



# San Gabriel Valley Examiner

25 cents

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

Feb. 25 - Mar. 2, 2016

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# West Covina Public Safety Recognition Awards

By George Ogden

**WEST COVINA** — Recently, The Greater West Covina Business Association was honored to present the West Covina Public Safety Recognition Awards.

The event had Drexel Smith as the emcee with the invocation given by Dr. Jim Reeve, Senior Pastor of Faith Community Church. The Presentation of The Flags was conducted by the West Covina Police Explorers with Bagpipes being played by Ryan Greer. The Pledge of Allegiance was by Detective Lieutenant Jerry Pearman.

After lunch, introductions were given by West Covina Mayor James Toma. The Award Presentations for the Fire Department was conducted by Chief Larry Whithorn with the Awards for the Police Department given by Chief Dave Faulkner.

### The Fire Department Award Recipients were:

**Employee of the Year,** Grace Chavarria, Senior Administrative Assistant.

**Life Saving Award,** Michael Browne, Fire Captain, Scott Gilmore, Fire Captain, Michael Hambel, Fire

Captain, Paul Krueger, Fire Captain, Christopher Davis, Fire Engineer, Andrew Robertson, Fire Engineer and Todd Stowe, Fire Engineer. Kyle Busby, Firefighter / Paramedic, Kyle Hargrove, Firefighter / Paramedic, Gregory La Fleur, Firefighter / Paramedic, Ronald Lujan, Firefighter / Paramedic, David Matyas, Firefighter / Paramedic, Dustin Warley, Firefighter / Paramedic.

**Firefighter of the Year,** Alan Sams, Fire Captain  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT Silver Star,** Jon Alexander, Officer

**Meritorious Medal,** Danny Armus, Corporal, Jesse Miller & K-9 Rocky, Officer Joe Melnyk, Officer Adrian Del Haro, Corporal Cody Iside, Officer Keith Freeman, Sergeant

**Dispatchers,** Nichole Santoyo, Dispatcher, Sylvia Dorsey, Dispatcher, Patricia Tachias, Dispatcher Supervisor.

**CHP Officers,** Felix Serpas, Officer, Jeremy Keller, Officer who were the CHP officers involved in the Sept 2015 shooting in West Covina where one of the officers was shot.

**LASO Helicopter Crew,** Adam Pruet, Deputy and John



West Covina Fire Chief Larry Whithorn recognizes a number of his fire fighters.

Racz, Deputy. Responded to the shooting of the CHP officer and assisted WCPD officer with the pursuit of the suspect shooter who was later arrested after the pursuit terminated.

**Employees of the Year:** Brandon Karmann, Officer, Patricia Tachias, Dispatcher Supervisor.

**CHP 10821 Award:** Eric Hoefke for effectively recovering stolen vehicles with a number of convictions of the suspects.

The event was held at Faith Community's Banquet Room and every table was filled. Former mayors of West Covina Mike Touhey and Forest Tennet

were on hand as well Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and representatives from other legislative bodies.

The event was sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, Baldwin Park, Plaza West Covina, Athens Services, McIntyre Company and the Prospectors Federal Credit Union.

## Meet and Greet with Senator Bob Huff



Joe Shammass, Candidate for California's 29th Congressional District, Michael Allawos, President of Allawos & Company, California State Senator Bob Huff, Glendora Councilman Gary Boyer and Ghazi Fedail, the owner of Dandana's Restaurant.

**GLENDORA** - On a relaxing Sunday afternoon in Glendora at Dandana's Mediterranean Restaurant, Michael Allawos President of Allawos & Company, Glendora Councilman Gary Boyer, with facilities and refreshments by Ghazi Fedail, hosted California State Senator Bob Huff. Senator Huff is a candidate for Los Angeles County's 5th district supervisor's seat, filling the void of termed out Supervisor Mike Antonovich.

In front of a lively and inquisitive group Councilman Gary Boyer gave a brief address

about current events in the City of Glendora as well as asking for a report card since being elected almost one year ago to the City Council. There were questions concerning the business climate within the City and the ongoing stress that business owners face on a daily basis.

Councilman Boyer wanted to fulfill a promise to visit with as many of the people in Glendora that helped him get elected as possible. "One of the larger challenges with being on the City Council is to convince the other members on the Council to support a thought, idea or to

simply put an item on the agenda."

Senator Bob Huff gave an impassioned speech about the state of affairs here in California with its many challenges ahead of it. Many questions came from the audience from Governor Brown's high speed train, pending legislation for a \$15 minimum wage and what it will do to small business to new water runoff/quality State mandates and the loss of good paying jobs to other States due to State mandates high taxes and labor costs to name a few.

The questions weren't contained to the above showing the growing anxiety over the future of the State and the talk of a pending recession that seems to mirror the mood of the nation.

