



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

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Baldwin Park Unified Students Explore Science, History and the Outdoors

BALDWIN PARK – Students at Holland Middle School and Sierra Vista Junior High camped overnight at San Clemente State Beach, where they learned how to pitch tents and roasted s'mores by the seaside.

Students at Vineland Elementary School explored a planetary research station and experienced a simulated helicopter ride at the Discovery Cube Los Angeles.

Students at Pleasant View Elementary journeyed through the history of locomotives and the Western railroads at the Travel Town Museum.

All the activities were part of a monthlong summer enrichment program that combined academic instruction with hands-on activities and field trips. The program mixes the fun and excitement of summer with learning opportunities that expand the experiences of students and combat summer learning loss.

More than 1,000 students in kindergarten through eighth grade attended the program, offered at seven schools through a partnership with THINK Together. Activities centered on standards-based learning, interactive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)



Baldwin Park Unified seventh-graders Christian Mema and Nathan Alfonso proudly display their winning balloon-powered car and popsicle-stick catapult constructed for THINK Together's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) projects.

projects and healthy living.

"I've learned that having fun isn't always about playing and that you can have fun while you learn," Sierra Vista seventh-grader Nathan Alfonso said. "My favorite thing is the STEM projects because I can learn how things work and then I can practice creating things with my friends to see what works the best."

Daily STEM activities challenged students' communication and critical thinking skills with projects that ranged from engineering balloon-powered cars to creating roller coasters with

pipe-tubes. After each task, students competed to test their models and to measure the success of their projects.

Students also engaged in physical activities like tennis and volleyball and explored cultural studies, which included Native American, Latin American and Pacific Islander customs and histories.

"I like spending time with the program leaders, they are like family," Vineland third-grader Vanessa Marquez said. "They work with us on reading and times tables and they make it fun."

The program was hosted at De Anza, Pleasant View, Walnut, Kenmore and Vineland elementary as well as Sierra Vista and Holland. Each site adopted an overall theme, such as Sierra Vista's focus on superheroes with lessons that explored not only



Students from Vineland Elementary were tasked with a teamworking exercise to test their communication and critical thinking skills.

fictional heroes but cultural and personal ones as well.

Daily themes were also incorporated, which included students and staff dressing in funny attire for wacky Wednesday's and jerseys for a sports day.

Through community partnerships, students experienced special events like a reptile show and one elementary enjoyed a puppy party where students interacted with puppies.

THINK Together coordinators and volunteers worked at each school to plan events and activities, while Baldwin Park Unified certificated teachers provided language arts instruction.

English learners were provided additional help with fluency, vocabulary and sentence structure.

At the start of the program, certificated teachers conducted learning assessments for each

student and concluded the month with a closing assessment to gather data on individual progress and academic growth.

Students performing below grade level during the school year were given priority in registering for the program.

"Summer enrichment programs are proven to better prepare students for the upcoming school year by ensuring they stay academically engaged and challenged," Superintendent Froilan N. Mendoza said. "We are grateful to have a strong partnership with THINK Together, and through our collective hard work we can ensure that there is a strong impact on our students."

THINK Together is a non-profit organization founded in 1994. It is the largest provider of expanded learning programs in California.

A Fairy Tale Wedding Under The Tuscan Sun



Newlyweds Ash and Jean-Louis Rutnam outside the Castello Borgia.

By Jayam Rutnam

Toscana, Italy - The Castello Borgia was the choice of the Bride and Groom, Ash Sen and Jean-Louis Rutnam for their fairy tale wedding. It was on Tuesday June 20th that the couple exchanged their vows. Family and guests were scattered between the Castle, built by the infamous Borgia family, and the Villas, about a mile away. Guests from all over the world attended the festivities which started off with a rehearsal at the Villas, in front of five tall Italian cypress trees (that Tuscany is famous for). It was very casual with an exquisite, typically Italian, sit down dinner.

The next day, everybody got dressed up and made their way from the castle, once again to the Villas. Meanwhile, the castle was a beehive of activity while,

the furniture, decorations and flowers were delivered to the castle and put in place for the reception.

The wedding party came down the steps to the same spot they were the night before, to the strains of live, Italian harp music, and stopped at a decorated floral arch in front of the cypress trees. This is where the couple exchanged their vows, to the setting of the Tuscan sun.

After the ceremony the couple left for the castle in a chauffeured "Vespa" three-wheeler, dragging a bunch of soda cans behind them, while the guests threw hands full of rice. The guests then followed the couple in a procession of cars, to the castle.

There were cocktails, local wines from Tuscany, hors

d'oeuvres and live music by a popular Italian five piece band, who knew all the latest Italian and American music.

The wedding party and guests then moved on to the beautifully decorated "U" shaped table, just outside the entrance to the castle, for a fabulous dinner, more wine and many speeches.

After the formal dinner the guests moved on to the dance area where the music ranged from Sophia Loren's "Hey Mambo, Mambo Italiano" to the more recent "Adele" songs.

While in Italy, the guests visited Rome, Florence and some of them went on to Marsala in Sicily.

Ash is the daughter of Raziye and Turan Sen and Jean-Louis is the son of Gina and Jayam Rutnam of Glendora, Ca.

How to Stay Hydrated Like a Pro All Summer



Many of us spend our summer soaking up the sun. Kids are out of school, outdoor sports are plenty, and people are enjoying warm weather activities. However, spending a lot of time outside in the elements puts you at risk for dehydration-related concerns.

While most people know that water is critical for your health, what you may not know is that water makes up about 55 to 65 percent of your body. Many may be surprised to know that losing only four percent of your body weight -- roughly the equivalent of riding a bike for three hours in extreme heat without rehydrating -- may cause you to faint.1

The following simple tips from Dr. Ralph Holsworth, a board-certified family medicine physician and head of clinical and scientific research for Essentia Water, will help you stay well hydrated this summer:

* Sip with purpose; don't chug. -- When you drink too much water at once, it passes through your system too quickly, failing to go to the kidneys. This can lead to dehydration despite the amount of water you may be drinking.

Drinking too much water can also cause cramping, as well as bloating and stomach pains, due to loss of electrolytes. Aim to take a sip of water every 15-20 minutes when you're playing sports or when it's hot outside and you should be right on track.

* Aim to drink 3 liters a day. -- The age-old 8-glasses-a-day rule doesn't always suffice in the hot summer months. People should try to drink 12 glasses a day, especially if they are planning on working out, playing sports or spending excessive amounts of time in the sun. A good trick to know if you're drinking enough water is to keep your urine the color of straw (or transparent yellow).

* Bring water with you. -- Spending more time out of the house often means less easy access to water. When you leave for a day at the beach, make sure you throw enough bottles of water in your beach bag to last throughout the day. Keeping a case of water in your car is another way to ensure you'll always have water on hand.

* Limit sun exposure. -- Not shielding yourself properly in the

sun causes you to sweat more, which can lead to quicker dehydration. Wearing cotton clothes that are breathable in the heat and a hat that covers your ears will help protect you from potentially dangerous health issues such as heat exhaustion.

Whether you're an athlete, a weekend warrior or just want to take better care of yourself, staying hydrated is essential to a healthy body, especially during the hot summer months. John Ross III, wide receiver for the Cincinnati Bengals, knows a thing or two about the importance of staying hydrated, especially during the summer heat.

"I push my body to the max every day and sometimes it can get into the 90s during practice," says the recent first-round pick in this year's NFL draft.

"If I'm planning to exercise outside in the heat, I always prioritize two things -- sleep and staying hydrated. I always get at least 8 hours of sleep and always have a bottle of water by my side."

