



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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Glendora Man's Happy Last Hurrah at the 2022 Tournament of Roses Parade

By Mark Erickson II
PASADENA - For the many who attended, the 133rd Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena was a time to take in the annual pageantry of flowery floats, marching bands, celebrities, and more than a few horses. For long time Glendora resident Rob Lee, the 2022 Rose Parade was his last time the play sideline host and entertainer, not just for the spectators in the Pasadena City College section of the parade route, but parade participants as well. Now, after 22 years in the role and having retired from PCC in June, this was Rob's final time to bring some "esprit de corps," as he would say, to the city college section of the parade route. For many parade veterans, Rob Lee's involvement had become part of the parade experience.



Rob Lee whips up the crowd into enthusiastic cheers as the parade participants pass by.

Rob's interest in raising spirits at the parade began when he joined the school's Social Activities Group as a new instructor at PCC. He recalled that it was nice that the school had their own grandstand, the mood of the crowd was rather flat. "It was way too quiet and somewhat boring. We were all from the same organization in the grandstand, but it was quiet," said Rob. Being a natural cheerleader, Rob went to

work within his capacities to liven things up. The second year he started with a few poster boards, markers, and his own considerable enthusiasm. Thus, a tradition was born. Two decades later of improving and improvising, Rob would bring a public address system, raffles, pompoms, silly wigs, and other props to whip up the crowd into enthusiastic cheers as the parade participants pass by. Rob

also had custom banners with the names the marching bands and people to be unfurled as they passed. He also included his own quick-change act, making sure to wear the shirts with the logo of the corresponding Rose Bowl game teams as their bands marched on by. To be prepared for all this activity, Rob would start out months earlier, contacting band leaders and others involved to learn their names and learn a bit of their history. This year's shout outs were near and dear to Rob's heart. Tournament President Bob Miller, a former PCC administrator, was scheduled to ride by on a fire engine with his 90 plus year old mother. "We ordered 300 Bob Miller faces on a stick made" said Rob, "plus, I ordered a large banner for his mom (Happy Birthday Bernice!)." Bob Miller caught wind of the plan and countered with his own batch of Rob Lee faces on a stick, resulting in an odd, comical "face off" during the parade.

Rob also brought a banner with the face of actor LeVar Burton, the 2022 Grand Marshall. Upon seeing his photo and hearing the crowd chant, "We love you LeVar", a happily surprised Mr. Burton waved and took photos of Rob and the crowd. LeVar Burton also saluted Rob with the classic "live long and prosper" hand sign. As lifelong Star Trek enthusiast, swooning Rob later retold this moment as a major moment in his life. Other shout outs to parade participants this year had deeper meaning as Rob learned of their recent struggles. "The founder of

event quickly became a family affair with members recruited early on for the cause. Much of Rob's support came from of his wife, Janice, who not only carried props to the grandstand in the predawn darkness and cold, but their young children as well. This year the family moved quickly, handing out props to the crowd and unfurling banners on cue. A father of a daughter and two boys, Rob's two sons missed assisting their father on two notable exceptions when they were in the parade itself. Stephen Lee, now 28, and Mathew Lee, now 24, both marched in the Rose Parade as during their time as members of the Glendora High School Marching Band. A long time GHS marching "Band Parent" as he called himself, these were ultimate "That's my son!" moments for Rob.

Now with this portion of his life over, Rob and his family can take a slower approach to New Year's Day. With his legacy firmly established in the Rose Bowl and PCC, other members of the Pasadena City College Social Activities Group will take over for 2023 Rose Parade. If Rob was wistful, he didn't show it, thanking the crowd for all their enthusiasm. As the parade ended and the crowd moved out, Rob's son was heard to wryly comment, "Yay, now we can rest."

For the Rob, bringing life to

Pack 491 Den 10 Holds Arrow of Light & Bridging Ceremony



Alexios Gizas, Jaxon Henderson, Ezekiel Eastlund, Zachary Cherry, Robert Boese IV with Den leader Diana Henderson and members of the Glendora City Council - Councilman David Fredendall, Mayor Karen Davis, Councilman Gary Boyer and Councilman Michael Allawos.

GLENDORA - Pack 491 Den 10 held an Arrow of Light and Bridging Ceremony on Saturday, January 8th at St. Dorothy Church in Glendora.

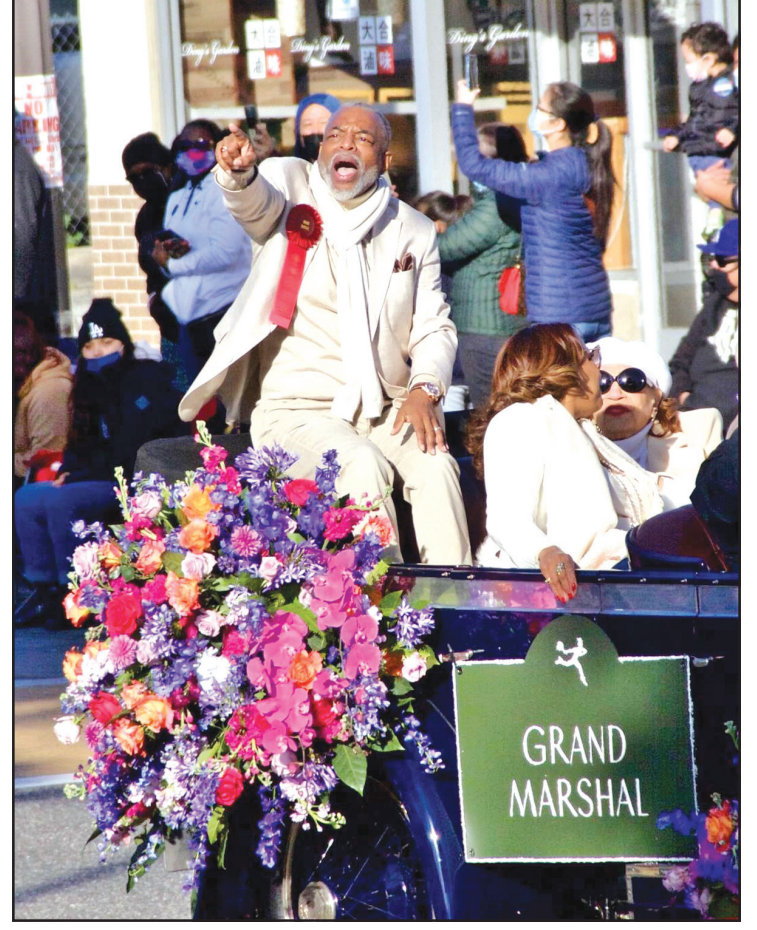
The "Arrow of Light Ceremony" is a pack celebration that recognizes and honors a 2nd year Webelos Scouts accomplishment in earning the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. The highest rank in Cub Scouting is the Arrow of Light Award. Earning this rank prepares a Webelos Scout to become a Boy Scout. Webelos Scouts who have earned the Arrow of Light Award have also completed all requirements for the Boy Scout "Scout" Badge. The Arrow of Light Award is one of the only Cub Scout badges that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform when a boy graduates into a troop.

