



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

February 1 - 7, 2018

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ACCU Joins Olive Crest And Dream Center To Spotlight The Foster Care Crisis

GLENDORA — The dust is settling after a memorable week of events, but the will to care for the orphaned is still strong around America's Christian Credit Union (ACCU). Last week provided an exciting round of foster care and adoption-related events during which ACCU joined forces with the L.A. Dream Center, Olive Crest and Bishop W.C. Martin. All focused on changing the narrative around the foster care system in the greater Los Angeles area, a region holding 35,000 foster children, more than any other city in the nation.

The series of events kicked off with a guest presentation by Bishop W.C. Martin of Bennett Chapel Church in Possum Trot, TX. Bishop Martin engaged with ACCU staff for a time of sharing the miraculous work God has done in his small town. The humble church congregation of less than 200 people stepped up to provide homes for ALL the foster children in their community who were waiting to find their forever families. With open hearts and sturdy spirits, the members of this small church collectively took in the 70+ children, and cleared out the entire foster care system in their county.

Following the intimate presentation with Bishop W.C. Martin, ACCU staff joined the Olive Crest leadership team at the Dream Center to rally 160+ local pastors to join in the effort to transform the foster care system in L.A. The event was kicked off by Jaime Zavala, Executive Director of Olive Crest's LA region, who praised the audience of pastors for showing up, and exhorted them not to feel pressured to do everything, but rather to, "just do something." Zavala then transitioned to a time of recognition, praising ACCU for its support of the event. In response to Zavala's comments, ACCU's Vice President/Chief Development Officer, Fawn Imboden, remarked: "We are deeply grateful for the honor Olive Crest has bestowed on us today. May it be just the start of a long and fruitful relationship." Imboden continued: "God is moving in His city and for His people. We must continue to work together for the greater good that gives these orphans the forever loving home they deserve." The event then concluded with an inspirational message from Bishop Martin and a panel presentation by current foster families, outlining the reality and rewards of saying "yes" to foster parenting.



ACCU Staff joins Bishop W.C. Martin for a photo opportunity at the close of the event.

St. Dorothy Catholic School Science Fair



St Dorothy Catholic School students Aurora Rojas, Malena Hines, Katia Sidhom, Logan Files and Mrs. Walsh, Science Fair coordinator.

GLENDORA - Students at St. Dorothy Catholic School in Glendora showed off their scientific knowledge at the annual Science Fair. Students in Transitional Kindergarten through 5th grade completed group projects in the classroom, while the 6th

through 8th grade students presented individual projects that demonstrated their knowledge of the scientific method. Seventh grader, Marie Timko, built a calorimeter to test the laws of thermodynamics and won first place. Aurora Rojas, grade 6 placed second

with her project which measured the amount of vitamin C in various fruits. All the students worked hard to create quality projects, and their work demonstrates St. Dorothy Catholic School's commitment to academic excellence.

Foothill Transit Bus Crash Into Building



Foothill Transit Bus crashed into a medical building in West Covina.

By George Ogden
WEST COVINA - Just after 9:15 a.m. the West Covina 9-1-1 operators received calls of a Foothill Transit bus crashing into a medical building at Sunset and Cameron in West Covina on Wednesday, January 24.

An all-out emergency response with fire and police responded to the scene. They found the bus crashed into the medical building after jumping the center divider and sidewalk and crashed in the 700 block of South Sunset Avenue blocking part of the southbound lanes. The police shut down that section of

Sunset Avenue until around 2:00 p.m.

Nobody was injured in the bus or in the building. The driver was about to start his route and the bus was empty.

After leaving the staging area by K-Mart, about a block away, the driver headed east on Cameron Avenue where the driver planned to go northbound on Sunset Avenue. That is when things went wrong. The bus driver lost control and continued making a left turn jumping the center divider and then the curb, crossing the sidewalk and smashing into the building. Part of the

building was red-tagged.

There is some speculation that the driver may have failed to use the seat restraints (seatbelt and side armrest restraint) and while making the turn, he actually fell out of the seat while hanging onto the steering wheel which caused the bus to continue with the left-turn approach.

There may be as much as \$10,000 damage to the building and \$60,000 to the bus as there was also damage to the underside of the bus.

The accident is still under investigation by both the police and Foothill Transit.

West Covina Kiwanis Club Celebrates 60 Years of Service to the Community

WEST COVINA - Recently, the West Covina Kiwanis Club had an opportunity to celebrate 60 years of service in West Covina and surrounding cities with friends and family. They honored one of their founding members, Robert Ebner, with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to service to others. He spoke about the service he has done over the years and what it took to create a legacy of service for his home and community.