For more information about Essentia Water, visit www.essentiawater.com. (NewsUSA)

Back-to-School: Top Car Buying Tips for Young Drivers

During back-to-school season, students are often on the hunt for what may be their first car. There are many factors to consider beyond budget, and experts say this can be a difficult process to navigate.

“With hundreds of makes and models to choose from, young car buyers can find it challenging to select the best match for their new lifestyles,” says Brian Moody, executive editor at Autotrader.



Photo Source: (c) Sergey Furtaev - Fotolia.com

There may likely be conflicting priorities between the student who will be driving the car and the parents who may be funding the purchase.

To help families select cars for young drivers, as well as prepare them for safe travels, the experts at Autotrader are sharing tips and insights.

- Consider new vs. used vs. hand-me-down: New cars don't typically require much maintenance, which can make them good choices for young people, who should be focused foremost on their driving. Plus, new cars have all the latest safety features. However, new cars can mean depreciation, as they lose value at a much faster rate than used cars. While a used car will likely be cheaper, it may come with more maintenance costs. Lastly, parents may consider simply giving their current vehicle to their child, assuming the car is in good driving condition.

- Prioritize Safety: The latest safety features are particularly important for those with less experience behind the wheel. Before selecting a vehicle, consider reviewing crash test ratings from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at safercar.gov.

- Rethink Value: Value doesn't necessarily mean buying the least expensive car. Remember to take into consideration fuel economy, resale

value and practicality. Is this a vehicle that will spend more time in the shop than on the road? Also consider which services will come with the purchase. Some new cars, for example, come with free scheduled maintenance for a specific number of miles. You can also narrow down your options based on which cars are most affordable to insure.

- Technology: Young drivers today are likely going to be keen on selections with in-car technology. Voice-activated Bluetooth, hands-free calling and music streaming are just a few features that may appeal to your young driver.

To help you further navigate the car-buying landscape, visit autotrader.com/collegecars.

Whatever way you acquire

your vehicle, it's important to remember that regular maintenance will extend the life of your car. Frequently wash your car to keep the paint and finish in good condition. Check tire pressure, inspect wiper blades, the engine, belts, hoses and coolant, and check alignment and suspension. While knowing how to perform these routine tasks is an invaluable skill, you may prefer taking your car to a professional. Find a trusted mechanic near your home or campus. That way, you'll know who to call should you have an issue down the line.

Use this back-to-school season as an opportunity to become a savvy car shopper, a safer driver and a more responsible car owner. (StatePoint)

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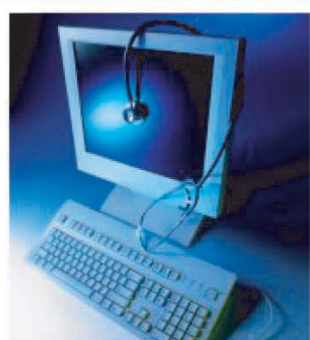
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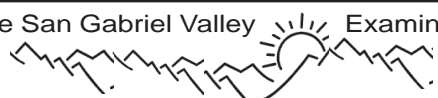
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Major Cut-Backs with Fire and Police for West Covina to Make Budget

By George Ogden
WEST COVINA - The West Covina City Council and staff recently had a budget meeting where they had to shave off millions to meet their budget. Most of the cuts came with the police and fire department.

People in the community are wondering what the hell happened as the City Council can only shake their heads and wonder the same. With the finance department and City Treasurer Colleen B. Rozatti reporting that basically all was well throughout the year only to find out that the city was moving into a multimillion dollar deficit.

City Treasurer Rozatti gave reports during the city Council meetings as to where the city stood with their finances and how things were going. She was apparently reviewing city financial reports that were presented to her from the finance department. Basically, reporting at the city Council level in meetings, things were not fine. The community has been taken back by the un-

pected cutbacks of the police and fire departments. There is a lot of finger-pointing going on in comments about poor management of the city.

The City Council members have been taken back by the fact that these cutbacks, that were unexpected, need to be implemented to meet the budget for the coming year. At this point, there is no real definition given as to why the city ended up in this position.

The only real solution for the future of West Covina is to raise taxes. The majority of the Council does not want to, and at this time, will not vote to raise taxes. Another solution is to have some type of utility tax that would be presented to the people and let them vote yes or no on this tax. There have been approaches as to how this could be put in place with a limit on the maximum which would terminate temporarily the utility tax until these funds drop down to the base amount where the utility tax would be reinstated again to bring these funds up. However, at this time it is just citizen recommendations.

The city's future financial stability is in question. They are still working off the old 3-50

PERS that was implemented which gives those who want to retire at 50 years old, 3% of their earnings for every year that they worked. This means, an employee could retire at 50 years old and if they started working with the city when they were 20, they would get 90% of their pay for the rest of their life. This retirement package is no longer offered. The city is basically a retail city with no manufacturing whatsoever. When retail sales drop because the economy drops, this drastically impairs the tax revenue for the city.

Many are wondering why the citizens were not actually made aware that the city was going to have such a huge deficit and how this would affect our First Responders. Many people are pointing the finger at city staff and management for the crisis that the city is in.

Over the years, the city has been working on residential developments. This brings in some revenue, but not that much. Many feel the city should lean towards more commercial developments which many feel gives a better tax base for the city.

The City Council will be looking at ways for financial improvements for the coming years.

LA County Says DTSC's Plan for Exide Clean-Up Is Disappointing and Doesn't Go Far Enough

LOS ANGELES - Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and the Los Angeles County Health Agency are extremely disappointed with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) final cleanup plan for properties surrounding the former Exide Technologies battery recycling facility (Exide) in Vernon. Exide operated for many years without the correct permits from DTSC, and the proposed clean-up plan is unacceptable. It will leave thousands of residents surrounding the Exide facility exposed to dangerous levels of lead.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) urged DTSC officials to make several key changes to their plan that would effectively remove contaminated soils and indoor dust from homes effected by the Exide facility. Unfortunately, DTSC did not adopt many of the recommended changes submitted by Public Health and residents in the clean-up plan. Without these changes, the cleanup plan will leave elevated levels of lead throughout the community. DTSC's two-year timeline to clean up only 2500 homes/residents discounts the urgent need to act and continues to expose children and families to dangerous levels of lead.

DTSC is the agency responsible for evaluating the level of soil contamination and carrying out clean-up efforts at local residences, schools, childcare centers, and parks within a distance of at least 1.7 miles of the Exide facility.

"I am deeply disheartened by the final cleanup plan issued last

week by DTSC. This community has suffered enough, not only at the hands of Exide, but at the hands of DTSC, which allowed Exide to operate on a temporary permit for 33 years. The DTSC's final cleanup plan ignores many of the reasonable concerns raised by the community members," said Supervisor Solis. "The community requested that the interior of their homes be fully cleaned to ensure that lead tracked indoors over decades will be removed. They also asked that any positive tests for contaminated soil trigger a cleanup, and that DTSC adopt a block-by-block approach to recognize that children don't just play in their own yards, but their neighbors as well."

"DTSC's final cleanup plan falls short in protecting the health of the community," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Against the recommendations of Public Health, the DTSC plan does not make the best use of available data to develop a comprehensive and health protective cleanup strategy. The method used by DTSC to determine whether a single parcel gets cleaned is ineffective and will not identify all properties requiring cleanup. The DTSC plan considers only those "hotspots," (high level of lead in soil within a small portion of the yard) that are known, but does not account for the presence of hotspots that had not been detected in the previous soil testing.

"DTSC's plan will take two years to clean 2,500 properties. This does not reflect the urgent

risks that lead contamination poses to the people in these communities. We urge DTSC to revise their methodology and work at a faster pace," said Ferrer.