The "Boy Scout Bridging Ceremony" is a ceremony for 2nd year Webelos Scouts who have earned the Arrow of Light Award and are going into a Boy Scout Troop. In some packs the parents and Webelos Scout literally stand on one side of a small handmade bridge and some adult leaders and Boy Scouts from the troop the Webelos Scout is transitioning into stand on the other side of the bridge. During the ceremony

each Webelos Scout and his parents physically walk over the bridge...symbolizing his "bridging from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts". The Boy Scouts and adult leaders welcome the new scout and give him his Boy Scout shoulder loops. "Webelos" stands for "We'll

Be Loyal Scouts." The Cub Scouts who received their "Arrow of Light" award were Alexios Gizas, Jaxon Henderson, Ezekiel Eastlund, Zachary Cherry, Robert Boese IV. (Note: Additional information provided by www.boyscouttrail.com)

LeVar Burton, the 2022 Grand Marshall, reacts on seeing his photo and hearing the crowd chant, "We love you LeVar".



LeVar Burton, the 2022 Grand Marshall, reacts on seeing his photo and hearing the crowd chant, "We love you LeVar".

Covina-Valley Unified's Northview High School Varsity Football Competes in First-Ever CIF Division 4-A State Championship

COVINA - Football history was made at San Francisco's Kezar Stadium as the Northview High School varsity football team competed in their first-ever CIF Southern California Division 4-A State Championship game on Dec. 11, 2021.

Coming into the game, the Vikings were experiencing one of Northview's most successful seasons in years, winning the CIF Southern Section (CIF-SS) Division 10 Championship title for the first time since 1987 and the school's first CIF-SS Division 4-A regional championship.

For Vikings head football coach Marcel Perez, this team was something special. "We didn't know what kind of season we were going to have coming off of COVID-19 and school closures," Perez said.

"Our offensive coordinator Anthony Silva did a great job of putting the pieces together and making our offense a run-heavy strong offense, and our defense flew around and made plays all day. It just became a great combination."

Although the Vikings played formidably against their opponent - the Sacred Heart Cathedral Fighting Irish - they lost the game 48-29.

"We've been working hard for decades to make the championship," Northview High junior and varsity football captain James Arellanes said. "It's been a long time since we've won a CIF title, and to make it as far as we did means a lot to everyone in this community."

With the successful season Northview had this year, the team



The Northview High School varsity football team celebrates their victory against Colony High School at the CIF-SS Division 4-A Regional Championship advancing them to the state championship game.

has brought a greater spotlight on the school's football program. Coach Perez hopes future athletes continue to work hard and carry on the legacy of this team.

"A big congratulations to Marcel Perez and our Northview football team for their incredible season," Northview High Principal Dr. Ryan Parry said. "This is a

great accomplishment on our students' behalf and for our school. I'm excited to see where the team goes from here."

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Surge Continues in LA County with More than 200,000 Confirmed COVID Cases Over Past 7 Days

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - LA County continues seeing high rates of transmission with more than 200,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases over the past 7 days, the highest numbers of cases in one week since the beginning of the pandemic. Hospitalizations have also doubled in one week to 3,200 people currently hospitalized with COVID-19, and over 20% of those getting tested are positive for COVID-19.

Public Health urges residents to upgrade their masks to medical grade masks that do a better job at blocking COVID-19 virus particles and to reconsider attending higher-risk activities, including indoor activities where individuals are unmasked for long periods of time, as well as crowded outdoor events.

"Our hearts remain with those families experiencing the sorrow of losing those they love

to COVID," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "As the surge continues, we ask residents and businesses to continue following the public health safety measures that we know reduce spread and keep people safe. This includes wearing a medical grade mask that is more protective against the Omicron variant and not spending time around others who are unmasked. These upgraded masks can be a surgical mask or an N95 or KN95 respirator mask."

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) today released the latest data on COVID-19. The number of cases and deaths are likely to reflect reporting delays over the holiday and the weekend.

• 34,448 new COVID-19 cases (1,921,890 cases to date)

• 16 new deaths due to COVID-19 (27,772 deaths to date)

• 3,200 people currently hospitalized with COVID-19

• More than 10,269,000 individuals tested; 17% of people tested positive to date

ARCADIA - Angeles National Forest leadership will minimally staff and restrict public access to all offices, visitor centers, and fire stations starting Monday, Jan 10 for two weeks. Fire stations and other critical functions, like toilet cleaning and garbage removal, will remain staffed through the duration of the temporary facility closure.

Angeles National Forest Closing Offices and Stations for Two Weeks

Enhanced safety measures designed to protect employees during pandemic

"The safety and health of our first responders, employees, and those who visit the Angeles National Forest is my first consideration and this will help in that regard," said Jerome Perez, forest supervisor of the Angeles National Forest. "We must use every tool and enhanced safety measure at our disposal to protect our employees, and right now unfortunately, that means closing access to

our facilities for two weeks," Perez added.

During the two-week closure however, all currently opened campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails will remain open. Forest Service officials are encouraging visitors to follow Centers of Disease Control (CDC), State, and Los Angeles County health guidelines regarding the use of masks and other COVID-19 safety measures while in the forest.

More information about our office locations and recreation opportunities can be found on our website and if more information is needed, visitors are asked to call their local Forest Service office. Phones will be staffed by employees working remotely. Contact our offices at the following numbers:

Angeles National Forest Headquarters: (747) 322-6574
 Los Angeles Gateway Ranger District: (818) 899-1900
 San Gabriel Mountains National Monument: (747) 322-6643

New "Pick-up Testing Kit" Program To Help Meet COVID-19 Surge Demand

New Test Collection Program Part of Ongoing Efforts to Expand Testing Capacity and Access

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - LA County Department of Health Services launches new program designed to increase and facilitate access to COVID-19 tests for LA County residents unable to obtain appointments. The program will allow residents to pick up a PCR test kit, perform the test, and return the completed kit to designated locations for processing. Residents will be notified of their test results within 24-48 hours.

The "Pick-Up Testing Kit" program is the latest in a series of LA County efforts designed to expand testing capacity as demand grows across the county. Recent efforts to increase capacity include increasing the days and hours of operation for existing sites, adding mobile testing units, and providing intermittent availability of Home Testing Kits via mail.

The new "Pick-Up Testing Kit" program will operate at 13 testing sites across LA County. "Pick-Up Test Kits" will be available without an appointment and until daily supplies are exhausted. The "Pick-Up Testing Kits" will test for both COVID-19 and Influenza (A and B), the same as all LA County operated testing locations.

"We look forward to reducing the waiting time to get tested for individuals unable to book an appointment," said Paula Siler RN, MS Director of Community Mobile Testing Operations at the LA County Department of Health Services.

"Once all 13 Pick-Up Testing locations are fully operating and once our Home Testing Kit by mail program is simultaneously relaunched later this week, we will have successfully added over 10,000 additional daily Covid tests available to the residents of LA County."