The club also had the pleasure of inducting two new members, Dr. Marin and Gisselle Regalado from West Covina Smiles. By the end of



LtG Anna Wu and Robert Ebner, Life Achievement Award Recipient at the Kiwanis 60th Year Celebration.

the night, Craft Hill (the hosting location) joined as a corporate member.

West Covina Kiwanis Presi-

dent, Andres Castaneda and Division 35 LtG, Anna Wu were key supporters and leaders in the event.

San Dimas High School Booster Club Golf Tournament

SAN DIMAS - The San Dimas High School Booster Club is hosting its 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, March 12 at Via Verde Country Club. The tournament supports San Dimas High School's sports teams, cheer, dance, drama, choir and other campus clubs. The tournament is a 4-Man Scramble Best Ball for-

mat with an 11 a.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$110 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, a cart and dinner. Registration is open until March 1, or until the tournament is filled with 144 golfers.

The Booster Club is also seeking Hole Sponsors for \$100. Businesses and organi-

zations who sponsor a hole will have a sign advertising their company/agency at a hole for all the golfers to see as they play through. Tax deductible donations are also accepted.

For more details or to register to play, sponsor a hole or donate, please contact Ernie Baltierra at 626-841-0867.

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El Monte Women's Club Awards Four 2018 Music Scholarship Winners



Adrian Garcia, Mark Membrebe, Austyn Perez, Vanessa Flores, and El Monte Women's Club Music Competition Chairman Rita Cruz

EL MONTE - El Monte Women's Club, a local philanthropic service organization, aims to provide as many scholarships as possible to students in the El Monte Union High School District. On January 23, 2018, four talented students were selected to win music scholarships in the categories of pop vocal, pop instrumental, classical vocal, and classical instrumental.

Twelve students from Arroyo High School and El Monte High School participated in the El Monte Women's Club student music competition. Arroyo High School student Adrian Garcia won the pop instrumental scholarship while classmate Mark Membrebe won in the classical instrumental category. El Monte High School student Austyn Perez won the pop vocal scholarship and classmate Vanessa Flores won in the classical vocal category. Each winner receives \$100 from El Monte Women's Club, and proceeds to compete on March 9, 2018, in the San Gabriel Valley District music competition of the California Federation of Women's Clubs in Covina, CA. Winners from District will move on to compete at the annual convention of the California State Federation of Women's Clubs in May, 2018, in Sacramento, CA. The competition was organized by the Club's Music Competition Chairman, Rita Cruz. The volunteer judges were Citrus College Music Professor Emeritus Alex Galvan, El Monte Police Department (EMPD) Sergeant and Theatrical Performer Roger Cobian, and El Monte Police Department Lieutenant and member of the EMPD Trio, Ben Lowry.

"El Monte Women's Club is very happy to be able to bring back the student music competition," said Co-President Jackie Morales. "Our Club sup-

ports student art, and art created by our members," said Co-President Gina Morales. "We are looking forward to improving the Club's student music contest next year. We aim to expand awareness about our contest among all five high schools in the El Monte Union High School District, and have increase participation next year," said Music Chairman Rita Cruz.

El Monte Women's Club's next event is its annual Scholarship Dinner Fundraiser on February 16, 2018 at 5:30pm at the El Monte Community Center. This year's theme is "WWII Victory Party". The event will feature live music performance by the Darden Sisters, dinner catered by Executive Catering, door prizes, raffles, silent auction, and dancing. All proceeds will go to scholarships for deserving students of the El Monte Union High School District. Event details are available at Facebook.com/emwomensclub or call (626) 780-7963.

El Monte Women's Club is a proud member of the California Federation of Women's Clubs and General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). With almost 80,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting

healthy lifestyles, encouraging civic involvement, and working toward world peace and understanding. To learn more about El Monte Women's Club or to become a member, contact them via email at elmontewomensclub@gmail.com or visit them online at Facebook.com/emwomensclub.



Round-Up in West Covina!



The escapees were captured by both the West Covina Police and Sherriff's Dept.

By Rudy Lopez WCPD and George Ogden

WEST COVINA - When a police officer reaches the end of his/her career, most of them will say "I've seen it all". Well, let's add one more rare call for service to that list.