DTSC's plan for interior cleaning does not provide assurance that the home is safe to occupy. Lead dust tracked inside the home from the outdoors represents an equally significant source of exposure and harm to residents, especially young children, and must be addressed more effectively in the plan.

For decades, operations at the now closed Exide facility resulted in the release of harmful materials, including lead and arsenic, into the surrounding communities of Vernon, Bell, Commerce, Maywood, East Los Angeles, Huntington Park and parts of Boyle Heights.

On Saturday, June 10, over 1,500 LA County outreach workers visited over 16,000 households in those communities to conduct health surveys, provide health information, and connect residents with county services.

Over 4,200 health surveys were completed during the event. Results of the health survey show that 75% of residents expressed concern that they or a family member might get lead poisoning or cancer as a result of living in the neighborhood. Residents are very concerned about contamination from hazardous chemicals released by the Exide facility. Many households include children and pregnant women who are at higher risk for poor health outcomes from exposure to lead and cancer-causing chemicals such as arsenic, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene.

Investigators Catch 195 Abusers of Disabled Parking Placards in June

SACRAMENTO - Investigators with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) caught 195 people fraudulently using Disabled Person Parking Placards (DPPP) during 28 enforcement operations carried out in June 2017.

Those issued misdemeanor citations must appear in court, face possible fines that range from \$250 to \$1,000, and will have the offense recorded on their driver record. Investigators also confiscate the misused DPPP. The cases are forwarded to the local jurisdiction for prosecution.

The statewide crackdown is part of the DMV's continuous efforts to ensure handicap parking spots are used by individuals who have legitimately obtained disabled parking placards to assist them with their mobility. It is important to point out

that not all disabilities are visible and allegations of abuse may be unfounded.

From April 1 to June 30, 2017, DMV investigators have issued 747 citations during 49 enforcement operations throughout the state.

Individuals who suspect possible Disabled Person Parking Placard misuse are urged to submit a written complaint using form INV172A Record of Complaint, which can be found online at dmv.ca.gov or send an email to placard.misuse@dmv.ca.gov. Submissions are kept confidential.

It is helpful to include the vehicle information associated with the suspected placard misuse, as well as the placard number (if possible), location where the vehicle was parked and the date it occurred.

Extreme Heat on the Rise, Langley Senior Center Designated as Cooling Center

MONTEREY PARK - Due to extreme high heat, the City of Monterey Park has designated Langley Senior Citizen Center as a cooling center. Langley Center will also be open Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and is located at 400 W. Emerson Avenue in Monterey Park.

The National Weather Service is forecasting the temperature to reach 100 degrees and continuing to escalate through next week, potentially reaching as high as 102 degrees. In response

to the extreme high heat, the Monterey Park Fire Department urges everyone to be careful and take precautions to prevent dehydration, heat stroke, and other heat-related illnesses. Here are some safety and prevention tips:

- Drink more fluids, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Warning: If your doctor generally limits the amount of fluid you drink or has you on water pills, ask your doctor how much you should drink while the weather is hot.
- Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar. Avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.
- Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have

air conditioning, go to Langley center, the shopping mall, or public library.

- Don't forget your pets - they need water and shade too.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Never leave anyone or your pet in a closed, parked vehicle.
- Please visit and check on your family members, neighbors, and friends, especially if you know they don't have air conditioning.

To learn where additional cooling centers are located in Los Angeles County and to learn the symptoms of dehydration, heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses, and what to do, visit the Los Angeles County Extreme Heat Website at http://lacoa.org/ht_extreme%20heat.htm.

Vacancy On Charter Oak Unified School District Governing Board

CHARTER OAK - There is a vacancy on the Charter Oak Unified School District Governing Board due to the passing of Mr. Joseph M. Probst.

The Governing Board will be making a provisional appointment in lieu of a holding a special election. Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk has estimated the cost of a special election to be \$111,000. The provisional appointment term expires with the November 2018, general election and at that time, voters will decide who will fill the remaining two-year term.

Applications for this 16 month appointment are now

available at the District Service Center (DSC), located at 20240 E. Cienega Avenue, Covina. Deadline to submit an application is Thursday, July 20, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. Interviews are scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the DSC.

A Governing Board member must reside within the school district, be 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the United States, and a registered voter. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at (626) 966-8331, extension 90501, if you require further information.

Community Articles Are Welcome
 We are seeking articles, photos, and news event items for future issues of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner. Information can be sent to SGExaminer@aol.com. Articles should be in Word format while photos should be in jpeg.



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Contributing Writers:

The San Gabriel Valley Examiner is grateful for the articles submitted by our unpaid writers who have contributed to the success of our newspaper. Our only request is that articles submitted be of minimal length in order to accommodate each and every writer. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thirteenth Annual Korean War Armistice Day Ceremony



Thursday, July 27, 2017
at 10:00 am
In front of Azusa City Hall and adjacent to the Veterans Memorial Monument
213 East Foothill Boulevard
Azusa, CA 91702

Hosted by:
Azusa's Veterans Memorial Committee,
Veterans of Foreign War Post 8070, American Legion Post 180 and the City of Azusa



In Memory of All Korean War Veterans Living, Dead, and Killed in Action and the Event Founder
John P. Moreno,
Korean War Veteran
June 9, 1933-July 10, 2010

Democracy or Discrimination

San Diego Union Tribune
 Logan Jenkins, Reporter,
 asked:

What electoral element do the cities of Escondido, Chula Vista, Oceanside, El Cajon, San Marcos, Carlsbad and Vista share in common?

Answer: They are all, to varying degrees, victims of perfectly legal extortion.

He is referring to those cities who have received letters from Attorney Kevin Shenkman with his notation ... "voting within [naming a political district] ... is racially polarized, resulting in minority vote dilution ..." and therefore the jurisdiction receiving his notice should give up at large elections that violate the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and sections of the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA) or get sued.

In 2001, Gov. Gray Davis signed the California Voting Rights Act into law expanding on the Federal Voting Rights Act to empower protected groups from discrimination. It gave protected groups defined as members of a race, color or language of a minority the right to challenge a government agency and its at-large voting system by defining the at-large system as racially polarizing. The challenge would then require that government to establish a vote by district system to enable minorities to achieve equal representation on boards, councils, commissions, etc.

It is now a process that has enraged many who feel at this point it is no longer equal representation but has gone so far to accommodate a specific group of people that it is now discrimination and the death of democracy.

On July 25, 2017, the City of Oceanside will be one more city to decide to eliminate at large elections for their council members and divide their city up into four election districts after being challenged by Shenkman. In our area, West Covina, Monrovia, Chino, Whittier, were all challenged either by Shenkman & Hughes, La Raza or Mexican American Legal Defense and



Lois M. Shade
 Former Mayor of Glendora

Education Fund (MALDEF) with Matthew Barragan signing the letter. Some reports I've seen indicate 60 cities to date have been handed letters.

Within the Oceanside city staff report there is a list of 23 political jurisdictions that have been challenged and attorney's fees totaling \$14,482,000 with costs varying depending how far and how hard the city / school district decided to push back on the challenge. The largest attorney fee pay-out on that list was Palmdale ending up with a \$7 million bill. Modesto was next on the list with a bill for \$3 million but several on the list gave in quickly and only had to payout \$110,000.

For cities being challenged, there seems to be two questions: First is, can we afford to challenge the charges in any of letters sent by Shenkman, MALDEF, or La Raza; and, second, can we win the challenge?

