mt. SAC Caduceus Club, the Health Professions Conference is geared toward students interested in careers in the health and medical fields.

The conference will feature workshops, interactive demonstrations, focus groups, an ed-

ucation fair, and displays, including an entire military field hospital that will be set up on campus care of the U.S. Navy. Representatives from major medical research centers such as UC Irvine, UCLA, and USC will be on hand, and a wide range of health professions will be covered, including surgery, dentistry, pharmacy, neurology, pediatric medicine, occupational therapy, and veterinary medicine. Hands-on demonstrations will showcase suturing and casting workshops. In all, over 150 speakers and exhibitors will participate.

The conference keynote speaker will be Dr. Judy Melinek, a forensic pathologist in Alameda County and author of the book "Working Stiff," which recounts her experience in New York as a medical examiner dealing with the victims of 9/11.

The Mt. SAC Caduceus Club is a student club that promotes careers in the health and medical fields.

Tickets for the conference are \$40 and advanced registration is encouraged. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.mtsacpremed.org>.

## Changes Coming for Taxes on Cigarettes and Electronic Vaping Devices

**SACRAMENTO**—California voters approved Proposition 56, which increased the excise tax rate on cigarettes and expanded the definition of "tobacco products" to include any type of tobacco, nicotine, little cigars, and electronic cigarettes sold in combination with nicotine.

On April 1, 2017, the cigarette tax rate will increase from \$0.87 to \$2.87 per pack of 20 cigarettes. In addition, the distribution of nicotine delivery devices – including, but not limited to, electronic cigarettes, e-cigs, e-pipes, vape pens, and e-hookahs

– sold in combination with substances containing nicotine will be subject to the current tobacco products tax rate of 27.30 percent of the wholesale cost of the product.

Nicotine delivery devices sold independently and not in combination with any liquid or substance containing nicotine are not subject to excise tax. This includes any battery, battery charger, carrying case, or any other accessory used in the operation of a nicotine delivery device.

Any product approved by the

U. S. Food and Drug Administration as a tobacco cessation product or other therapeutic purpose when that product is marketed and sold for such approved use (for instance, nicotine patches) will also not be subject to the excise tax.

Additional information regarding the provisions of Proposition 56 is available online. You may also view the BOE's online Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax Guide, or watch our video, How new laws affect cigarette and tobacco products.

## Celebrate National Arbor Day with Free Trees from the Arbor Day Foundation

National Arbor Day is Friday, April 28, this year, and the Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for anyone to celebrate the annual tree-planting holiday. Join the Foundation in April and receive 10 free shade trees.

By joining the Foundation in April, new members receive the following trees: red oak, sugar maple, weeping willow, baldcypress, thornless honeylocust, pin oak, river birch, tuliptree, silver maple, and red maple.

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America

campaign.

"These trees provide shade in the summer and vibrant colors throughout the fall," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Through the simple act of planting trees, one person can make a difference in helping to create a healthier and more beautiful planet for all of us to enjoy."

The trees will be shipped postpaid with enclosed planting instructions at the right time for planting in April or May. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed

to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE SHADE TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by April 30, 2017, or visit [arborday.org/april](http://arborday.org/april).

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# Around the Valley & Senior News

## AZUSA

### Volunteer Drivers Needed

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

### TOPS Meeting

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

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

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

## ARCADIA

### Arcadia Senior Card Club Looking For New Members

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

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

## COVINA

### Blood Pressure Checks

Health Care Partners will pro-

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

## DUARTE

### Meals on Wheels

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

### Hot Lunches at Senior Center

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

### Alzheimer's Safe Return Registration

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

## GLENDORA

### Regional Food Bank Distribution Program

The La Fetra Center and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank invites SENIORS (Ages 60+) to participate in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Current Food Bank participants can receive a FREE food kit once per month which contains items

such as canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, dry milk, cereals, and related products.