At 12:30 AM, West Covina Police received a call of a herd of animals wandering in the

area of Francisquito and Valinda. Officers found several sheep and goats being led by a donkey walking along the residential streets. The group of animals at first failed to comply with officers as they evaded capture. With the assistance of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, the animals were safely corralled. It was discov-

ered that the animals had found freedom through an unsecured gate from a residence located in the City of Valinda. The owner was contacted and he responded to assist in herding the animals back to his residence. None of the animals were injured (or arrested).

This incident is one for the books.



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Citizen's Academy Applications Being Accepted

GLENDORA - The Glendora Police Department is now accepting applications for acceptance into Class #34 of our fun and exciting Citizen's Academy. Hundreds of students have graduated from our academy as it is a way to become familiar with the internal functions of the Glendora Police Department. Classroom time includes introductions to Dispatch and Jail Services, Fraud and Identity Theft, Mock

Traffic Stops, Fingerprinting and more! Classes begin on Wednesday, February 21st and run for 12 consecutive Wednesday nights, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Police Department. Applications can be picked up at the front counter of the police department, located at 150 S. Glendora Avenue, online at www.cityofglendora.org or via an email to nulloa@glendorapd.org. The application deadline is

Thursday, February 15th, 2018. All applicants must consent to a record and background check prior to being selected to participate. Class size is limited to 25 students, you must be at least 18 years of age, live or work in the City of Glendora or attend Citrus College. For more information, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (626) 914-8268.

Arcadia Senior Services Nominations for 2018 Senior Citizen of the Year

ARCADIA - "The heart of a volunteer is not measured by the size but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others." Do you know someone who volunteers and makes a difference in Arcadia? Are they 55 years of age or older and a current resident of Arcadia for at least one year? If so, nomination forms for 2018 Senior of the

Year are available at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive and on the City's website at www.arcadiaca.gov. Recipient of the award will be honored at the Arcadia Rotary Club Salute to Seniors Luncheon on Tuesday, May 8, at

the Arcadia Community Center. Nomination forms must be submitted to Candice Cheung, Recreation Supervisor, by Friday, February 16 by 5:30pm. For more information, please call 626.821.4374.

Arcadia Announces Use Of Wechat

ARCADIA - The City of Arcadia is adding WeChat to the Arcadia Connect social media program in an ongoing effort to improve outreach to the City's Chinese community. WeChat is a mobile text and voice messaging communication service for Chinese speaking users and is one of the world's largest messaging apps.

The WeChat app can be downloaded for free from the app store for Android and iPhone mobile devices. To add the City of Arcadia, search for the user ID: DiscoverArcadia.

The launch of WeChat will enable the City of Arcadia to provide

Chinese speaking residents with important City news and information. "Through our use of WeChat we hope to increase our engagement and trust with the Chinese community," said Mayor Amundson. "City staff will use WeChat to disseminate much of the same information they send out via social media: traffic alerts, crime prevention tips, and news about community events," he added.

WeChat currently has 980 million active monthly users with 70 million outside of China. For additional information, please contact Arcadia City hall at 574-5401.

Barger Pushes For Legislation To Provide Lifesaving Medical Care For The Mentally Ill

Amendment to State Law Would Add Medical Treatment to Grave Disability Criteria

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - At their next regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 30, the Board of Supervisors will consider a motion by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Mark Ridley-Thomas to sponsor state legislation enabling the county to provide critical medical care for the mentally ill.

"More than 830 homeless people died on the streets of L.A. County last year. Many of these deaths were preventable with proper medical attention," Barger said. "It's time for California to join 37 other states who consider medical treatment a basic human need for those suffering from a mental illness."

The legislation would amend the state's definition of gravely disabled pursuant to the recommendation by the Department of Mental Health (DMH), to read, "a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, is unable to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment where the lack or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or

death." This proposed addition (in the underlined section above) is similar to the criteria used in 37 states nationwide.

"It's important to realize that individuals with co-occurring mental illness and homelessness, arguably the county's most vulnerable populations, may account disproportionately for the increased death rates," said Dr. Jonathan Sherin, director of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

"We can advance our mission by operationalizing our work with the most vulnerable and critically ill by acknowledging that signs of physical harm due to self-neglect as a result of serious mental conditions are a rational and objective means for detecting grave disability," Sherin added.

On October 31, 2017 the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Barger that directed DMH to work with county agencies, mental health advocacy groups, civil rights organizations and other stakeholders to develop legislative recommendations. Numerous mental health profes-

sionals and advocates voiced support for Barger's motion including Dr. Susan Patrovi, Medical Director of Homeless Healthcare LA, Brittney Weissman, Executive Director of NAMI Los Angeles County Council and Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu.