For details and a full listing of "Pick-Up Testing Kit" locations and hours of operation please visit: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/la-county-pick-up-testing-kit-program>

The new "Pick-Up Testing Kits" are available to all LA County residents who are experiencing symptoms or believe they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. To preserve limited resources, the "Pick-Up Testing Kits" are not intended for use by those testing as a requirement to return to school, work or participate in other activities where routine testing is mandated. The "Pick-Up Testing Kits" offer only PCR testing not rapid testing.

Individuals who need to get tested as part of a requirement for work, school, or other activities should seek testing via their employer, school district or the entity requiring the testing.

LA County residents can find COVID-19 testing sites at covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/

All testing locations listed within the county testing website offer COVID-19 tests at no out-of-pocket cost, regardless

of insurance coverage or immigration status.

It is important that LA County residents understand that not all COVID-19 testing sites within the LA County region are affiliated or operated by LA County. COVID testing sites are also being operated by private companies, private health care systems and local municipalities and some of these privately operated sites do charge for their testing services.

Only the testing sites listed within the LA County COVID-19 testing website covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/ have been vetted by LA County.

As of January 7, 2021 - there are approximately 260 COVID-19 testing locations listed in the LA County's COVID-19 testing site (covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/), of those, the county operates about 66 community sites and 7 state sites. The remaining locations are operated by testing partners.

Testing partner sites listed on LA County's website are sites that have been pre-screened by LA County to ensure that they offer testing with no out-of-pocket cost, regardless of health insurance or immigration status and that they offer testing using a test approved by the FDA.

LA County does not have oversight over testing sites not directly operated by the LA County Department of Health Services.

As Cases Surge in LA County, Vaccinated & Boosted Individuals Continue to Have Significant Protection Against Becoming Infected and Experiencing Severe Illness

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - As cases soared to the highest level since the start of the pandemic, those vaccinated and boosted continue to be protected from infections and severe illness. Vaccinated and boosted individuals were almost 4 times less likely to get infected and 38 times less likely to be hospitalized than those who were unvaccinated. With teens 12 and older newly approved to get boosted, there are almost 3 million residents in LA County eligible to add this critically important layer of protection.

Although COVID hospitalizations have been rising rapidly, many of the COVID positive patients hospitalized are seeking care for a non-COVID health issue. Data analyzed by Public Health showed that while back in early November, 75% of hospitalized patients who tested positive for COVID were hospitalized for medical problems related to the COVID diagnosis, the percentage of people hospitalized for COVID illness has declined now to 45%, meaning that more than half of COVID-positive hospitalized patients are in the hospital for non-COVID

related illness. And while COVID-positive patients do represent a substantial strain on the healthcare system regardless of the reason for their hospital admission, there are likely to be less COVID positive patients requiring ICU care and ventilators than last winter.

"I send my heartfelt condolences to everyone mourning the loss of a loved one due to COVID-19," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "With thousands of newly infected people each day, we recognize the numerous new challenges we are all facing. Many services are strained, as workers are ill or quarantining, families are facing major disruptions trying to care for those infected or quarantining, and for countless residents, it is hard to get tested and to sort through the changing guidance. It will take a lot of effort to get through these hardships and we will need to do our best to stay safe. Please stay home if you are sick; don't call 911 or go to an emergency room unless you have a true medical emergency; comply with isolation and quarantine rules to avoid spreading Omicron to others

and reduce your own risk of transmitting or getting infected by curtailing non-essential activities where there will be large crowds."

Public Health confirmed 30 additional deaths and 37,215 new cases of COVID-19. Of the 30 new deaths reported January 6, one person was between the ages of 18 and 29, four people were between the ages of 30 and 49, eight were between the ages of 50-64, six were between the ages of 65-79, and 11 were over the age of 80 years old. Of the 30 newly reported deaths, 21 had underlying conditions. To date, the total number of deaths in L.A. County is 27,728.

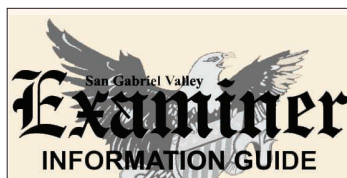
Public Health has identified a total 1,843,922 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County.

There are 2,661 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized. Testing results are available for more than 10,194,300 individuals, with 17% of people testing positive.

To keep workplaces and schools open, residents and workers are asked to:

- Adhere to masking requirements when indoors or at crowded outdoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status
- Stay home if you are sick and adhere to isolation and quarantine requirements if you are infected with COVID or a close contact of an infected person

Residents are legally required to isolate if they have a positive COVID test result and vaccinated close contacts with symptoms and unvaccinated close contacts need to quarantine.



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COVID Education Is The Key To Our Health And Our Democracy

COVID is a very complex medical problem overshadowed by politics. Any opinions are mine based on research I have done. I am not in the medical field, so if you have any concerns you should talk with your doctor.

COVID has made it an "us" against "them" entangled environment. Many friendships have been lost and many arguments have ensued. Did you get the vaccine, are you an anti-vaxer, are you wearing a mask, you are standing too close to me! Depending on which side you are on, you have to be very careful who you talk to and what you say. I have personally been verbally attacked by friends several times. If your opinion is different than mine, I will respect it. I hope you can do the same.

The first order of business is trying to make it so you don't get too sick should you contract COVID. This is where monoclonal antibodies come into play. Monoclonal antibodies for COVID, are made in a lab and designed to specifically to target the spike protein by binding to it. This blocks the virus from entering your cells.

They are provided by the FDA, free of charge and consist of a one-hour IV infusion. They have been approved by an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), just like the mRNA shots. In some cases, you may have to have your doctor write a prescription. Some urgent care centers provide it without a doctor's prescription. To locate an infusion center, go to <https://covid.infusioncenter.org/>. Hos-



Karin Schott

pitals do not provide this for their admitted patients, so if you end up in the ER you must insist that you are going to get this treatment before being admitted.

To qualify for the monoclonal antibody infusion, you must meet the following criteria:

- Are an adult or pediatric patient (at least 12 years of age and weighing at least 88 pounds)
 - Have tested positive for COVID-19
 - Are experiencing mild or moderate symptoms of COVID-19
 - Experienced your first symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days
 - Are at high risk for having more serious symptoms of COVID-19 and/or going into the hospital
- High Risk conditions are:
- At least 65 years old
 - Obesity or being overweight based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention clinical growth charts
 - Pregnancy
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Diabetes
 - Have a condition or are receiving treatment that weakens

or suppresses your immune system

- Heart or circulatory conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, and possibly high blood pressure (hypertension)
- Chronic lung diseases including COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma (moderate to severe), interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary hypertension
- Sickle cell disease
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy
- Having a medical device (for example, tracheostomy, gastrostomy, or positive pressure ventilation [not related to COVID-19])

The current thinking is, if you have Delta, you should get a Regeneron infusion. If you have Omicron, you should get a Sotrovimab infusion. How do you tell which variant you have? You have to guess based on the symptoms you are presenting. Usually with Delta people get sicker and may end up in the hospital. Omicron people are not as sick and generally do not end up in the hospital.