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

### Alzheimer's Peer Support Group

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

### Glendora After Stroke Center

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

## MONROVIA

### Tenth Annual Senior Blood Pressure Screenings

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

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

### Caring Crafters

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

### Senior Stretch & Exercise Class

Stretching is essential for our bodies. The Department of Community Services invites seniors to join our weekly senior stretching and exercise class. The class includes stretching techniques geared toward seniors over 50, though the class is great for anyone in need of a good routine. Movement increases range of motion, relaxation, and decreases risk of injury. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Bring a towel and bottled water. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

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

## WEST COVINA

### Go West Shuttle Service

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

- For questions on the location of shuttle stops, assistance in locating the stop closest to you, and route schedules please call (800) 425-5777.
- The fixed-route service operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- The fare is only \$1.00 each way.
- No Service on Thanksgiving, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, President's Day, La-

bor Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

### Senior Lunch

The West Covina Senior Center is an award-winning lunch program that provides a **daily lunch service** for seniors, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. The lunch program is funded in part

by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

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

## Have You Ever Wanted To Visit A Castle And Help Raise Funds For A Great Organization?

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

The Glendora Welfare Association has been providing year-round emergency services to Glendora residents since 1958. The GWA is a private non-profit 501.c (3) organization whose purpose is to be there when our neighbor needs a helping hand, not a handout. Through fundraisers such as this one, they are able

to help Glendora residents with emergency shelter, assistance with utilities, bus fare and referrals for other services. The Glendora Welfare Association relies on donors that include local businesses and churches, service organizations, private citizens and events like this one.

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

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

## Mt. SAC Hosts Kepler Scholarship Event April 8

**WALNUT** - Mt. San Antonio College will host the 8th Annual Kepler Distinguished Lecture and Scholarship Dinner featuring guest lecturer JPL scientist Steven Levin on Saturday, April 8, 5 p.m., beginning in the college's dance studio, building 2I, room 121. All proceeds from the event will go to the Mt. SAC Kepler Astronomy Student Scholarship Program.

Dr. Levin, a research scientist for the JPL/NASA Juno Project, will speak on "The New Jupiter: Juno Mission Early Results." Launched in 2011, the Juno Project's mission is to have the spacecraft fly to Jupiter to study the largest planet's atmosphere, magnetosphere, and gravitational field. Juno reached Jupiter last summer and began orbiting the giant planet while traveling at a speed of 129,000 mph. Levin began at JPL in 1990 and before

that was at UC Berkeley. Master of ceremonies for the event will be NBC4 meteorologist David Biggar.

Mt. SAC will award the Kepler Scholarship to three astronomy students for their academic work and additional work within the Astronomy Program. Mt. SAC's Astronomy Program affords its own planetarium and observatory with a 23-foot rotating astronomy dome that houses the college's main 16-inch telescope. The observatory deck also includes six other eight-inch telescopes that are available for students and the public to use.

Tickets for the event, which includes dinner and the feature lecture, are \$85 and are available online at <http://mitsac.edu/kepler-scholarship>.

For more information, call Mt. SAC Natural Sciences Division Office at (909) 274-4425.

## San Dimas Festival Of Arts Merges Hollywood And Fine Arts

**SAN DIMAS** - The San Dimas Festival of Arts 2017, 'California Images & History' begins on Friday, **April 28** with a Premier Opening & Reception at 6:00. The show will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 30, until 4 pm.

The alchemy of Hollywood studio art and fine arts merge together in this new Spring show by featuring eclectic artist, Tom Hester. His bronze sculptures have reached academic levels and his 'studio' fantasy creatures have helped to create Oscar Gold on such movies as American Werewolf in London, Harry and the Hendersons (both Oscar winners) to the convincing simian performers of Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan and Gorilla's in the Mist (both Oscar nominees). As the lead character designer for DreamWork's animated blockbuster he is also responsible for such animated blockbust-

er as Shrek, Shrek 2 and Shrek the Third. Mr. Hester will conduct his seminar on Sunday, April 30th at 11:30 am. Topics include how he applies wild life art techniques to characters that see life on the silver screen.

It is only fitting that the Festival continues an original California art tradition in their 3rd Annual Plein Air event. This year, the San Dimas community and the surrounding areas, are invited to join our professional artists to 'Paint Along With the Pros'! Those novice artists who participate in this unique program will gain insight and perhaps a few new valuable painting techniques. Above all else the community will discover a new appreciation for the dynamic skill of our participating professional artists. While the Plein Air event will be held two days, the community "Paint Along with

the Pros" is devoted to Saturday, April 29, 9 am to Noon.