The staff report for Oceanside said, and I simplify ... very simplified, but generally:

The 2002 CVRA amendment made it easier for plaintiffs in California to challenge at-large elections by eliminating the requirement to prove a majority-minority district can be drawn in the city or school district being challenged; and, the plaintiff is not required to prove a violation that is required under the FVRA. The staff report for Oceanside told its Council there had been no reported decisions under the CVRA in favor of a city.

It is not an easy decision for local governments to make. City

Councils need to consider all the financial consequences when they contemplate the situation. Just one for consideration is in Los Angeles County our city councils will be facing some huge bills to become compliant with the Clean Water Act and the MS4 regulations the U.S. EPA has handed them - \$20 billion countywide. Can any city afford to pay out on lawyers' fees to challenge these groups?

Who is Kevin Shenkman you ask? He has managed to get himself a bundle of publicity in the L.A. Times, various other newspapers and online newsletters so we have a little capsule of basic information on him. What is interesting is looking at his website he says about himself:

Kevin has extensive experience in all aspects of intellectual property law, including litigation of patent, copyright, trademark, and trade secret matters, the successful prosecution of patents, and licensing.

And, then throws in a little construction, malpractice, bankruptcy experience but nothing about voting rights and any of his cases he has challenged and won.

Breibart News reports the following:

He is a Democrat, and gave \$1375 to the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee in 2014, according to the Federal Elections Commission. He has also contributed to Democrats at the state and local levels, according to the California Secretary of State.

Kevin Shenkman lives and works in Malibu and quite interesting I thought was the fact the City of Malibu is a general law city and operates under the council-manager form of government. The five-member City Council is elected at-large to serve four year terms with the Mayor being rotated annually among all council members.

Sounds a lot like the City Councils I'm familiar with Or should I say used to sound like and look like before Malibu resident and businessman started printing out his form letters.

July 4th, Part of the "Big Bang" Theory?

Hopefully everyone had a safe and happy Fourth of July. From the way things were blowing up around the area, it seems like everyone had a great time. You almost has to wonder if this is part of The Big Bang Theory.

It never fails that every year there are illegal fireworks going off all across the valley. This year appeared to be one of the worst years with the excessive use of the illegal fireworks.

West Covina, for example, it is illegal to have any kind of fireworks going off within the city limits. The only fireworks that are allowed would be the commercial application for fireworks shows such as what they had at Edgewood High School.

On the Fourth of July you could stand outside in the evening hours and look all around the city and you could see illegal fireworks. You could hear firecrackers loud explosions from



George Ogden
 That's just the way it is!

the M-80s and most likely cherry bombs. At one point, I tried recording just the sounds alone to see if there was a one second gap of silence from the explosions of the fireworks. It was absolutely incredible, nothing, just continuous sounds of fireworks going off.

If you attended the fireworks show at Edgewood High School, you may have had a better show from the surrounding neighborhood then what was put on by the city. It appeared that every neigh-

borhood had illegal fireworks going off in the air. This ended up being a huge burden for both the fire department and the police department.

Some people celebrated with an overindulgence of alcohol and huge barbecues.

The day was not without its DUI drivers in the San Gabriel Valley. Although the numbers are down from 10 years ago, people are still driving while intoxicated.

It's great that we have a day that we can all party and basically celebrate the independence of this great nation. The sad part is, we do it in a very dangerous way. Drinking and driving, illegal fireworks, shooting a firearm in the air, and let's not forget, getting into fights with whomever.

So I am happy to say that next year, their will be no changes in the way we celebrate the Fourth of July.

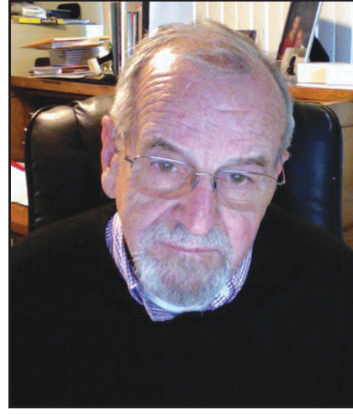
"That's Just the Way It Is!"

Revisiting Religion And Politics - Part One

Two weeks ago I suggested that right-wing politicians had taken over America's evangelical church. A fair response suggested that long before, liberal politicians took over America's main-line church. Granted it is a very thin path one treads when tempted to suggest that one political stance is more "Christian" than any other. One needs to be very careful before affirming that a specific version of religion supports any political issue or party- or vice versa. While the First Amendment to the Constitution sets out the ground rules leading to the classic separation of church and state, the same Amendment affirms the right of citizens, individually or in groups, to exercise religion without government restraint, and that includes making public comments, petitioning, demonstrating, lobbying and boycotting.

There is probably no part of the Constitution that has been more difficult for the Supreme Court to interpret than the First Amendment. The sticking point has revolved around the authority religion wants to exercise in the public square. Some aspects of this matter are self-evident. No religious test shall be placed on any government employee. No religious institution shall claim a right to governmental support or funding.

Other aspects of the matter are less clear. Can a religiously owned hospital refuse to include access to birth control in the insurance policy covering its employees? If a cafeteria cannot refuse to serve a customer a meal based on skin color, can a bakery refuse to sell a cake based on the



Charles H. Bayer

sexual orientation of the would-be purchaser? Or can tax money be used to pay for a new surface on the playground of a school operated by a church?

Is it a violation of the Constitution for a government official to end a speech with "God bless America?" When I served a Washington congregation and was President of the Greater Washington Council of Churches, I occasionally was called upon to open Congress with prayer, as well as praying at the stadium in Washington at the beginning of the baseball season. I doubt if those prayers had any effect either on Congress or the then hopeless Washington baseball team. There are chaplains in the armed forces, and Presidents as well as many other officials are sworn in with their hands resting on a Bible or some other religious book. Can Christmas day be a national holiday? Or can the first day of Ramadan or Yom Kippur be recognized as politically sacred occasions?

In dealing with many of these concerns, the Court has given a wink and a nod, and no one has gotten upset to the point of forcing the judges or justices to make

definite pronouncements.

Certainly neither Sharia law nor Levitic law can be used to evade the laws established by the Federal government or by any State or municipality. Religious law has no standing when it is in conflict with the Constitution.

However, there are occasions when one may be called on to violate a law in response to what one believes to be a higher law, but the violator must agree ahead of time to bear the penalty that comes with the violation. I refused to help pay for the Vietnam War, and every quarter when my taxes were due I sent a check for half of what I owed, with a letter explaining my action. What resulted is too complicated to discuss here. Be assured, however, that I was fully prepared to accept the results of my action.

When religious organizations have attempted to push the courts in the direction of breaching the church/state divide, they have usually been unsuccessful. The most striking attempt was an effort to declare the United States to be a Christian nation. Not being able to influence the government into recognizing some aspect of religion, political sectarians have seduced some religious sectarians into moving in their direction. While the wall of separation between church and state remains largely intact, these days very conservative politicians have caught the eye of very conservative religionists. The most striking example may be the way Donald Trump has been lured into cozying up to Jerry Falwell Jr.

Contact Charles Bayer at candwbayer@verizon.net

"TIME JOCKEY" - Basque Title

By Joe Castillo

Sheeps Galore.... Rancho Rosa Castilla, the large land grant awarded to Juan Ballesteros in 1831, changed ownership in 1852 following his death. Jean-Baptiste Batz and his wife Catalina acquired the rancho property after title from Ballesteros expired. Batz and his wife were French Basques who raised sheep for their livelihood. They moved from France to Argentina and in 1850 decided to move on to California. The Batz' boarded a ship, traveled around the horn and arrived in San Francisco six months later. It was a long journey giving them a lot of time to think about their future plans. They decided gold mining was not in their best interests and instead set their sights on sunny Southern California. The Batz's weren't looking for a place for health reasons but were seeking to acquire land in order to raise sheep. They needed lots of land because they planned to raise a tremendous number of the woolly animals. The Batz' had eight children: Ana Maria, Marquita, Domingo, Marta, Rafael, Jose Domingo, Francisco and Pedro Amado but decided to leave Ana Maria in Argentina and only bring the other seven children to California.