5th District Supervisor Mike Antonovich has been a staple to the community and it will take an experienced person to fill those massive shoes to represent the constituents in the manner they have become accustomed to, Senator Bob Huff is that person.

The primary election will be this June 7th, 2016 where a number of candidates will be selected and will go on to the November 8th, 2016 general election.



Police Chief Dave Faulkner congratulates a number of his police officers.

## Glendora Library Recognizes Outstanding Employees In 2015

**GLENDORA** - Customer service is very important to us at the Glendora Public Library. Every year we acknowledge staff members who have been recognized by their peers and community members as having gone above and beyond in delivering Platinum Customer Service during the previous year.

Glendora Public Library's 19th annual "Star Service" Trophy recipient for 2015 is Maricela Enriquez! Maricela joined the Library family in 2014 as Library Aide II. Maricela was recognized 14 times in 2015 by her co-workers and community members for outstanding service accomplishments. Congratulations, Maricela!



Malla Ramkishun, Maricela Enriquez, Cindy Romero

We would also like to congratulate Malla Ramkishun, Library Aide IV, our first place runner-up, and Cindy Romero, Senior Librarian, our second

place runner-up, for their exceptional Star Service during 2015.

It is an honor to work with such caring and dedicated staff!

## Variety Show Looking For Talent

**AZUSA** - Azusa Woman's Club will host their 50th Annual Auditions Show on **March 23** at the Azusa Woman's Clubhouse at 1003 N. Azusa Blvd. in Azusa. The event will be from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The club is looking for new talent to perform at the Auditions. The performers come from as far as Los Angeles to take part in this event. They are looking for singers, dancers, comedians and any other talent.

All the local non-profit groups are invited to attend. This event is a service to the local groups who are looking for entertainment for their special events. Also all 35 local Woman's Clubs are invited. The due date to apply to attend is **March 7th**. The cost for performers is \$20.00 for a 10 minute spot and luncheon is \$12.00.

For more information, please call Pat Klemz, President at 626-967-8829

## City Provides Life-saving Tips And Information For El Niño

**SAN GABRIEL** - With El Niño storms just beginning and expected to only get worse this winter, the City of San Gabriel has launched a special webpage to provide residents with important emergency preparedness information.

People who live and work in San Gabriel can visit [www.sangabrielcity.com/elnino](http://www.sangabrielcity.com/elnino) to find tips on how to protect themselves and their property during severe weather. The site also gives residents the tools to

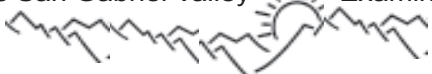
stay safe during a rainstorm event, such as important phone numbers.

The information on the city site has also be distributed throughout the city in a flyer, which has been translated into Chinese and Spanish. The translated flyers are also posted to the webpage.

Residents are also encouraged to sign up to receive alerts and information from the Fire Department through the city's emergency notification system,

SG Alert. Sign up at [www.sangabrielcity.com/sgalert](http://www.sangabrielcity.com/sgalert).

As Southern California faces the most severe rainy season in years, the city aims to keep residents and businesses safe and prevent damage to all city infrastructure. All city departments have worked hard to prepare for El Niño, and now the city is providing residents with the tools and information they need to do the same.



# Glendora Woman's Club Presents Program By Debbie And Mark Tate

By Joan Hallidy

**GLENDORA** - The Glendora Woman's Club will hold its monthly luncheon-meeting on Tuesday, March 1, at the clubhouse, 424 N. Glendora Avenue, Glendora. The club day will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the social time, followed by the business meeting at 11 a.m., the catered luncheon, and the special musical program by Debbie and Mark Tate, said Carolyn Cunningham, Club President.

For the Woman's Club program, the Tates have selected a number of their favorite and well-known songs from over the years, according to program vice president Helen Storland. During the Tates' 23 years of marriage, music and their love of singing together have been a part of the couple's successful careers. Mark, a professional musician, played for the late Freddy Fender for 12 years, and currently has the Mark Tate Band. He is also one of Santa's helpers during the holidays. Debbie is the owner and hair stylist at Hair Care Extraordinaire in Glendora. In addition, she is the Minister of Worship and Music at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Covina.

One of the Woman's Club's monthly projects is the mem-



**Mark and Debbie Tate, husband and wife duo, are scheduled to perform for the Glendora Woman's Club on March 1.**

bers' participation art display that features a different theme each month, said project chair Mary Moore. Members are invited to bring items from home to share in this month's display titled "Anything Antique," said Mrs. Moore.

Also each month, club members are asked to donate canned and non-perishable food items at the monthly club meetings for the Shepherd's Pantry that helps those families in need, said project chair Gloria Liddle.

Coming up on Tuesday, March 15, will be the Woman's

Club's popular Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon that is held at the clubhouse, said chair Chris Lear. To purchase tickets at \$40 per person and reservations or more information, call Karen Babineau at (626) 335-8552, as tickets will not be available at the door.