The Award Ceremony for the winners of the "California Images & History" Art Exhibition and Plein Air Event 2017, will take place on Saturday, April 29, at 6pm (reservations required).

The exciting weekend events for the 'California Images & History' Art Exhibition and Sale begin on Friday evening, April 28, with a Premier Opening Reception at 6:00 (reservations required). Viewing of all the unique and original fine artwork is free of charge and open to the public from 9 am - 9 pm on Saturday, and 9 am - 4 pm on Sunday. To learn more about the Festival of Arts and the 41st Art Exhibition or to purchase tickets to the Premier Opening Reception and/or the Saturday Awards Dinner, please call (909) 599-5374 or go to [www.sandimasarts.org](http://www.sandimasarts.org). The 'California Images & History' show will be held in the Civic Center Plaza, 245 E. Bonita Avenue, San Dimas.

## Citrus Valley Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary Is Looking For Volunteers

**COVINA** - The mission of Citrus Valley Health Partners is to help people keep well in body, mind and spirit by providing quality health care in a safe compassionate environment; Volunteers provide the helping hands to fulfill this mission.

Volunteers assist in many areas at the hospital such as the front desk where information

is provided to visitors, the gift shop, surgery waiting room, newspaper/magazine delivery and in other areas. The Auxiliary of Inter-Community Hospital welcomes new volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer contact Corporate Director of Volunteer Services Tiffany Ramirez at (626) 915-6237 or e-mail her at: [tramirez@mail.cvhp.org](mailto:tramirez@mail.cvhp.org).

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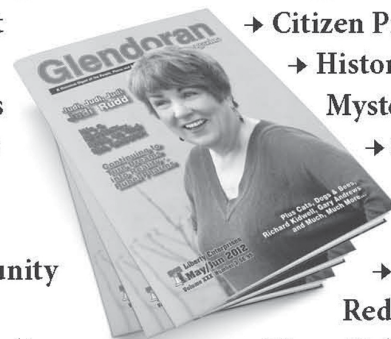
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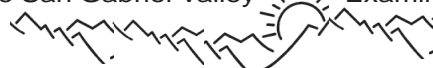


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# Justin Viteri - Beyond the Eagle Scout Badge



Eagle Scout Justin Viteri

By Mark Erickson

**GLENDORA** - When most Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout, they tend to leave their troops for other challenges. However, some stay on to continue earning merit badges and give their time, leadership and teaching skills to other scouts within the Troop. This is what Justin Viteri, age 16, of Glendora Troop 491 has been doing for the past year since earning his Eagle Badge. For his work, Justin received his third Eagle Palm Award, The Silver Palm, at the March Troop 491 Glendora Court of Honor. The Boy Scouts of America Greater Los Angeles Area Council's Valle del Sol District named Justin "Outstanding Scout of the Year"

Justin is the son Al Viteri, Scoutmaster for Troop 491, and has been in scouts since first grade when he became a Cub Scout. Scouts and Adult leaders like and regard him as the ex-

ample of the model scout. He is especially reliable at the task of teaching the younger scouts the skills they need to advance in rank, such as first aid and knots. Justin is focused, reliable as well as a well-liked leader. "He doesn't horse around and gets right to teaching the kids (scouts)," said Star Scout Spencer Moya, age 14, "You can always count on him".

Justin's Eagle Palm award is perhaps not as widely known as the Eagle Scout Badge. A scout who is active in his troop and patrol for at least three months after becoming an Eagle Scout may earn an Eagle Palm. He can also earn additional palms three months after award of the last Palm. He needs to demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in everyday life, develop and demonstrate leadership ability, and earn five additional merit badges beyond

those required for Eagle or the last palm. The scout also participates in a scoutmaster conference and successfully completes a board of review. The first earned Palm Award is bronze, followed by gold then silver. Then the sequence repeats for the next Palm Awards.

Justin's other award, Outstanding Scout of the Year, is a Valle del Sol District BSA youth recognition that is made through nominations to the district by unit level youth or adult leaders, volunteers, and parents. The outstanding Scout is a special youth who is doing an extra special job and goes unheralded. The Scout serves willingly time after time and has gone above the call of duty.