Keep in mind that the data/science is changing daily, so what is true today maybe different next week.

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".

Gitmo's Shameful Twentieth Anniversary

The U.S. prison at the Guantánamo Bay naval base reached its shameful twentieth anniversary of operations on January 11 with a legacy marked by the detention of nearly 800 Muslim men, the majority of them held without charge or trial and many subjected to torture and other grave human rights abuses.

President Biden has so far failed to take consequential action during his first year in office to fulfill his campaign pledge of closing the prison. His administration has in fact done the opposite and is now spending millions of dollars to upgrade it. Meanwhile, the remaining 39 prisoners and our nation's rule of law still languish.

Since taking office, Biden has overseen the release of only one prisoner even though 13 of the remaining 39 men have been approved for release by high-level U.S. government review processes. Moreover, the release of that one prisoner last July had already been negotiated and approved during the Obama administration. At this rate, detainees could remain at Gitmo well into or even beyond Biden's presidency, with no seeming urgency in sight.

In a perhaps telling move, President Biden has not yet re-established a special envoy position at the State Department created under President Obama to close Guantánamo. His contradictory approach to the prison is also evident in his administration's latest plans to build a new secret courtroom at Gitmo for war crimes trials, likely to cost American taxpayers \$4 million, as the New York Times reported on December 29, 2021. This suggests prolonging the prison rather than closing it.

Additional courtroom space will not address the real reasons behind the Kafkaesque judicial process at Guantánamo however. More importantly, the prison was intentionally designed to be a legal black hole for bypassing the U.S. Constitution.



Farrah Hassen

It was created in 2002 by then-President Bush during his "War on Terror" to ostensibly house those his administration declared "the worst of the worst," but it has since become synonymous with indefinite detention. Searing images have emerged of prisoners in bright orange jumpsuits kneeling before U.S. soldiers, shackled, handcuffed, and blindfolded. Grisly human rights abuses have also been exposed. Prisoners have been subjected to acts of physical and psychological torture, including extended sleep deprivation and waterboarding during "enhanced interrogations," as well as religious persecution and humiliation for their Islamic faith.

Subsequent military commissions at Gitmo have further thwarted justice and transparency. These commissions have deprived detainees of their fundamental due process rights, including the right to meaningfully challenge the basis of their detention, as affirmed by the Supreme Court in the Boumediene v. Bush ruling of 2008. The Court's earlier 2006 decision in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld also held that the military commissions used to try detainees at Guantánamo violated both U.S. law and the four Geneva Conventions.

Omar Ashmawy, a former military prosecutor at Gitmo, witnessed these legal challenges firsthand. He has called for the prison's closure and concluded in his June 30, 2021 Washington

Post column, "Two decades of failed efforts speak for itself - no tribunal held in Guantánamo after nearly 20 years of unlawful confinement could come to a conclusion that the legal or humanitarian community will accept."

Nevertheless, while Biden has sought to expand Gitmo facilities, Congress has also put up roadblocks to closing it. The 2022 defense authorization bill, which Biden signed last December, extends prohibitions on transferring Gitmo detainees to the U.S. or other countries. This effectively prevents Biden from shutting down the prison, a fact he acknowledged while still signing the bill into law.

To honor his pledge, President Biden must push for standalone legislation that would close Gitmo and transfer the remaining prisoners instead of allowing Congress to evade the issue through must-pass defense funding bills. This should be followed by a lawful resolution to pending cases and accountability for decades of human rights abuses. Of the remaining detainees, some could be tried in federal courts and others already cleared for release should be repatriated to their home countries if possible or resettled in third countries with security guarantees.

The indefinite detention of these detainees without charge openly flouts international and U.S. law. Furthermore, the end to the war in Afghanistan has further eroded any legal justification that the U.S. may have had for their continued detention.

The Guantánamo prison should never have reached its twentieth anniversary. It is time to turn the page once and for all on this sordid chapter in our nation's history.

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

MY TURN: "I'm Watters, And This Is My World."

I see on an internet post that Jesse Watters has gotten a promotion. He will be the permanent host of the Primetime news show that is aired just before Tucker Carlson on Fox News. This past several months the show has had a rotating cast of Fox personalities hosting the show.

It is a well-deserved assignment and promotion. On "The Five", Watters has rivaled Greg Gutfeld with his strong, honest and targeted commentary. When you combine Watters, Gutfeld and Dana Perino, you get some of the most intelligent, while being funny and insightful, commentary anywhere on cable TV news. Gutfeld is one of the smartest men around with his biting and hold-no-punches delivery. He is a protege of Andrew Breitbart and former magazine publisher. Perino is a former White House Press Secretary who knows politics inside and out. The three of them blow everybody else away.

Watters will continue to be on "The Five," which is not unusual. All three principle hosts, Watters, Gutfeld and Perino will do double duty with their own weekday shows. Watters currently has a Saturday show called "Watter's World" which has been extremely successful.



Charles Lopresto

Fox has been surrounded by lots of controversy for a number of years, but this move, putting another Conservative in a high-profile position is proof that at least part of the network is remaining loyal to its Conservative base. Most of the biggest shows have Conservative hosts. Those hosts, besides the three just mentioned, include Judge Jeanine Pirro, Dan Bongino, Mark Levin, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Tucker Carlson, Trey Gowdy, Steve Hilton, and Maria Bartiromo.

I wrote in some previous comments that "The Five" has been on a role with some of their most recent commentaries. All due to Perino, Gutfeld, and Watters with some help from Judge Jeanine, Dagan McDowell, and Katie Pav-

lich.

A large amount of the controversy that the network was burdened with revolves around a number of Fox personalities who have left. One of the most significant was Chris Wallace. But the nature of the news industry is one of constant change and movement, so I wouldn't consider some of these shakeups as anything unusual or troublesome. The examples of prominent Conservatives who have been fired, which includes Lou Dobbs, Bill O'Reilly, Trish Regen, Ed Henry and Eric Bowling, may seem to be quite disturbing, but as I mentioned, the number of prime time shows that have Conservative hosts seem to offset any of those concerns. Jesse Watters is a prime example of a talented, engaging personality whose "meteoric rise" in the ranks is not surprising. Watters, is attractive, smart, funny, self-deprecating, and bold enough to make his success a done deal. And it has been a done deal ever since he first appeared on "The O'Reilly Factor." Jesse Watters is a valuable commodity, and that is not going to change anytime soon.

After all, as he would say, "I'm Watters, and this is my world."

Mea Culpa: "May ISIS Lop Off Your Head"

By **Ralph E. Shaffer**

The phone rang, and it was another unwanted call. I had already heard from the company offering an extended warranty on my car - but I'm legally blind and haven't owned a car for a dozen years. The credit card people called too, with news that I'm eligible for a lower interest rate - on a card I don't have. But this time it was another contractor, and I had had enough.

There was a live voice, that of a girl who said she was home from Berkeley on semester break, and was helping her Dad, a San Gabriel Valley contractor, by making calls for him. She was offering free estimates, on most anything a house might need. And they would be in my neighborhood in Covina this week.