For more information about joining the Woman's Club, its four departments and activities, or service projects, call (626)963-7337; for information about renting the ballroom or hall, call Ritz Catering (909) 592-1130.

# DART Rocks!!

**DUARTE** - The Duarte Area Resource Team is a powerful group of young people. This organization was initially begun in response to a need for volunteers to help close the streets for the annual Route 66 Parade. Over the years, it has expanded to provide over 7000 service hours last year. Four of the current DART Board members attended a recent Duarte Kiwanis Club meeting. They shared some of their successes including:

- Participating in Internships within the Duarte Public Safety Department
- Participating with City of Hope on the Teen Nutrition Council
- Creating Networking opportunity through connections with other service groups
- Participating in College Ex-



**Cynthia Sierra, DART Sargent at Arms, Marisol Arias, DART Vice President, Cassandra Gonzalez, DART Secretary, Felipe Valdez, DART President, Aida Torres, Duarte Kiwanis Board Member.**

posure Tours  
 • Volunteering for various service opportunities  
 For further information on speaking or joining the club, contact Dr. Diane Hernandez at drdiane@drhernandez-optometry.com

# Mesa Glen Care Center Celebrates Valentine's Day

By Jayam Rutnam

**GLENDORA** - Mesa Glen Care Center celebrated Valentine's Day with a special candlelight dinner. The dining room was adorned with Valentine decorations. Many of the residents came out to the dining room to partake in the special event. They even had a disc jockey, Tony Millot who sang Frank Sinatra and Englebert Humperdink songs. Some of the relatives of the residents came over to visit and wish them a happy Valentine's Day.

Mesa Glen Care Center is a 96 bed skilled nursing facility. They provide individualized attention to residents who require a short term stay to recuperate from traumatizing or acute medical conditions and also those who are in need of a long term or an unknown length of stay.

Some of their programs include Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, orthopedic rehabilitation, diabetic care, stroke rehabilitation, pain management, wound healing, fall prevention, contrac-



**Sherry Schwan visited her father Harvey Reimer, also in photo is Activities Director Patricia Cruz**

ture management and post surgical recovery, among other services.

They are proud to say that their nurses provide the best quality of care. Each nurse is a gentle and caring person, with genuine concern for the resident. They also specialize in treating and nurturing Alzheimer and Parkinson patients, said Lezlie Hicks.

Mesa Glen Care Center has

residents from the age of 33 to the oldest one at this time who is 105 years old. While they have long term care for the elderly, they also have an extensive rehabilitation program for short term patients. Their goal is to get as many people back home, as soon as possible.

Mesa Glen's Dietary Program provides meals to meet the specific needs of the resident, according to physicians orders. The facilities favorite activities occur on Mother's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. On these holidays the resident's families join their loved ones for a wonderful luncheon prepared by the dietary staff. They also have a great 4th of July party. Once a month they have a party celebrating a special theme or occasion. This includes 50's sock hop with Elvis or a casino night. They also enjoy celebrating the resident's birthdays with tea parties and chocolate parties. If the resident is a centenarian, local dignitaries, like the Mayor of Glendora are invited and so are members of the press, along with the families of the residents, of course.

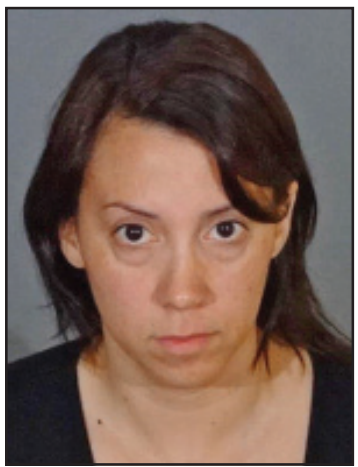
Mesa Glen Care Center is located at 638 E. Colorado Avenue in Glendora. Their telephone number is 963-6091. You may call their Director Lezlie Hicks for more information.

# West Covina Police Department Arrest Suspect for Embezzling Funds from PTA

By Rudy Lopez WCPD PIO

**WEST COVINA** - On December 28, 2015, the West Covina Police Department was contacted by Vine Elementary School PTA regarding a possible embezzlement investigation involving a volunteer who served as Secretary and Treasurer of that organization. The suspect, Veronica Monique Paderez, 37 of West Covina, had been involved with the PTA since 2014 and had access to the PTA accounts. The preliminary audit revealed losses of over \$52,000.00 from numerous fraudulent transactions.

The investigation further re-



**Veronica Monique Paderez, 37 of West Covina arrested for embezzlement of PTA funds.**

vealed that the suspect was also involved in the finances and

bank accounts belonging to the West Covina American Little League (over \$26,000.00 losses) and Girl Scout Troop #4754 (figures unavailable). Audits are being completed to determine the exact loss amounts.