Initially, Batz bought property along Aliso Street in Los Ange-

les and a rancho by the name of Rosa de Castilla. The Batz' continued to buy additional parcels and in time nearly 3,300 acres were under their ownership. The rancho property included present day Lincoln Heights, City Terrace, El Sereno and portions of South Pasadena, Alhambra and Monterey Park. It was a large enough acreage to build a sheep ranch which is exactly what the Batz' did. The farm operated successfully for a number of years until the drought and other factors contributed to its demise. The Batz' then turned to agriculture making hay and barley their primary products. The rancho, even though in close proximity to the Pueblo of Los Angeles, was self-reliant on its own food and supplies. Animals which resided on the rancho included horses, pigs, cows, chickens, ducks, turkeys and any other farm animal which produced something that could be of value to the Batz' and their family. There was no smokehouse, the Batz' salted their meat to preserve it. Wine was another product of the rancho with grapes purchased, crushed and made into wine on the premises itself. Also, one adobe was located on the rancho property which had been there since the days of Juan Ballesteros. The adobe was said to have

been built in 1846 by Francisco 'Chico' Lopez along the stream named by Franciscan priests over 70 years prior, El Rio Rosa de Castillo.

Jean-Baptiste Batz was killed by a team of runaway horses and his wife Catalina died several years later in 1882, and ownership title was again changed with the Batz' seven children given equal shares of the property. None of the Batz' siblings were as productive as their parents and in time each sold their own parcels, with a total of \$90,000 received for the 3,000 acre rancho. For nearly 50 years, the land which once flowed with wild red Wood roses and an army of sheep remained in its native state. Two world wars passed during that time period creating an opportunity to use the land for something more useful and beneficial for the growing City of Los Angeles including the establishment of the future site of an institution of higher education, the home of California State University, Los Angeles....

Joe Castillo is a freelance historical writer who has been covering Southern California history for 10 years and has written 3 books on the topic. He can be reached at joecastillo@aol.com

San Dimas HEROES Is Looking For All Golfers

SAN DIMAS - There's still time to join the San Dimas H.E.R.O.E.S. (Helping Establish a Remembrance Of Every Serviceperson) at its 7th Annual HEROES Golf Tournament at the Via Verde Country Club on Monday, September 11, 2017. Check in starts at 9AM with a shotgun start at 11AM. A banquet dinner, awards ceremony and live auction will follow the tournament, and several raffle prizes will be given out. This year's auction items include a signed guitar by the band Chicago, and a ride on the

Budweiser "Clydesdales" wagon at the Los Angeles County Fair. The auction will take place around 6PM and the public is invited to attend, even if you're not golfing.

Golfing fees are \$125.00 per person or \$500.00 for a foursome. To register, go to the HEROES website at www.SanDimasHEROES.org or by email at SanDimasHEROESgolf@gmail.com.

They can also be reached by phone at 909 542 8511.

This year's sponsors include

CareMeridian, Waste Management, Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV), Los Angeles County Fair (LACF), Jackson and Jackson Insurance Agents and Brokers, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Albertson/San Dimas, Golden State Water Co., Hometown Rentals, Quality Instant Printing (QIP), San Dimas Ace Hardware, Toyota of Glendora, San Dimas Community News, Glendora Hyundai, Vons/Via Verde and Anheuser - Busch.

Expanded Library Service Hours At 75 Los Angeles County Libraries

LA County Library implements expanded hours to better serve community needs.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - LA County Library is excited to announce that 75 libraries will offer expanded hours starting July 2017.

In continued efforts to eliminate barriers to library use and increase access to resources and services, LA County Library will increase its annual open hours by over 15,000, or about 8%, at locations throughout its service area. Through the creation of more efficient staffing models, the County Library is able to expand service hours to the community without an increase in operating costs.

Skye Patrick, County Library Director, hosted town-hall style meetings at libraries to have open and honest discussions with customers and stakeholders and solicit feedback. Based on conversations at these meetings, action items were created for the County Library, which included expanding library hours. Starting this month, 75 out of 87 community libraries will now have expanded hours.

"We understand that libraries have evolved and are being used by our customers in different ways. We wanted to ensure that our doors were open

and staff was available to provide service that is needed in our communities," said Skye Patrick, County Library Director.

Libraries have evolved into community centers that provide invaluable tools to customers. Individuals are visiting libraries to search for jobs, homework help, computer literacy classes, online learning tools, early childhood literacy programs, teen services, and other programs. This expansion of hours will grant Library staff an opportunity to provide additional programs and services to their customers.

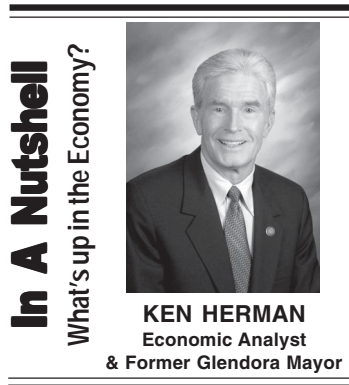
Mid-Year Market Gut Check

There is a rising tide of sentiment that the fixed-income, commodity, and equity markets are at a major turning point. Investors are caught up in a whirlwind of cross currents of political good versus evil, right versus wrong, fear versus confidence, and complacency vs. the crisis-focused media.

Even though the Fed raised short-term interest rates for the second time this year to a new range of 1.00%-1.25%, they did so as the rate of inflation was tapering off from 2.0% to 1.5% (per their favorite indicator, the Personal Consumption Expenditures -PCE- Index, which excludes food and energy prices). When the year began, expanding stock valuations were supported by the expectation of rising inflation, prospects for a tax cut stimulus plan, a proposal for healthcare reform, the passage of financial reform in the House of Representatives, and the expectation of a strong infrastructure program. The combination of these goals made intuitive sense for the bullish camp to keep the wagons rolling with new record highs being recorded on an almost daily basis - despite all the political obstacles facing this ambitious agenda.

The political atmosphere is now as hostile as any of us can remember. Chances of passing tax reform, healthcare reform, financial reform, infrastructure spending, or just about anything meaningful have receded and continue to deteriorate. Several leading Republicans have conceded that we shouldn't expect much of anything to come to a vote or become law before 2018. And yet, the markets continue to shrug off the reality of the dirty business of politics and how campaign promises can go up in smoke due to in-fighting.

In the bulls' defense, it takes more than a political donnybrook, fake news, and hour-by-hour fact checking by news media zealots to override the macro-tide of rising global earnings. Short-term corporate earnings fundamentals for the U.S. are strong, while the growth in the Eurozone and Japan is finally



In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?

KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

picking up.

In light of Donald Trump's threat to pull out of the World Trade Organization, the potential conflict with China over North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the expanded bombing of Russian-supported targets in Syria, the rollback of expanded ties with Cuba, and the fallout with Germany's Angela Merkel over inadequate NATO funding by European members, these international conflicts appear to some to pale in the shadow of structural economic growth on a global scale that is gravitating from developed economies to emerging markets.

Even during Bill Clinton's darkest hour in 1998-99 - blue dress drama and all - his personal crisis did not distract from the Internet revolution that was changing the world as we know it. Markets may now be in a similar cycle where secular advances in quarterly earnings can't be denied or derailed by political events.