Her voice was sweet. Ah, to be twenty again and a student at Cal. She was surely as attractive as that voice. Most Berkeley girls were attractive. I remember that well, from 65 years ago. They wanted a degree but most of them also wanted a marriage license. I did too, but most didn't want my name on theirs. Fortunately, Di-

ane did.

As the girl ended her spiel, I wasn't polite. Congress had passed legislation supposedly blocking these annoying phone calls a couple of years ago, but, if anything, the calls increased in number, spawned in part by the economic crisis of the Covid pandemic. I had tried to be polite in the past, but this was one too many calls and I let it all out.

"May ISIS lop off your head!" was my response when she asked if they could make one of those estimates. I abruptly ended the call.

The phone was hardly back in its holder when I became remorseful. I shouldn't have said that.

Here was a local girl trying to help her Dad through the hard times so many were facing. No doubt he had asked her to make the calls and, from the tone of her voice as she made her plea, she was willingly doing it.

Maybe it wasn't just for her Dad. When Diane and I were at Berkeley in the 1950s there was zero tuition for in-state students. When my kids entered Cal thirty years later, it was maybe \$3000 for the year. The contractor's daughter is faced with \$14,000 for tuition and other fees, not including the cost of a room, books and other necessities. Those calls she's making may determine if she can finish this year and her degree before the money runs

out.

My wife had to drop out of Berkeley in 1957 for lack of money when the university ruled her an out-of-state student since she wasn't 21, even though she had lived on her own here for two years after moving from Michigan. The extra tuition she had to pay wiped out much of her savings and she never came back for her senior year. Would that be the fate of the contractor's daughter?

If she's lucky, she may be the beneficiary of the Berkeley scholarship we created after Diane died of cancer some years ago. That would be enough to pay half of a year's tuition. Student loans, as dreaded as they are, could pay the rest.

But I still owe her an apology.

Young lady, I'm sorry for what I said. It was in the heat of the moment, out of desperation over calls I can't stop. Thanks for helping your Dad. If I ever need a repair, I hope he's the one I call. I'm terribly sorry if my words said in anger hurt you,

In the future, I'll save the "lop off your head" for those calls from Pakistan asking for my social security number in order to straighten out a problem with my monthly pension.

Ralph E. Shaffer, 91, is professor emeritus of history at Cal Poly Pomona. reshaffer@cpp.edu

San Gabriel Valley

Examiner

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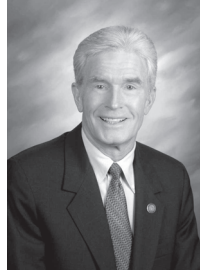
The stock market ended 2021 with a Santa Claus rally even as the spread of Covid-19's Omicron variant caused states to re-impose masking requirements and other restrictions. Warnings that commerce would be restricted followed many countries re-imposing travel restrictions plus the size of gatherings. How much will economic activity be curtailed even though the Omicron variant has yet to pose serious death threats in North America? Will all be well in the USA or will Omicron create noticeable economic disruptions?

During the Thanksgiving week the Omicron variant was spreading rapidly in South Africa, but concerns about any serious health issues there have diminished rapidly. If that pattern holds Wall Street hopes that the negative impact of Omicron will be minimal here too. But, even with few deaths resulting from the Omicron variant there are signs that rising Omicron cases are disrupting employment critical to health care and other industries. However, other news remains positive.

Major averages traded lower for the last session of 2021 after some late selling action, but closed out the year with strong gains. The S&P 500 Index fell 0.3%, ending December about 4.5% higher, the third-best month of the year and best December since 2010. For the year the S&P 500 Index was up about 27% outpacing the Dow and the Nasdaq by a wide margin. The S&P 500 set 70 all-time highs during the year, the most in a single year since 77 highs in 1954.

Some of the smartest market forecasters, analysts and chief investment officers are predicting that the first half of 2022 could be quite turbulent for the

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

stock market as the Fed tapers QE by the end of March, followed by three rate hikes. Fed Chair Jerome Powell didn't mince words with the usual "Fedspeak" that investors have come to expect. And that was before considering the impact of Omicron's likely spread.

Many of my colleagues on Wall Street expect a higher market in the month of January, expecting most current stock market fears to diminish in January. Discounting the negative impact of the Omicron variant, more growth is expected to be reported in late January. The Atlanta Fed is currently estimating 7.2% fourth-quarter GDP growth. Crude oil prices are now moderating, and Treasury bond yields have meandered lower. On top of that optimists think spreading Coronavirus fears may abate.

Regarding the port bottlenecks, major European ports like Hamburg and Rotterdam are "roughly flat or lag behind 2019 levels," according to The Wall Street Journal. Major U.S. ports are processing almost 20% more container volume than they did in 2019, but backups continue. While it is positive that U.S. consumers continue to boost their spending on goods, how much of that is catch up demand driven by excess cash? It is notable that European consumers remain much more cautious.

According to the Bank of England the U.S. accounts for almost 90% of a 22% worldwide surge in durable goods orders since the end of 2019. Overall U.S. GDP growth is forecast to grow at a nearly 6% annual pace in 2021 and maybe 4% in 2022. The primary reason that the U.S. dollar is still strong is due to our higher GDP growth as well as higher absolute interest rates than anything offered in Europe or Japan. But what about the USA's huge deficit spending and money supply growth?

Can this economy and the market learn to prosper on their own without financial help from Uncle Sam generating huge inflation? Assuming inflation persists or gets worse through the first half of 2022 it may be prudent for income investors to investigate sectors with reliable dividends and yields. A strong US dollar might eventually help suppress inflationary pressure, since almost all commodities are priced in U.S. dollars. Approximately half of the sales in the S&P 500 come from outside of the U.S. Multinational companies may be posting better-than-expected sales due to a "currency tailwind."

It is hard to be overly concerned about 2022 since the U.S. continues driving global growth. But we should not underestimate the negative impact of stagflation. Just ask those of us who lived through the late 1970's and early 1980's about challenging times created (back then) by incompetent government leaders!

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I welcome your questions and comments:
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Your Money - Ask Julia

The stock market did great last year, but looks like it's numbers are dropping. Is this the beginning of the end?

We all know that the stock market is risky. The ups and downs are often referred to as a roller-coaster ride. A "correction" or a "crash" can happen suddenly. We've been feeling the pain of inflation as prices rise. We could be seeing the very beginning of a recession in 2022. (It takes 3 months in a row of negative economic growth for it to be officially called a recession.) When you look at a stock market chart, get the big picture by looking at a chart that covers 5 to 10 years or longer. Financial professionals advise: Buy low. Sell high. Regardless of whether you have time to ride out the lows, or if you are nearing retirement, you should investigate diversifying the types of investments you are using to reach your goals. Don't limit yourself to only investing in the stock market and CDs. There are other good places to invest like fixed or fixed-index annuities, and fixed-index universal life insurance.

Are home loan interest rates going to go up in 2022?