On February 4, 2016, Detectives from the West Covina Police Department arrested Suspect Paderez at her home and booked her for suspicion of Grand Theft. Bail amount was set at \$85,000.00. Paderez later bonded out that evening with an appearance date for arraignment set for April 2, 2016 at West Covina Superior Court.

# Republican Women Federated Meeting

**WEST COVINA** - The East San Gabriel Valley Republican Women Federated will have its next meeting at the West Covina Bowling Alley, 675 So. Glendora, West Covina on Friday, **February 26**. The social hour is 10:30. The meeting begins at 11:00 with lunch at noon and our guest speaker at 1:00. Our guest speaker, Jim Grivich, holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from

USC. He has served at several colleges as a Vice President, Dean and instructor in Political Science. He is well prepared to speak on the topic, Why our Community Colleges are Failing. Guests are welcome. For reservations please call (626) 378-7244. If you only wish to hear the speaker please indicate Speaker Only when you call in your reservation.

# Arcadia Unified Launching Full-Day Kindergarten and TK Programs

**ARCADIA** - The Arcadia Unified School District will begin full-day Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten programs next school year, Fall 2016. The current half-day TK and Kindergarten programs will be expanded to a full-day schedule and available to all Arcadia Unified students.

"This will be a great benefit to everyone involved. This was an interest that our parents and teachers wanted us to consider,

and we are happy to have worked with them and our board of education to figure out how to make this a reality for our community. We are all very excited," said Arcadia Unified School District Superintendent David Vannasdall.

Numerous studies indicate that students who attend full-day kindergarten achieve better grades, and have improved attendance. Teachers appreciate the flexible and focused learn-

ing environment where they can provide additional individual and small group time with their students. Many parents who would typically place their children in afterschool programs will be saving at least \$500 a month with this free program. The local economy will likely get a boost with the hiring of additional teachers and staff as well.

Registration for Arcadia Unified Kindergarten and TK for Fall 2016 will begin on February 29, 2016, for those with siblings already enrolled at the same elementary school, and on March 7, 2016, for those without siblings. Please visit [www.ausd.net](http://www.ausd.net) for registration and enrollment information.

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## West Covina Council Moves Forward on Concealed Weapon Permit

By George Ogden

**WEST COVINA** - West Covina Councilman Mike Spence brought to the table at the City Council Meeting an agenda item allowing residents to have a concealed weapons permit. This is known as CCW (carry concealed weapon). There is a lot of pros and cons in regards to this issue. A number of citizens came forward and spoke at the lectern at the City Council Meetings about carrying a concealed weapon and having a permit to do it.

A number of people who have spoken in support of a CCW included Bill Elliott. He is also known as Wild Bill by some of his friends. At the last city Council meeting, he showed up with an American Flag draped over his shoulders and talked about the Second Amendment right to own firearms and to carry firearms. Elliott, who is well articulated and considered a good speaker as he projects as he speaks, talking on almost any topic, especially CCW. However this time, while he was talking, the American flag slipped from his shoulders and fell to the floor. He quickly picked it up, as a number of people from the audience could be heard expressing their displeasure of seeing the American flag at the floor. You could tell that Elliott himself was disturbed that this happened and later said he was upset about himself for not making sure that the flag would stay in place. When he was finish speaking, he took the flag with him and one young lady commented about him folding the flag properly and he turned around and



West Covina Councilman Mike Spence discusses CCW with West Covina police Chief David Faulkner

spoke to her stating, "You bet I will".

After all the speakers spoke on the topic there was extensive council discussion which included the city attorney. Spence had questions for the city attorney in regards to the language that would be presented in a motion. Mayor James Toma also asked questions and police chief David Faulkner came to the lectern to answer any questions. It stated that the city has not issued any concealed weapons permits since 1978. In most cases in many cities, the police chief is in charge of issuing gun permits, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff if it is within their jurisdiction.

Spence had a number of concerns about restricting citizens from getting a concealed weapons permit. He named a number of local cities along with Sacramento who issue permits. He had concerns that if a citizen wanted to have a firearms permit to protect their family or themselves and they are denied, why would that be the case? He basically said that it is sad that

you can't get a weapon to protect yourself or your family simply because of the ZIP Code you live in. The chief responded to some questions and also quoted policy from a book which appeared not to leave very much latitude.

Both Councilman Tony Wu and Lloyd Johnson talked about what the policy should be for getting a permit which would include psychological evaluation, background investigation, and certainly the training that would go along with that weapon.

After some further discussion between all five councilmembers, it went to a vote. The vote was 3-2 in favor of moving forward to have the city issue firearms permits. Spence, Johnson and Wu voted for this item to move forward. Mayor James Toma, and Councilman Corey Warshaw were the "no" votes. However, later discussion seem to have all members agreeing to the city to follow a strict protocol before issuing a permit. City staff and the city attorney will develop language for this item.