In the worst U.S. political crisis of the postwar era, the resignation of President Richard Nixon on August 8, 1974, had a definite market impact, but it came on top of the loss of Vietnam and the 1973 OPEC oil embargo imposed against the U.S. in retaliation for the U.S. support of the Israeli military. After peaking in January 1973, the S&P 500 fell 48% over the next 21 months, hitting bottom right after President Nixon's resignation.

The 1974 crisis was compounded by the fact that Gerald Ford did little to restore confidence and then Jimmy Carter essentially destroyed America's global credibility. The annual consumer inflation rate spiked to 10% by 1979. And then along came Ronald Regan in 1980 and

the Dow gained 131% over his presidency.

Today, the stock market under Trump doesn't have the support of massive central bank stimulus, as was the case under Barack Obama. In fact, the market has been gaining ground even though the Fed is raising rates.

At the risk of overusing the phrase "Goldilocks" scenario, it may be hard not to see the market building on its already solid first-half 2017 gains. Markets are a forward discounting mechanism and look out six to nine months for perceived results. Market participants have perhaps resigned themselves to the idea that nothing of any significance will happen in the way of Trump legislation in 2017 and to look forward to 2018 as the soonest possible time for bills to become laws. As Barack Obama found out, there are only so many Executive Orders a president can issue. You can't bypass Congress forever.

Imagine where the market might be trading if there were the faintest of political tailwinds and not the daily dose of vitriol that fuels the angst of average hard-working citizens. Beyond the noise of political uncertainty, there may be a grand recovery in global growth underway that is gaining traction and attracting capital flows.

The market's current upbeat and sometimes not-so-easy-to-explain performance may not be so much about the 'Trump trade' and whether his campaign promises will prevail. The global expansion trade for equities and bonds may be fueled more by rising business investment, organic earnings growth, lower inflation from lower oil prices, and the ECB and Bank of Japan printing a combined \$2.5 billion per day that will continue to find its way into equities and bonds.

With that said, you might turn off the TV and enjoy the ride.

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

I welcome your questions and comments :
kenherman46@hotmail.com

Your Money - Ask Julia

I've heard about long-term care insurance, but won't MediCal take care of my needs when the time comes?

If you qualify for MediCal, (aka Medicare) it will take care of some of your needs, but possibly not in a facility where you'd like to spend your final years. Then, there's the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, signed by the President on February 8, 2006, which includes ways for the government to get reimbursed for the money they spend taking care of you. This includes putting a lien against your home and making you name them as beneficiary on your insurance and investments. To control seniors from 'spending down' their investment dollars at the last minute, this law also lengthened the look-back period to 5 years (it used to be 3 years). This means that any transfer of assets in the past five years could disqualify the individual for nursing home care for a period of time. Keep in mind that many long-term care insurance claims are a result of long-recovery time for injuries suffered in auto or personal accidents which can happen at any age.

About five years ago, I left my employment, and my 401k. You say I can move that money - how? And, will I have to pay all the taxes on it?

It is possible to move the money to another qualified (pre-tax) investment product without triggering a taxable event. (Qualified funds are tax-deferred - you pay taxes when you take the money out.) "Moving" the money is not considered accessing the



Julia Yoder
money.

My banker wants me to move my CD money into a variable annuity so that I have a greater chance of higher returns. He says I cannot lose my money. Is that right?

In a variable annuity, your money can be at risk, and you are charged fees. I recommend fixed, or fixed-indexed annuities. With those policies, your money is not in the stock market; it only 'mirrors' the index. Some offer bonuses, others credit your account with a good percentage of growth even if the stock market has even a fraction of growth, offers no loss to you if the stock market loses, gives accelerated benefits for specific needs, and guarantees lifetime income. (All guarantees are based on the strength of the insurance company.)

I'm really concerned that I'm going to run out of money when I retire. Help!

According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, nearly half of the boomers between the ages of 56 and 62 will not have enough funds to cover basic expenses and uninsured health

costs in retirement. What can you do now? Max out your 401k contributions, but only up to your employer match. Invest in your own IRA, or Roth IRA. Keep about 25-percent of your investments 'liquid' - accessible within six months without penalties. Pay off whatever you can. Plan ahead for potential health issues with appropriate insurance.

We'd like to plan ahead to have a nice funeral for our parents, but we're worried that the expense might be prohibitive. What can we do?

Your parents' wishes for a funeral are what are important. Do they want an elaborate funeral? Or do they just want to be cremated? The average funeral costs \$6,000 or more, but the government benefits only pay around \$250. A practical way to feel more confident is to purchase final expense insurance. Benefits from this type of insurance pay cash to the family, income tax free.

Ask Julia by email:
juliyoder@yahoo.com

This is your opportunity to simplify your life by having one professional working personally with you to coordinate your finances, investments, real estate, mortgage, insurance, retirement, and estate plans. CA Insurance 0C83859/Realtor 01238153/NMLS 248681/Nat'l. Ethics Assoc.

Home loan application: <https://blink.mortgage/app/signup/all-source/mortgage/juliyoder>
Accident-Medical-Dental discount plans:
CalStarBenefits.com/28485

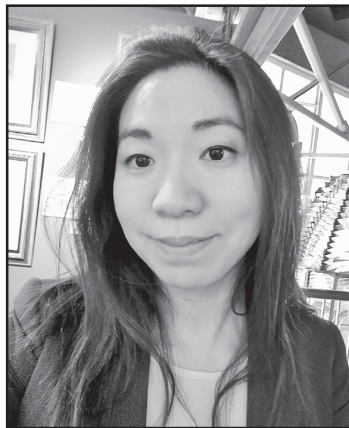
Advanced Procrastination Burns the Wick at Both Ends

"My daughter is dead." These words echoed in Tae Hee Park's mind on her way around McArthur Park. A thousand questions ran across her mind. *What would she do next? How am I to pay for the funeral costs? If something happens to my daughter, how am I going to fend for myself in a strange and foreign land. Will I go to hell?*

In 2016, over a thousand people walked into a cemetery without any funeral plans. Children are left not only with the burden of burying their parents, but are also left with lack of guidance and knowledge of their choices. However, there is a growing percentage of people who opt-out of the frustration and second-guessing over what their loved ones would have wanted.

When Stephen Park's father passed away, he was surprised to find that his father had already had a pre-arranged funeral plan.

I went into my father's closet and I found that he had his favorite Hawaiian shirt and jeans hung on a hanger from the dry-cleaners. The one he wore on fishing trips. He had it altered several times to fit his fluctuating waste-line. Stapled to the plastic cover was the message: Gone fishing with Jesus."



Jenny H. Park

Pre-planned funerals are the greatest gift one can leave behind. Lisa Ng knew that cancer had run its course; she worried about her parents. She had heard from her friend Marci Park about the huge emotional and financial stress Marci and her husband Stephen were going through planning a funeral when her mother died of pancreatic cancer and her grandmother died in 2013, the same year. She also decided to plan not just her mother's funeral, but also for herself and her husband. "I have peace of mind that comes from knowing that we have a plan. I know exactly what we are going to pay and we don't have to do this nagging feeling of not doing our homework," said Marci Park.

In a 2010 survey conducted by

the National Funeral Directors Association, 66 percent of adults would choose to arrange their own funeral service, but only 25 percent have already made them. Those who planned their funerals stated the main reason of having a pre-funded funeral agreement with the funeral home is so that the expense would not be left on the survivors and secondly so their wishes were on file. The pre-planned funeral process is very simple and takes less than an hour. Without it, families are left guessing and in the dark about the entire process.