The Feds have already begun to raise the rate they charge banks for money. Whenever this happens, banks quickly follow this by raising rates on mortgages, credit cards, and other loans. (They do not proportionally raise the rate they pay on your savings account.) Mortgage rates are still quite good right now.

My parents have Medicare parts A and B. We thought part A basically covered hospitaliza-



Julia Yoder

tion, and part B basically covered doctor visits. They had a lot of doctor visits last year, and the bills keep coming! We've searched, but cannot find what the out-of-pocket limit is.

That's because there is no out-of-pocket limit when it comes to Medicare. Part B has an annual deductible, and covers 80-percent, leaving the patient to pay 20-percent. On top of this, some doctors add up to 15-percent. You also have to be aware of a facilities fee (price to use the building/office space) where you visit the doctor or lab. You might want to look into other Medicare "Parts" (G, N, etc.), some of which help to cover deductibles or co-payments.

Why was half the cost of my \$100,000 group term life insurance policy through work added to my income on my W2?

Only the cost of the first \$50,000 of group term life insurance is considered a tax-free fringe benefit. Additional bad news: The IRS uses its own table to determine the cost of group term life insurance. This frequently is higher than the actual amount being paid by the em-

ployer, resulting in a higher "phantom" income on your W2. Consider accepting your employer's \$50,000 "free" coverage and looking into purchasing your own life insurance policy outside the company. If you were to lose or leave your job, you'd need your own coverage anyway.

I got a bonus in December and just cashed the check in January. Can I claim it as income in 2022?

No. You'll need to claim it as income received in 2021 because that's when your employer paid you. In the future, if you anticipate a bonus next December, talk to your boss to see if other arrangements can be made. Beware that, in some cases, unless you specify, some employers do not subtract withholding taxes when they issue bonus checks.

I'm frustrated with mortgage loan people. How do I find a good one?

FindAMortgageBroker.com This link will give you several loan brokers in your zip code. You can then interview them, explaining to them your frustrations, and asking them specific questions.

Ask Julia by email:
juliayoder@yahoo.com

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County Surpasses More Than 2 Million Total Cases; Hospitalizations Continue Rise Amid Omicron

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Public Health reports another grim milestone as Los Angeles County has now confirmed that as of January 10, 2022, more than 2 million total cases of COVID-19 has been recorded since the beginning of the pandemic. The current surge of COVID-19 infections also continues to drive up hospitalizations, as today the number of COVID-positive patients in Los Angeles County hospitals has topped 3,400, the highest level since February 11th, 2021.

The good news is that while hospitalizations continue to climb, Public Health data shows that many positive cases are admitted for reasons other than COVID but, are identified with COVID when tested for COVID upon hospital admission. These are referred to as incidental COVID hospitalizations. For the week ending December 26th, an estimated 55% of COVID-positive hospitalized patients fell into this category of incidental COVID hospitalizations.

Currently 14% of the COVID-positive hospitalized patients are in the ICU, and 7% are on a ventilator. Additionally, 23% of ICU

beds are currently being occupied by COVID-positive cases, an increase of 9% from last week. Between December 15th and December 28th, the ICU admission rate for unvaccinated individuals was 21 times higher than the rate among fully vaccinated individuals.

The proportion of hospitalizations among children has not changed from the prior week. The 7-day average proportion of the new admissions among children under 18 years old remains at 4.1%; this is the same proportion as the week prior. The vast majority of the 38 children admitted to the hospital between December 7th and December 28th were unvaccinated; only 6 children were fully vaccinated.

While the total number of children hospitalized remains low and the proportion of hospitalizations among children remains stable, the number of children in each age group that were admitted to the hospital significantly increased over the past month. The largest rise was seen among children 0-4 years old, increasing from 4 hospital admissions for the week ending December 4th to 58 hospital admissions for the week ending January 1st. Increases were also seen for the 12-to-17-year-old age group, from 1 hospital admission to 16 hospital admissions, and for the 5-to-11-year-old age group, from 2 hospital admissions to 5 hospital admissions, comparing the week ending December 4th to the week ending January 1st.

"Our hearts remain with those families experiencing the sorrow of losing those they love to COVID-19," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "With surging transmission and rapidly rising cases and hospitalizations, our already understaffed health care providers are under enormous strain as they try to care for so

many COVID infected people, including those with mild illness who are looking for help and support, with the unintended consequence of compromising response capacity across the entire system. Because high community transmission has the inevitable impact of increasing demand for health care services, the best way to protect health care personnel and our capacity to care for both those with COVID and non-COVID illness, is to double-down on reducing transmission."

"While it is true that Omicron is much more infectious than previous COVID strains, there are many effective strategies available for reducing transmission risks over the next few weeks," Ferrer continued. "At the top of the list is avoiding hazardous activities where people are unmasked and in close contact with others. Gatherings should also be postponed for a few weeks, especially if there are participants who are not fully vaccinated, and everyone cannot test before getting together. Lastly, upgrading masks to those that provide a better barrier against virus particles is a commonsense step that increases our own protection along with those around us."

To keep workplaces and schools open, residents and workers are asked to:

Get tested to help reduce the spread, especially if you traveled for the holidays, have had a possible exposure, or have symptoms, or are gathering with people not in your household

Adhere to masking requirements when indoors or at crowded outdoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status

Residents are legally required to be isolated if they have a positive COVID test result and vaccinated close contacts with symptoms and unvaccinated close contacts need to be quarantined.

Spam Alert - Do Not Be Fooled by Calls About Expiring Auto Warranties

We have all had them...robo calls telling us our vehicle warranty is about to expire! Sadly, once we answer the call, the company who initiated the calls knows your phone number is legitimate and they will keep calling. Even more aggravating, they make big bucks selling your number to other organizations! Even if you block the original number, they will simply use a different caller number next time.

Should you, for whatever reason, engage with a live person on such a call, do not give out any personal information such as social security number, driver's li-

cense number, credit card or bank account numbers. Always protect yourself from fraudulent scammers.

The best course of action is not to answer any phone number you do not recognize. Even though these callers know they are violating telemarketing and robocall rules, they make enough money to take the risk and will simply pay the fine if they are caught.

If you want more information, visit

www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofingand-caller-id. Here are some options if you would like to file a complaint:

- Visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov>
- Call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322)
- Visit www.fcc.gov/stop-unwanted-calls for more information.

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Governor Newsom Signs Executive Order to Prevent Price Gouging on At-Home COVID Tests

SACRAMENTO - As part of the state's ongoing efforts to protect Californians amid the national surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the Omicron variant, Governor Gavin Newsom signed on January 8th an executive order establishing consumer protections against price gouging on at-home test kits.

Helping to improve access to

these tests at a fair price, the order generally prohibits sellers from increasing prices on COVID-19 At-Home Test Kits by more than 10 percent. The order also gives additional tools to the California Department of Justice and Attorney General's Office, District Attorneys and other local law enforcement to take action against price gougers.

Moving to bolster California's robust testing program, Governor Newsom yesterday announced the deployment of more than 200 Cal Guard

members to expand capacity at 50 testing sites around the state. This effort is in addition to the existing 6,000 testing sites that have been set up across California, the recent demand-based expansion of hours at state-operated sites and the 9.6 million tests that the state has distributed to schools since early December.