## Runner, Huff Introduce Measure to Keep Dangerous Felons Off the Streets

**SACRAMENTO** - Senator Sharon Runner (R-Antelope Valley) and Senator Bob Huff (R-San Dimas) announced they introduced legislation to close a loophole that allows dangerous felons back on to our streets. Senate Bill 1077 will stop a local law enforcement agency from taking custody of a convicted felon who is scheduled for deportation unless the offender will be prosecuted for a new felony.

SB 1077 was introduced in light of the events surrounding Katherine Steinle's death last year and is identical to SB 57 (Runner, Huff) of 2015. Senator Cathleen Galgiani (D-Stockton) is a co-author of SB 1077 giving the measure bi-partisan support.

In July 2015, 32 year-old Kathryn Steinle was walking with her father on Pier 14 in San Francisco when she was shot and killed by Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, a career criminal with seven felony convictions.

Three months earlier, the San Francisco Sheriff had requested custody of Lopez-Sanchez, because of an outstanding 20 year old warrant for sale of marijuana. The Sheriff's Department arranged to have Lopez-Sanchez transported to San Francisco at public expense before considering whether the case would actually be tried. He was released when the San Francisco District Attorney declined to prosecute the decades old charge.

"Senseless killings are always difficult to accept, but Katherine Steinle's death is particularly appalling because it was so easily avoidable," said Senator Runner. "The State of California and our local jurisdictions should not be in the business of rescuing convicted felons from the Federal Government. The State Legislature needs to act before more innocent lives are lost."

"It's critically important that dangerous and violent felons held in federal custody should

not be set free under any circumstance," said Senator Huff. "Our legislation is a thoughtful and common sense procedure that will apply uniformly to all law enforcement jurisdictions in California, preventing the kind of error in judgment that has already cost innocent lives."

"Public safety needs to continue to be our number one priority," said Senator Galgiani. "I am happy to support common sense legislation that will keep dangerous felons off of our streets until law enforcement can check whether there are outstanding warrants for that individual."

SB 1077 would prevent this situation from happening again by requiring a local law enforcement agency to verify the District Attorney's intent to prosecute before moving an inmate from federal custody, not after. It would apply uniformly to all local jurisdictions in California.

## Applications For The 48th Assembly District's Woman Of The Year Now Open

**WEST COVINA** - Assemblyman Roger Hernández (D - West Covina) is now accepting nominations for his annual Woman of the Year recognition ceremony. Categories can include but are not limited to: art, business, community service, education, health services, military, and sports. Assemblyman Roger Hernández encourages the community to participate in highlighting our community's Unsung Heroes.

"In honor of Women's History Month, our office is currently seeking nominations to recognize exceptional women who live or work within the 48th Assembly District and who have made significant contributions to our communities. Please help us recognize distinguished women who make an impact day-to-day," stated As-

semblyman Roger Hernandez.

Nominations are open to any women who live or work in the 48th District which includes the communities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, City of Industry, Covina, El Monte, Glendora, Irwindale, Monrovia, West Covina and the unincorporated communities of: Bassett, Charter Oak, East Arcadia, Ramona, Royal Oaks and Valinda. Participants will be invited to attend the 2016 Woman of the Year ceremony where Assemblyman Roger Hernández will celebrate and recognize their distinguished contributions to the 48th Assembly District.

The nomination deadline is Wednesday **March 9** and can be submitted via post mail, email, online, fax, or in-person to the 48th District Office lo-

cated at 100 North Barranca St., Suite 895 West Covina, CA 91791. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ashley Rozatti at (626) 960-4457 or at Ashley.Rozatti@asm.ca.gov.

## City Seeks Resident Input For 2016-2017 Budget & CIP

**SAN GABRIEL** - Residents can give input on this year's budget with an online survey for the 2016-2017 Budget and Capital Improvement Program, released by the city.

This is the second year the city has used an opinion survey as a way to incorporate resident input into the budget process. Last year, several residents filled out the survey and their

## Senator Huff Urges Constituents to "Fight the Bite"

Tapes PSA and Dedicates Portion of Senate Website to Fight Zika Threat

**SACRAMENTO** - Senate Minority Leader Emeritus Bob Huff (R-San Dimas) is urging residents of his Senate District and all Southern Californians to take action to guard against the Zika virus and help eradicate the pest responsible for spreading it. Mosquitos that carry the virus have already established a foothold in Los Angeles County, and spring rains brought about by heavy El Niño rainfall could result in perfect breeding conditions for the pest.

"Fortunately, nobody has been infected with the Zika virus in California yet, but that could change once our weather begins to warm in the spring and insects start breeding in large numbers," said Senator Huff. "It only takes a thimble full of standing water for mosquitos to start breeding. It's imperative that the public take action to protect themselves and their families."

Mosquitoes blamed for transmitting the Zika virus are

a part of the Aedes genus. Aedes Aegypti first showed up in Los Angeles County yards decades ago. Aedes Albopictus first gained a foothold in the San Gabriel Valley in 2011, and the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District reports it has been doubling its territory every year since then. They are impossible to eradicate completely through trapping or spraying methods.