Today, Tae Hee Park uses her own difficult experience as motivation to help others. "I am sure people know of all the work and detail that goes into planning a funeral or a cremation, not to mention the expense of it all. I will take care of every single little detail for families before the stress, shock, and grief hits that special person, who would have to deal with it on that day," says Tae Hee Park. "People do not always realize what options they have. I have worked with people of all walks and faiths of life. The one thing that I take away is this: *Holy People, Holy Land.*" For more information, please call Stephen Park at (310)991-7399 or Marci Shitsugu-Park at (310)270-5840. For further consultation on how to plan your funeral please contact Tae Hee Park at (626) 963-8807. Questions can be forwarded to mariacho911@gmail.com or mariachojas@yahoo.com.

THE CAR GURU
WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW
By Gene Morill - Certified Automotive Specialists

The Concern With Obsolete Oil

The use of obsolete oil is not something consumers think about when they get an oil change, even if they change their own oil. Lately though, this concern has been brought to our attention. A lawsuit has been filed against a retailer in New Mexico claiming the oil they sell does not meet specification for newer cars. Modern cars are designed with much tighter internal engine clearances than in years past so using the correct oil is critical.

If your star burst symbol oil label does not specify GF-5 SN it is not suitable for most cars newer than 2011. The labeling on the oil contains "obvious and unambiguous language" regarding its intended and appropriate use. I am sad to report many shops don't understand the consequences of incorrect oil labeling.

ALL cars have specific oil that needs to be used or damage will occur! This is why some cars' engines have 200,000, 300,000 or even 400,000 miles on them while others only get half that many miles. The use of incorrect oil can also dramatically lower fuel mileage and cause damage to systems that result in the increased emissions of toxic substances and damage to emission control systems, including catalytic converters and oxygen sensors.

If you have heard the term "sludge" and I hope you never do in relation to your own car, it is caused by two things; waiting too long to change the engine oil or using incorrect oil for that specific application. Be warned also that European cars have even stricter additive packages that if not adhered to, will really wreak havoc on the internal parts of the engine.

Here is a link I hope you will use to educate yourself on engine oils:

<http://agriculture.mo.gov/weights/fuel/pdf/MotorOilsandLubricants.pdf>

The automotive industry has no standards for servicing your car. Any shop can add any oil with no consequences, so it is truly a consumer beware industry when it comes to fluid standards.

I recommend knowing what oil is recommended for your car and asking questions when you arrive

at your trusted automotive shop. AAA shops have to adhere to higher standards and are held accountable for their actions. Be an informed consumer, not one with a broken car.

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

Hometown Service You Can Count On!

Jim Kirchner to Retire from Duarte Chamber

DUARTE - After leading the Duarte Chamber for over 9 years, Jim Kirchner, CEO, has decided to retire. Under Jim's leadership, the Chamber has continued many successful partnerships, including those with the City of Duarte and Duarte Unified School District. A few of these successes include:

- Ongoing Business Visits, In Partnership with the City of Duarte and the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, resulting in various improvements (i.e.) mid-block cross walk on Mountain Avenue
- Quarterly Business Seminars
- Monthly Networking Breakfasts
- Duarte named most Business Friendly City in 2012
- Annual Clinical Health Fair in conjunction with Methodist Hospital
- Monthly Ladies Network-



Jim Kirchner

ing Lunch

- Annual Principal for a Day Program
- Annual Women's Business Expo
- Annual Taste of Duarte

Jim and his lovely wife, Kathy, will continue to reside in Duarte - and Jim will be a part of the transition plan as the Chamber moves forward. Be sure to look for the announcement of his upcoming retirement party.

San Gabriel Valley Examiner
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CALL 626-852-3374

Around the Valley & Senior News

AZUSA

AUSD Free Meals to Children

Azusa Unified School District will offer free lunches this summer to children ages 18 and under through the federal Summer Food Service program. Lunches will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday through July 28 at school campuses and public parks. Meals are available to any child residing within Azusa Unified boundaries. Call Nutrition Services at 626-732-8057 for specific locations and times.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

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

TOPS Meeting

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

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

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

ARCADIA

Orchid Hobbyists Meeting

San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists welcome you to our July 20 Monthly Meeting at the L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, Ca. Judging at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Peter Lin, program on Brassavola Species and Hybrids. Refreshments. All are invited.

The Men Sing - Music in the Morning

Arcadia Senior Services provides musical lectures for individuals age 50 and over. Guest speaker, Larry Maurer from Timeless Melodies for Education is presenting, "The Men Sing" on Friday, July 21 from 10 to 11:15am. Find out about popular male singers of the past; Ray Bolger, Mills Brothers, Tony Martin, Gordon MacRae, Eddie Fisher, Andy Williams, and Johnny Mathis. Mr. Maurer will discuss plays and films that boosted these famous male singers' careers. Join us at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia. Registration is currently under way, cost \$3. For additional information please call Arcadia Senior Services, 626.574.5130.

Tennis Anyone, Classes and Camps

Tennis Anyone has been teaching successful tennis classes for the Arcadia community since 2012. Tennis Anyone believes in the development of tennis players from beginning through competitive tournament levels. Their goal is to run a comprehensive program of classes that will suit the needs of all ages and levels of players. Coaches are energetic, dynamic, friendly, fun, and passionate about the game.

This summer, Tennis Anyone is offering Pee Wee, Beginner Junior Tennis, Intermediate/Advance Junior Tennis, Small

Group, and Adult classes, as well as weeklong camps. Don't miss out and sign-up today! For more information, please visit our website at www.arcadiaCA.gov or call the Recreation Office at 626.574.5113.

Arcadia Senior Card Club Looking For New Members

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

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

COVINA

Volunteer Your Gift Of Music

Volunteer Services of Citrus Valley Health Partners is looking for volunteers to share the gift of music with the patients, families and staff. If you sing or play an instrument and have a passion for bringing peace, comfort and joy to others please call Tiffany Ramirez, Director of Volunteer Services at (626) 925-6237 or email at tramirez@mail.cvhp.org to start the application process.

DUARTE

Blood Pressure Checks

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

Meals on Wheels

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

Hot Lunches at Senior Center

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

Alzheimer's Safe Return Registration

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

GLENDORA

La Fetra Center Paint Night

Step by step painting, friends, refreshments, and fun! Paint Night at the La Fetra Center promises to be an enjoyable night. No prior painting experience is required. \$40 per person. Friday, July 21st 6:00pm to 9:30pm. Register online at www.ci.glendora.ca.us or at the La Fetra Center; 333 E. Foothill Blvd. Glendora.

Regional Food Bank Distribution Program

The La Fetra Center and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank invites SENIORS (Ages 60+) to participate in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Current Food Bank participants can receive a FREE food kit once per month which contains items such as canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, dry milk, cereals, and related products.

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

Glendora After Stroke Center

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

Cars 4 the Community

Glendora Rotary has a new and exciting vehicle donation program, called Cars 4 the Community. We are asking for your old car, boat, motorcycle or RV, running or not, be donated and receive a 100% tax deduction for the proceeds.

This program helps our schools, community, country and the world. Call 626-963-0814

for more information.

MONROVIA

Senior Blood Pressure Screenings

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

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

Caring Crafters

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

Senior Stretch & Exercise Class

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

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

SAN DIMAS

San Dimas Toastmasters Club

The San Dimas chapter of Toastmasters International, Toast

To The Best Club, Club # 5880 meets every 1st and 3rd Monday from 7PM to 8:45 PM. Learn to motivate and lead? Challenge yourself with Toastmaster's proven education programs. Let us help you grow your strengths and accomplish your goals. Become a better speaker and learn to communicate with confidence. Learn these skills and more in a supportive, self-paced, fun atmosphere. Meets at the Faith Lutheran Church, Parish Hall, 505 E Bonita Ave. Contact Art Douglas at (951) 505-0555.