The Administration earlier today unveiled Governor Newsom's proposed \$2.7 billion COVID-19 Emergency Response Package, including \$1.2 billion to bolster testing efforts

through expanded hours and capacity at testing sites, distributing millions of COVID anti-gen tests to local health departments, clinics, county offices of education and schools, and more. This effort includes a \$1.4 billion emergency appropriation request to the Legislature for California's immediate needs. The package also includes investments to accelerate vaccination and booster efforts, support frontline workers, strengthen the health care system and battle misinformation.



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Around the Valley & Senior News

"TIME JOCKEY" - Hornitos

Wild Wild West... In the early years of California after it was acquired by the United States, California was a state of lawlessness, a state where the more questionable of characters ventured west to find their fortune in gold.



Joe Castillo

At the height of the Gold Rush, hundreds of thousands of prospectors arrived in the foothills of the Sierras, prospecting to try and find the elusive prize of gold nuggets. The rapid and continuous growth brought about the development of new towns with new businesses to meet the demands and needs of the growth population.

Hundreds of towns sprouted up throughout the Mother Lode area, sometimes just overnight, and most of them wild and rowdy with an element of criminal activity. One of the towns that was established at this time was Hornitos. Hornitos is Spanish for "little ovens" in Spanish and referred to the above ground crypts which were being used to bury the growth number of dead in the area.

gathered. Hornitos had more saloons than any other town, with a fandango "dance" hall, boarding houses and other houses of questionable practices. There were more vices in Hornitos than the usual collection of vices in the "wild" Gold Rush establishments.

At the height of the towns' popularity, 10,000 people lived in Hornitos, today only 75 live there. Most of the buildings are in ruins but one can still see how the town looked in 1850. Two of the buildings are considered the homes of historical businesses. Ghirardelli chocolates started in Hornitos and the original building still stands. The first Wells Fargo Express building was built in Hornitos and still stands.

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 can be reached at joeacastillo@aol.com.

Seen Or Heard Around Town And All Around

By Ed Torres

1. Unbeknownst to most, the crowns are a bit heavy, the ones on the heads of the Tournament of Roses Parade queen and princesses - reportedly, they can cause headaches during the parade, and even afterwards, for a period of time...

2. By the way, the Central Library of Pasadena, reportedly has been closed for a good while - apparently it is not earth quake safe, and no one is allowed to enter the building, for any reason (it's a "stand-off!")... You mean, until now, no one had thought about making safe, the beautiful historical building?

3. Considering the hoopla about the January 6 riot at the national capitol, no one yet has explained how someone with apparently a broom handle look-alike stick, seen on national television, was so easily able to break windows into the building, as if cutting through "wax paper"...

4. The rock quarry between the Cities of Azusa and Duarte continues to grow, it seems, at the expense of the mountain, and the mountain has done nothing to deserve its mutilation... Some say they can see and hear the wounded majestic mountain whispering in pain, "Stop, enough, why do you continue, what have I done to you... Haven't you taken enough?"...

5. Some say parents and grand-

parents, regardless of their children's age, need to be more involved in the development of the ideas and behaviors their "kids" are acquiring & exhibiting... At times, after children reach a certain age, a number of parents retreat, and let offspring be influenced to a large degree, by movies and teachers and professors and fellow classmates, because, maybe they do not want to alienate their children, or they want to give them the freedom to fly their own way.

6. So, Parents, as a result, sometimes are seen as "pushovers" by their children and grandchildren, or seen simply as pocketbooks full of money, as ATM machines, or even as super "lottos" - parents, seen as people whose job is solely to hand out fun times and free money, willy-nilly (or nilly-willy)...

7. Some people even suggest America is living in a period that can be called, "The Death of Personal Responsibility", in which too many young and old folks alike, continually have been allowed to avoid accepting responsibility, for any of their bad decisions...

too have been accomplices...

8. Officials making announcements often have a person "signing", so that the hearing impaired can understand... Who was the first person who utilized a signing person, and how many hearing impaired people are there?...

9. Government "leaders", often complain about the alcoholism and drug addiction problem in America, but "the government", continues allowing MORE liquor stores and "store front" drug dispensing shops to open, thus, making it easier for people to become, alcoholics and drug addicts!

10. A few ol' codgers who back-in-the-day did not serve in the military or in Vietnam, are still periodically heard at some gatherings (regardless if no one cares), explaining why they did not serve. Or, they smugly whisper, when they see those wearing Vietnam War accoutrements (accoutrements, yes)...

Comments/suggestions: honnod1@yahoo.com

Health & Wellness Fair

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 Blvd in Glendora!

No registration required. Subject to current LA County Health Department Guidelines.

Celebrate wellness with the City of Glendora Community Services Department. Over 20

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, cancer support, healthy eating, elder care, and more. Free screenings will be available. Don't forget to enter your name in the raffle.

For more information please call (626) 914-8235.

Volunteer Name Readers Needed For 25-Hour Holocaust Vigil

MONROVIA - On Saturday, January 22 at 7pm through Sunday, January 23 at 8pm, the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, in partnership with the City of Pasadena, will be holding its annual Every Person Has a Name, a 25-hour Holocaust vigil to commemorate UN International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We are currently looking for volunteers to sign up to read names, either in-person or virtually, during 30-minute blocks. People can sign up by visiting the Jewish Federation's website (www.jewishsgpv.org) or by calling 626.445.0810.

Last fall marked the 80th anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre and we will be reading the names of those Jews who were murdered during their horrific event. Prior to the name reading, there will be a

commemoration ceremony featuring local elected officials and other dignitaries, as well as honoring our community's Holocaust survivors.

"With all that is going on around us, an event like this is crucial to serve both as a reminder of what can happen when hate goes unchecked, and also to remember the people who were murdered because of the same hatred... the hatred for the other," explains Jason Moss, Jewish Federation's Executive Director.

For those who do not feel like reading, they can attend the commemoration ceremony, sit and listen as the names are read and help us spread the word. Just being present and showing support is part of the power of the event.

For more information about this event, please contact the Jewish Federation at 626.445.0810 or by sending an email to federation@jewishsgpv.org.

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- ACROSS
1. Chunk of land
6. Sail alternative
9. Female sheep, pl.
13. Oak, in Spanish
14. Nucleic acid acronym
15. "___ under fire"
16. Permeate
17. Internet meme move
18. *Number of 2022 Grammy nominations for Doja Cat or H.E.R.
19. *Justin Bieber's stuff from Georgia
21. *Gaga's partner
23. Mauna ___, Hawaii
24. Cartoon Coyote's first name
25. Lawyers' grp.
28. Marine eagle

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with numbers 1-74.