Aedes mosquitoes also carry other tropical diseases such as dengue fever and chikungunya, a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes that causes fever and severe joint pain. They do not carry the West Nile virus.

"According to the information I've received from Vector Control, they can only hope to minimize the population during the breeding months of spring and summer," said Senator Huff. "Truck mounted attacks against the Aedes don't work because the mosquito isn't ac-

tive during the daytime. Larvacide attacks haven't been successful either because Aedes eggs can live up to a year."

Senator Huff has already taped a public service announcement on the dangers of these mosquitoes and the virus they may carry, which will air soon in homes and businesses served by Charter Communications and Time Warner cable systems. In addition, Senator Huff has dedicated a portion of his Senate website to spread information about the Zika threat, which can be accessed here.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified the Zika virus in the tissues of two babies who recently died in Brazil from microcephaly. The CDC is recommending that pregnant women postpone or avoid travel to South America, Central America and Caribbean countries such as Puerto Rico, where the virus is quickly spreading.

## Assemblywoman Chang Introduces Legislation to Create a State STEM Seal for High School Students

**SACRAMENTO** - Assemblywoman Ling Ling Chang (R-Diamond Bar) introduced AB 2072, legislation to create a special State Seal to be placed on the diplomas or transcripts of graduating high school seniors with high achievements in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). AB 2072 is intended to not only provide students with motivation for STEM participation but to also provide them a tool with which they can market themselves to employers and universities.

"The number of STEM dependent jobs is growing while the number of STEM graduates fails to keep up," said Chang. "We as a state should be doing all we can to keep students interested in these areas and encourage them to do well. Pro-

viding students with a symbol of their accomplishments can benefit not only their personal drive and their self-esteem but also overall marketability."

In 2011, the legislature approved AB 815 (Brownley) which created the State Seal of Biliteracy. For students that prove to be proficient in more than one language, a skill that is very beneficial for a state as diverse as California, they were able to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy. Beyond everyday communication, those that are bi-lingual provide a direct benefit to employers that interact with a diverse population. With California projected to increase jobs in the STEM field by 19% in the next decade. Other states currently offer a similar seal for STEM education including Virginia and Arizona.

AB 2072 is intended to provide California's students with a leg up on the out of state competition not only for seats in CSU or UC STEM programs but even in jobs that they may pursue straight out of high school.

Chang added, "In California there are so many opportunities for graduates to find good paying jobs in the STEM fields - for many, it is a ticket to the middle class. The more focused they are on STEM in high school, the more prepared they will be for STEM in college and the job market. This new SEAL will reward California's STEM focused students with special recognition and help motivate our state as a whole to make sure that all students have access to comprehensive STEM programs in school."

## Assemblymembers Propose Student Privacy Reforms in Wake of Data Dump Ruling

**SACRAMENTO** - California State Assemblymembers Melissa Melendez (R-Lake Elsinore), Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) and Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) proposed new student privacy protections to ensure that students' personal information like Social Security Numbers are appropriately protected at the school district level.

The legislation is prompted by a recent decision to turn over the records of 10 million California public school students to a private organization. A recent ruling in Morgan Hill Concerned Parents Association, et al. v. California Department of Education compelled the school system to provide sensitive information - including social security numbers, men-

tal health and medical information - for students dating back to 2008 to a parents group in Santa Clara County. Assembly Bill 2097 would prohibit school districts from gathering social security numbers and other sensitive unnecessary information for students except where required by federal law.

"As a mom, I've seen my kids' schools over the years request social security numbers, medical information, and other private information that they don't need or have a right to," Gonzalez said. "Rather than expecting parents to have the knowledge and capacity to fight to protect their child's privacy, we should get schools out of the business of asking in the first place."

"Our school districts are collecting personal information about our children that is neither legally required nor necessary for their education," Melendez said. "With identity theft at an all-time high, our focus should be on protecting our students, not exposing their personal information unnecessarily"

"During an era of omnipresent intrusion in our lives and increasingly frequent data breaches, all levels of government should be taking steps to safeguard our sensitive, personal information—especially where it involves our children," Gatto said.

The authors of AB 2097 also called on California school districts to proactively provide the existing objection form provided by the California Department of Education to parents, and encourage parents to take advantage of the opportunity to lodge their objection to this exposure of personal and private information about their children across the state.

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# Azusa Holds Annual State of the City, AUDS, APU and Chamber of Commerce

By Jorge V. Rosales

**AZUSA** - The State of the City, delivered by Joe Rocha, Mayor, City of Azusa (City); with status presentations by Lonnie De La Garza, Chairman of the Board, Azusa Chamber of Commerce (Chamber); Dr. Stuart Strother, Professor of Economics, Azusa Pacific University (APU); and Dr. Linda Kaminski, Superintendent, Azusa Unified School District (AUDS). The ceremony was held at the Azusa Women's Club on Thursday, February 18, 2016. They all addressed efforts and improvement in 2015, as well as projected goals and financial difficulties for the future.