WEST COVINA

Go West Shuttle Service

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

• For questions on the location

of shuttle stops, assistance in locating the stop closest to you, and route schedules please call (800) 425-5777.

- The fixed-route service operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- The fare is only \$1.00 each way.
- No Service on Thanksgiving, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, President's Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

Senior Lunch

The West Covina Senior Center has an award-winning lunch program that provides a daily lunch service for seniors, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. The lunch program is funded in part by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

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

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Celebrities Volunteer as Bartenders at the VFW in West Covina

By George Ogden
WEST COVINA - The West Covina VFW Post 8620 were privileged to have a couple of, you could say, celebrities volunteer behind the bar as bar-pretenders serving the veterans and their guests.

This was a fun Thursday night event on June 29th that had the City of San Gabriel's elected City Clerk, (lovely) Julie Nguyen and West Covina Councilman Lloyd (Cowboy) Johnson team together to serve beer and mixed drinks to those who came by.

There were a number of people who are running for other offices in other cities. West Covina Councilman Tony Wu and Mike Spence both showed up and mingled with the crowd.

Nguyen wore a red dress for the guys, and Johnson wore his cowboy hat for the girls. The two had fun competing to see who can get the most tips. It was going to be without question, Julie Nguyen took first place.



Councilman Tony Wu, Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Spence, San Gabriel's City Clerk Julie Nguyen and Councilman Lloyd Johnson.

Along with the two, VFW Cmdr. George Ogden, entertained everyone by doing magic tricks and telling his stupid jokes. Everyone had a great time.

Julie Nguyen and Lloyd

Johnson have been longtime supporters of our veterans. Cmdr. Ogden said he appreciates their support.

Summer Concert & Movies in the Park

ARCADIA - The summer concerts are held on Thursday evenings starting at 6:30-8pm on the lawn between City Hall and the Police Department (240 West Huntington Drive). Bring the kids out to participate in the FREE fun zone, featuring games, crafts, and activities each week. The Rolling Burger Barn Truck at all of the Summer Concert Series! Listed below is the line-up for Thursday, July 13, 2017.

Tommy Tassi & The Authentics (Oldies from the 50s, 60s & 70s) - **July 13**

Tommy Tassi and the Authentics have been entertaining southern California audiences since 1978. They specialize in the pop hits of the 50s, 60s & 70s. The group's main feature is its front man and lead vocalist, Tommy Tassi, who has an uncanny ability to sound like many of the legendary artists. From the tender ballads to the bellowing rockers, he truly delivers sound-a-like renditions of the classic hits. As a showman, he brings much enthusiasm to the stage, working the audience with his spirited per-



Tommy Tassi & The Authentics

sonality and creating an atmosphere of clapping, singing along and dancing.

Movies in the Park

The Movies in the Park are held on Friday evenings with games and activities starting at 6:30pm on the lawn between City Hall and the Police Department (240 West Huntington Drive). Movie begins at dusk. Movies in the Park provided in partnership

with CHOICESS Arcadia.

Moana (PG) - July 14 - Sponsor Night - Free Giveaway

In Ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches an impetuous Chieftain's daughter's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out the Demigod to set things right.

For more information, please call 626.574.5113.

West Covina Summer Concert Series

WEST COVINA - Grab the family and your dancing shoes for the kick off of this year's West Covina Summer Concert Series. This free event is held every Thursday evening thru August 17th, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the West Covina Civic Center, located at 1444 W. Garvey Avenue South. The lineup for this year includes:

Thursday, July 13th - Cold Duck (R&B, Soul, Old School, Latin, 70's & 80's)

Thursday, July 20th - The Sil-

verado (Country)

Thursday, July 27th - The Swing Cat Big Band (Swing)

Thursday, August 3rd - Time Bomb (Rock from 1975-1985)

Thursday, August 10th - Sgt. Pepper (Beatles Tribute Band)

Thursday, August 17th - Mariachi Divas (Mariachi)

Food and merchandise will be available for sale at each of the concerts. For more information visit www.westcovina.org or contact the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8489.



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Walmart, Walmart Foundation Presents \$25,000 Grant to Inland Valley Hope Partners

POMONA - Walmart and Walmart Foundation officials presented a \$25,000 grant to the Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP) to support the nonprofit's Food Security Program. The Food Security Program provides client families with a 4-5 day supply of food every 30 days to bridge the gap in many low-income families' budgets and, in many cases, provides the only means for them to survive. The grant will help IVHP provide meals for up to 4,000 people in the greater Pomona area and purchase a new forklift to more efficiently move the 60,000 lbs. of food that it processes each month. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation help to relieve hunger in many of the communities where it operates



Lisa Risner (in green vest), Pomona Walmart Neighborhood Market store manager, and Mike Acheson (far right), Walmart Market Manager; present a \$25,000 grant check Wednesday (July 5) to Wytse Visser (center), President/CEO, Inland Valley Hope Partners; and Sharonda White, Hope Partners Board Vice Chair; as Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval looks on. (Photo credit: Walmart)

by helping to strengthen the charitable meal system and helping to extend the reach of hunger relief programs. The check presentation was held at the Pomona Walmart Neighborhood Market, on Wednesday, July 5, 2017.

2017 Little League® Baseball and Softball Western Regional Tournaments - Free To The Public

SAN BERNARDINO - This summer, treat yourself and your family to the Little League® Baseball and Softball Western Regional Tournaments at beautiful Al Houghton Stadium at the Little League Western Region Headquarters, 6707 Little League Dr., in San Bernardino, Calif.

Both tournaments, which are FREE to the public, involve state champion tournament teams of boys and girls, league ages 10-12, from throughout the Western United States.

The softball regional, held from July 21-28, will see one

team advance to the Little League Softball® World Series in Portland, Ore. This is the seventh year the regional tournament has been held in San Bernardino.

"These young ladies bring excitement to the game through their enthusiasm on and off the field, as well as through their talent and knowledge of the game," said Dave Bonham, director of the Little League West Region. "This tournament also creates memories that will last a lifetime for these players!"

The baseball regional, held from August 6-12, will see two

regional champions - one from the West Region and one from the Northwest Region - move on to the Little League Baseball® World Series in Williamsport, Pa. This is the 47th year for the baseball regional in San Bernardino.

Some notable individuals who have played in the Western Regional Baseball Tournament and then enjoyed professional careers in sports include: Sean Burroughs, Hank Conger and Ken Hubbs in Major League Baseball, as well as Turk Schonert, Brian Sipe and Marques Tuiasosopo in the

National Football League.

In 2007, Los Angeles Dodgers rookie All-Star Cody Bellinger played in the Western Regional with Chandler National Little League from Arizona before his team advanced to the Little League Baseball World Series.

In addition, Southern California television news personality Fred Roggin once served as a volunteer umpire at the baseball regional when he umpired in Little League.

The beauty of both tournaments comes when players from both teams step off the field following a game and then spend time together. Regardless of the final score, lasting friendships are made during their week in San Bernardino!

Winning may be nice, but it's not what Little League focuses on. Instead, Little League uses softball and baseball as a platform to help children develop life skills, as both embody the discipline of teamwork. Under caring leadership, Little League's movement is dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. It inspires them with a goal and enriches their lives as they continue to move towards finding their place in the world. Little League establishes the values of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play.

Mark your calendars now for both regional tournaments, and then come out and show your support for these girls and boys who are living their young dreams, while learning valuable life skills by simply playing for the love of the game!

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Community Articles Are Welcome

We are seeking articles, photos, and news event items for future issues of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner. Information can be sent to SGExaminer@aol.com. Articles should be in Word format while photos should be in jpeg.

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