For Justin's Eagle Project, he planned and managed a three-day long refurbishment of three aging wooden ball walls at Sutherland Elementary School playground in May 2015. Work included the replacement of rotten wooden boards, sanding, base coat painting and the creation and application of new original Sutherland School themed murals to the ball walls. The new murals, created by Justin and his cousin, pleased the schools' principal with their bold colors and upbeat themes. Justin was a student at Sutherland from K-5 grade.

Funds for the wood, paint and painting supplies came from fundraisers at local restaurants and a raffle. While the actual project was straightforward, Justin recalled the biggest challenge during that project was "organizing people", a theme often heard from other Eagle Scouts who pass through the program.

Boy scouting runs deep in the Viteri family as he also has an older brother who is an also an Eagle Scout who occasionally teaches merit badge classes. Justin is in his junior year at Glendora High School. After high school, he plans to attend college.

# Azusa Middle School Students Discover Future College Majors at Sixth Annual Eighth-Grade Fair

**AZUSA** - More than 800 Azusa Unified School District junior high students were encouraged to set their minds on college during the sixth annual Eighth-Grade Majors Fair on March 17 - an annual event that showcases a variety of college majors to get students excited for their futures.

Hosted at Azusa Memorial Park North Recreation Center, Eighth-graders from Center, Foothill, and Slauson middle schools engaged with professors and current students from Azusa Pacific University, Cal Poly Pomona and Citrus College at the "Passport to Your Future" event. Booths with color-coordinated balloons created a pathway for Azusa students to explore majors ranging from anthropology, nursing, psychology, graphic design, and theology.

With more than 20 majors represented, students ventured through a wide variety of disciplines for potential study in high school that could ultimately lead to declared major in college.

"It is never too early to get our students inspired and excited about their future career options," Superintendent Dr. Linda Kaminski said. "The Eighth-Grade Majors Fair continues to demonstrate year after year the importance of a community effort when it comes to planning for our students' bright futures."



Azusa Unified School District students experiment with the science behind kinetic energy at the physics booth during the sixth annual Eighth Grade Majors Fair on March 17.

Thanks to a partnership between Azusa Pacific University, Cal Poly Pomona and Citrus College, Azusa Unified students exclusively benefitted from the Eighth-Grade Majors Fair. In small groups, students took turns visiting each booth to get a hands-on introduction to a major that sparked their interest.

"I've always enjoyed video games, and after seeing the technology and design booth, I can see how I can make my hobby a career," Foothill student Link Aguilar said. "The coding program was really fun too, and I want to explore that area more."

The physics booth was a popular destination, with a display of sparks emitted by a static electricity generator and demonstrations on positive and negative

charges using two pieces of tape. While at the nutrition station, students toyed with honesty when asked how often they indulge in sodas and chips, which was followed by a lesson on the addicting and harmful chemicals found in over-processed products.

There was also a moment for relaxation with estheticians utilizing their beauty skills on select student volunteers. Extracurricular activities such as volleyball and football were also highlighted to showcase the full college experience.

The annual Eighth Grade Majors Fair is made possible each year thanks to the efforts of local administrators and college student volunteers who donate their time to inspire future generations.

# Ronald McDonald House - Supporting Families in Tough Times

**DUARTE** - Victoria Kemp from the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House had quite a smile on her face after joining the Duarte Kiwanis Club at a recent meeting. Victoria shared a number of ways folks can support the Ronald McDonald House.

Meals of Love is a program where organizations provide home cooked meals for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their child is undergoing treatment. They also have a "wish list" program where folks can donate various items needed in the house - or even create Welcome Boxes to be opened by families when they arrive.

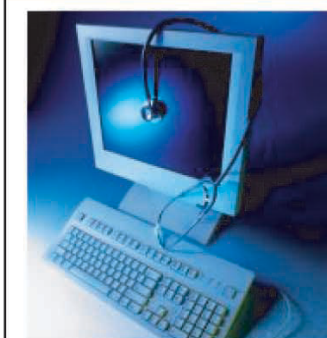
This year's Walk For Kids fundraising event took place on Sunday, April 2nd at Central Park in Pasadena. Duarte Kiwanis



President, Cheryl Reynolds, was happy to provide a check for \$300.00 to help in the event. For further information on speaking

or joining the club, contact Dr. Diane Hernandez at [drdiane@drherandezoptometry.com](mailto:drdiane@drherandezoptometry.com)

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