**Dr. Kaminski** presented first due to a schedule conflict. The theme of her presentation was "Azusa Unified-Building the Fu-



**Joe Rocha, Mayor, City of Azusa** she presented 50 slides of colleges and universities that had accepted AUDS graduates.

**Azusa Mayor Joe Rocha** reported that Azusa continued to stay "out of the red" despite the

perceived one of the worst years for precipitation in hundreds of years. The underground water level in the San Gabriel Valley hit an all-time low level. The three reservoirs north of Azusa in the San Gabriel Canyon, were just slightly higher than minimum pool levels."

Furthermore he said, "But rather than focus on what we can't do, or blame the economy on what we didn't do, as city leaders, we decided to focus on those things and services that we can do and on doing them well." He went on to cite samples and shares slides of successes and accomplishments by all City Departments and Staff.

Via video, Dr. Jon Wallace, President, APU, opened the presentation with remarks from the APU Arizona campus site. He briefly talked about his health recovery from cancer and made the statement that last year was the largest in enrollments as well as graduations. He apologized for not being able to be personally present in Azusa and proceeded to introduce **Dr. Strother** who would talk about a community partnership with California Tool and Die, an Azusa business since 1960. Dr. Strother stated that "the theory of multiple intelligences informs us book smarts isn't the only kind of smarts. And so a few years ago, I offered extra credit for setting up a company visit. It's good to get out of the business classroom and actually visit a real life business because students learn, as we say, beyond the books, as they added street smart to their book smarts."

Dr. Strother went on to say that "California Tool and Die produces a multitude of products, but what they really create is jobs. To me, CT&D represents the American entrepreneurial spirit, and I'm of the

view that manufacturing is the backbone of the American economy, which remains, without dispute, the greatest economy in the greatest country, in the world. CT&D requested help with what they called a 'business turnaround project.' A number of professors responded to their call, and in the end Dr. Tom Cairns' graduate business class and my undergraduate Microeconomics class answered the call for help. In academia such as project is known as 'service learning' where some worthwhile external project integrates into a traditional college course. In my fall 2015 Microeconomics class 38 students worked on the CT&D project. With coaching from CT&D's owner and me, the students divided themselves into five teams: Marketing, Sales, Accounting, Operations and New Products Development. Our class project is finished, but the turnaround of



**Lonnie De La Garza, Chairman of the Board, Azusa Chamber of Commerce**

CT&D is long term prospect. The company is implementing some of our student recommendations, but much work remains. I think I speak for President Wallace, and all of us at APU, that we want to be involved in our local community and we want to do all we can

to see the Canyon City prosper."

**Mr. De La Garza** began his presentation emphasizing the chamber's mission statement whose goal is to make the city a better place to live, work, and play by serving as a catalyst in the transformation of business and economic climate. Currently the chamber is composed of over 200 businesses and numerous involved citizens. His presentation focused on two things, first to thank all individuals directly and indirectly involved with the Chamber and events that passed or are coming up such as the day at the race track in March and annually awaited Taste of the Town in October 2016 as part of Golden Days. He presented a slide presentation of, activities, ribbon cutting ceremonies in 2015, and events such as the Christmas Food/Toy Drive in December, and other accomplishments throughout the year.



**Dr. Linda Kaminski, Superintendent, Azusa Unified School District**

ture" with education emphasis on 1) Academics; 2) Arts; 3) College/Career Readiness, 4) Partnerships, 5) Schools; and 6) Student Futures. For each of these themes, she cited samples of innovative programs, such as: For academics Project Glad at Hodge Elementary and Love of Reading at Powell Elementary; For arts The Gingerbread Man at Longfellow Elementary, Midsummer Jersey at Gladstone High and Mariachi de Azusa District-wide; For C/C readiness Robotics Programming at Slauson Middle, Stem Lab at Center Middle, Medical Pathway at Gladstone High, and International Baccalaureate at Azusa High; For partnerships Slauson Buddies at Longfellow and Northrop Grumman's Great Minds in STEM with Slauson Middle; For schools she cited the recently voted approved \$92 million bond to modernize and build; and for student futures

national economic downturn of 2008. He also indicated that as a result of the elimination of all Redevelopment Agencies in California in December, 2011 the City still continued to struggle to develop its vacant properties. Mayor Rocha stated that, "Pensions and policy changes to the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) will add instability to our city's general fund. Plus we face policing challenges as a result of AB 109 and Proposition 47, initiatives which reduce the classification of most 'non-serious and non-violent property and drug crimes' from a felony to a misdemeanor, putting more criminals and drug addicts on the streets which increase crimes in our City and throughout the region; and lastly, the water supply picture in California in 2015 did not improve as much as we hoped and we ex-



**Dr. Stuart Strother, Professor of Economics, Azusa Pacific University**

## Nicotine Replacement Therapy Now Available Without Prescription

*Pharmacists Can Furnish Nicotine Replacement Therapy for Smoking Cessation*

**SACRAMENTO** - The California State Board of Pharmacy announces that regulations are now in effect for pharmacists to furnish nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), to assist patients in smoking cessation. The regulation became effective January 25, 2016.