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- 30. Like Roger Rabbit
35. Boisterous play
37. Ore deposit
39. Davy Crockett's last stand
40. U.S. city and lake
41. Tossed starter
43. F.B.I. operative
44. Group of nine singers, e.g.
46. Gardner's gear
47. In the middle of
48. Arctic-wear
50. Porcini mushrooms
52. In the manner of, in French
53. *Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak, a.k.a. ___ Sonic
55. Decimal system base
57. *2022 Grammy nominations leader
61. *"Bad Habits" performer

- 65. Lacking sense
66. Unit of electrical resistance
68. Low landform
69. Grassy mound
70. Recent or new, prefix
71. Los ___, CA
72. Peasy precursor
73. .0000001 joule
74. Earp of the Wild West
DOWN
1. LSD consequence?
2. City on the Tiber
3. *Swedish band with one 2022 Grammy nomination
4. Exclamation from a coop
5. Tittering laugh sound
6. Bookie's quote
7. Registered nurses' org.
8. Torah expert
9. Female name or a name for Ireland
10. Worker's reward
11. Not counterfeit
12. Cobblestone
15. Genus, pl.
20. British peers
22. Will Ferrell holiday movie
24. Matrimony

- 25. *2022 Grammy event venue, Crypto.com ___
26. B on Mendeleev's table
27. Type of acid
29. *Grammy host's last name
31. Aquarium dweller
32. #3 Down's 1975 hit "___ Mia"
33. Means of communication
34. *Kanye's album
36. Source of pressure?
38. Facilitate
42. Profoundness
45. Tip of lion's tail
49. First aid one
51. Up and down playground attraction
54. Sergio of westerns
56. Very recently
57. Triathlon ride
58. Tolstoy's Karenina
59. New Mexico art colony
60. Inwardly
61. Dirty air
62. Common "pro" follower
63. Loads
64. Egg storage
67. *"Fight for You" performer

January 6, 2022 Puzzle Solution grid with words like SLAP, COCA, OCAS, WHIT, PASSON, SHAME, SOLO, ERDRICH, ROE, GAIT, SALS, ALTOS, PEON, ANC, IDOL, PIMA, CLEAR, EERIE, GRILLED, PENTUP, LIVE, I I I, DENE, AGENCY, G NU, ALCOTT, ASSAY, HEMINGWAY, IRON, NICE, SILO, EVEN, SET, TEDS.

Governor Newsom Releases California Blueprint to Take on the State's Greatest Existential Threats and Build on Historic Progress

The Governor's California Blueprint bolsters state's ongoing work to address COVID-19, climate change, homelessness, inequality and keeping our streets safe

SACRAMENTO—Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled on January 10th his 2022-23 state budget proposal – the **California Blueprint**, a bold plan building on the state's ongoing work to confront California's greatest existential threats, bolster our strong economic growth and make historic investments in California's future. The Blueprint proposes billions more to support the state's robust response to COVID-19 and nation-leading efforts to fight climate change – including worsening wildfires and drought, tackle persistent inequality and homelessness and keep our streets safe.

As the state's economy drives a still-recovering nation, the California Blueprint provides a model for the entire country of how we can continue providing short-term relief while investing in longer-term solutions that will benefit workers, businesses and families for years to come. The Governor's plan builds on last year's California Comeback Plan – the largest recovery package in the nation.

"With major new investments to tackle the greatest threats to our state's future, the California Blueprint lights the path forward to continue the historic progress we've made on our short-term and long-term challenges, including responding to the evolving pandemic, fighting the climate crisis, taking on persistent inequality and homelessness, keeping our streets safe and more," said Governor Newsom. "As California's robust recovery continues, we're doubling down on our work to ensure all our communities can thrive."

With a \$45.7 billion surplus, the California Blueprint is built on a strong fiscal foundation that includes \$34.6 billion in reserves and continues to pay down long-

term retirement debts. It also appropriately prioritizes one-time spending over ongoing, allocating 86 percent of discretionary general funds to one-time spending.

The Governor's California Blueprint outlines major investments in the following five areas of focus:

Fighting Covid-19 with Science

Governor Newsom's plan will continue to protect Californians by fighting COVID with science, with a focus on keeping our schools open and the economy moving. Governor Newsom's plan will protect frontline workers, battle misinformation, and ensure our healthcare system is prepared to handle whatever curveballs COVID-19 may throw at us in 2022. The Blueprint includes an additional **\$2.7 billion to ramp up vaccines, boosters, statewide testing, and increase medical personnel** to meet potential surges.

Combating the Climate Crisis

California continues to face extreme weather conditions amid a changing climate. Governor Newsom's plan tackles the increasing threat of climate change including by:

Fighting Wildfires: The Blueprint provides \$648 million to support firefighters, and more helicopters and dozers, along with an additional \$1.2 billion – building on last year's \$1.5 billion investment – to step-up forest management and other practices that save lives.

Tackling the Drought: On top of last year's \$5.2 billion water package, the Blueprint makes an additional \$750 million investment for immediate drought response to aid residents, farmers, and wildlife as California continues to grapple



Governor Gavin Newsom unveils his 2022-23 state budget proposal – the California Blueprint.

with a historic drought.

Forging an Oil-Free Future: The plan will decrease California's reliance on fossil fuels while preparing our economy and workforce for a clean energy future. California will write the playbook for how America confronts the impacts of climate change – investing billions in climate tech research & development, clean cars, preparing Californians for career opportunities, and further readying our infrastructure to withstand extreme weather.

Confronting Homelessness

The Governor's Blueprint ensures vulnerable people have the necessary help to get off our streets and get the mental health treatment they need. The plan adds **\$2 billion for mental health housing and services and clearing encampments**. Governor Newsom's new investments expand on last year's \$12 billion package – all told, creating **55,000 new housing units and treatment slots** for people

exiting homelessness.

Tackling the Cost of Living

Too many Californians find themselves on the wrong end of income inequality – crushed by the rising costs of the most basic expenses like healthcare, housing, child care, and keeping the doors of a small business open. Governor Newsom's plan seeks to bring down the costs of those everyday expenses. The Governor's Blueprint will:

Create Universal Access to Healthcare Coverage: Governor Newsom's Blueprint will make California the first state in the nation to offer universal access to healthcare coverage for all state residents, regardless of immigration status.

Confront the cost of child care and education: The plan invests more than ever before in our students by doubling down on achieving **free universal pre-K**, adding **thousands of child care slots** and increasing access to before, after, and summer school programs.

nesses suffering from the pandemic.

Keeping Our Streets Safe

Governor Newsom's Blueprint includes his Real Public Safety Plan, which focuses on three key areas to fight and prevent crime:

Bolstering law enforcement and local response to stop and apprehend criminals, including \$255 million in grants to local law enforcement and creating a new Smash and Grab Enforcement Unit to combat organized retail crime and grants for impacted small businesses.

More prosecutors to hold perpetrators accountable, ensuring District Attorneys are effectively and efficiently prosecuting criminals, and creating a new statewide team of investigators and prosecutors to go after perpetrators.

Getting guns and drugs off our streets – creating a new statewide gun buyback program, holding the gun industry accountable with nation-leading legislation, and intercepting drugs at the border.

For further information on these and other items in the California Blueprint, visit www.ebudget.ca.gov.

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