Pharmacists undergo lengthy education in drug therapy. Additionally, pharmacists dispensing the NRT must complete two hours of approved continuing education and ongoing biennial training on NRT.

To provide these services,

pharmacists must ask specific questions about a patient's:

- current tobacco use and previous attempts to quit;
- whether she is pregnant or plans to become pregnant;
- heart attack within the last two weeks;
- history of palpitations, irregular heartbeats, or diagnosed with arrhythmia;
- frequent chest pain or diagnosed with unstable angina;
- nasal allergies; and
- diagnosed with temporal mandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction.

Based on the patient's answers and the pharmacist's

professional judgment, the pharmacist may: furnish the NRT; provide the NRT with cautions; and/or refer the patient to a health care professional.

In 2014, nearly 17 out of every 100 US adults smoke cigarettes - equating to about 40 million adults in the US, according to the CDC. Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the US, accounting for 480,000 deaths every year. Over 16 million Americans live with smoking-related diseases.

Pharmacists obtained authority to provide these services pursuant to SB 493 (Hernandez), which authorizes the furnishing of NRT pursuant to a state protocol developed by the California State Board of Pharmacy and Medical Board of California.

"Quitting smoking is difficult to do, but important to patient health. Pharmacists can now offer greater assistance to individuals who have decided to quit smoking," said California State Board of Pharmacy Executive Officer Virginia Herold.

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# NFL Awards Golden Football to Azusa High for Contribution to Super Bowl History

**AZUSA** - Azusa High School students gathered in their gym and cheered in celebration of receiving the commemorative Wilson Golden Football, awarded to high schools and communities that contributed to Super Bowl history.

Azusa High was recognized on the Super Bowl High School Honor Roll in honor of native Azusan Billy Kilmer, who quarterbacked for the Washington Redskins at Super Bowl VII in 1978.

"Billy Kilmer worked really hard to ensure that his dreams became a reality, and he didn't accomplish this alone," Principal Ramiro Rubalcaba told Aztecs during a Feb. 2 awards ceremony. "He had the help of his teachers, administrators, coaches, friends and teammates who supported him in achieving his goals."

Kilmer graduated from Citrus Union High School, which has since been closed. He contin-

ued to play college football at Citrus Junior College and transferred to UCLA, where he was a contender for the Heisman Trophy. He also played for the San Francisco 49ers and the New Orleans Saints.

"It is such an honor for Azusa High to receive this award," said Athletic Director Sandy Gahring, also an Azusa High alumni. "It brings so much encouragement to our student athletes that a successful, professional athlete grew up in the same streets that they did."

The Super Bowl High School Honor Roll initiative is part of the NFL's Super Bowl 50 outreach program, which links the past 49 Super Bowls with this year's game and honors the high schools and communities that have benefited the game of football.

Schools across the country will receive a commemorative Wilson Golden Football for each Super Bowl player or head



**Azusa Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Linda Kaminski (right) hands the Wilson Golden Football to head football coach Joe Scherf at an awards ceremony at the Azusa High School gym on Feb. 2. The Super Bowl High School Honor Roll initiative is part of the NFL's Super Bowl 50 outreach program, which links the past 49 Super Bowls with this year's game and honors the high schools and communities that have positively impacted the game of football.**

coach who graduated from their school or community. Nearly 3,000 players and head

coaches, and more than 2,000 high schools, will be recognized.

"Billy Kilmer is an example of

the dedication and determination that each one of our students possesses," Superintendent Dr.

Linda Kaminski said. "We are grateful to the NFL for recognizing the strong history of achievements in our city, as our students today continually reach higher in their academic endeavors as they pursue their passions."

The NFL Foundation will also provide the schools with a new character education curriculum and the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to help support and grow their football programs.

"This recognition shows our students that no matter what challenges they may face, if they continually work hard toward their goals, they will achieve whatever they set their minds to," Board President Yolanda Rodriguez-Peña said. "The students of Azusa Unified are talented and it makes me proud to see them recognized for their achievements - both while they're in our schools and long after they've graduated."



**The Azusa High School coaching team with the commemorative Wilson Golden Football. The NFL Foundation will provide the schools with a new character education curriculum and the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to help support and grow their football programs.**



**Azusa Unified School District and City of Azusa officials and Azusa High School football team, JROTC, staff and administrators pose with the commemorative Wilson Golden Football, in honor of native Azusan Billy Kilmer, who played as quarterback for the Washington Redskins at Super Bowl VII.**

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