DMH and its partners engaged stakeholders from various statewide and local organizations and received overwhelmingly positive feedback on modifying the current grave disability standard.

"Current state law is a one-size-fits-all approach to mental illness, which makes it nearly impossible to adequately address the needs of the growing number of the mentally ill among the homeless population," Barger said. "Allowing the most vulnerable to languish on our streets without a lifeline is inhumane, and we cannot accept this as a viable option."

"Together, we can find an effective approach to this crisis that will help deliver lifesaving treatment and care for those desperately in need," she added.

Residents And Businesses Of Los Angeles County And City Impacted By Wildfires, Can Now Apply For Federal Disaster Assistance

LOS ANGELES - State and Federal Disaster Assistance Programs are now available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for eligible homeowners, renters and business owners in Los Angeles County who suffered damages or losses due to the December 2017 Creek, Rye and Skirball wildfires.

"A recent amendment to President Trump's major disaster declaration of January 2, 2018, made at the request of California's Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., means that residents in our County and neighboring counties can now access individual disaster assistance from FEMA," stated Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Sheila Kuehl. "We encourage anyone who sustained wildfire damages due to the recent Los Angeles County area wildfires to register for assistance immediately."

Individuals can register for disaster relief by either visiting www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may call 800-621-3362. The toll-free numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., local time, seven days a week. During the registration process, applicants should be ready to provide the following information: Social Security number of one household member, address of

the damaged primary residence, description of the damage, information about insurance coverage, a current telephone number, an address where they can receive e-mails, and a bank account with routing numbers for direct deposit of funds.

"Our region pulled together to protect people and property during the Creek and Skirball fires. We are grateful that no lives were lost, and want to be certain that the road to recovery is as clear as possible for households and businesses that suffered losses," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Partnerships with Federal, State, and County emergency management organizations are helping us make sure that financial assistance gets to the right places - so that Angelenos affected by the wildfires can get relief as quickly as possible."

Disaster assistance can include State and FEMA grants, and low-interest loans from SBA.

FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) Grants are designated for homeowners and renters who sustained uninsured damage or underinsured losses to their primary homes, vehicles and personal property. These grants may help pay for temporary housing (including rental or lodging expenses), emergency home repairs, personal property losses, and medical, dental and funeral expenses caused by the disaster. IA grants are not taxable income and will not affect eligibility for any Federal, State or County benefits, such as Social Security,

Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

SBA disaster loans are available to businesses and private non-profit organizations to assist with working capital needs as a direct result of the disaster. Businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates can be as low as 3.385 percent for businesses, 2.5 percent for private non-profit organizations and 1.75 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial circumstance.

SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

More information about SBA disaster loans can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955.

San Gabriel To Host Lunar New Year Festival February 10

SAN GABRIEL - San Gabriel will welcome the Year of the Dog at the annual San Gabriel Lunar New Year Festival on Saturday, **February 10**. This festival combines tradition with modern celebrations, offering a wide variety of food, live entertainment, carnival games, arts, and crafts in the heart of the San Gabriel Mission District.

Featuring singer-songwriter Melissa Polinar, singer Travis Atreo, and two-piece pop group Perry and Danielle, this year's festival stage will showcase a diverse array of live entertainment throughout the day in front of the

historic Mission Playhouse. The festival will kick-off with lion and dragon dances and cultural performances and close the evening with a dance crew tournament hosted by the Kinjaz Dojo.

Festival-goers can also enjoy a variety of Asian street foods from lamb & beef kebobs, squid skewers, ice cream waffles, milk teas, sesame cold noodles, and rainbow-colored dumplings from food booths and food trucks, including the original Kogi BBQ Truck. Local vendors will be selling modern and traditional Asian

merchandise and handcrafted goods in the festival marketplace.

This year's festival is presented by the City of San Gabriel, along with Jade Sponsors: EDI Media and the Hilton Los Angeles/San Gabriel, with contributions by Gold Sponsor Southern California Edison, and Silver Sponsors: Lincoln Motor Company, Athens Services, 99 Ranch Market, and Pasadena Star News.

The San Gabriel Lunar New Year Festival will run from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on February 10 in the Mission District.

San Gabriel Valley Examiner
INFORMATION GUIDE

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- We also believe in accuracy in fact and context. Journalists should be accountable for any news or subjects they write about.
- We believe in growth. Therefore, complaints or mistakes erroneously committed will be entertained and investigated diligently and corrected accordingly.
- We believe in performing our journalistic work to the best of our ability and will continue to present the facts clearly and fairly.

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Brown's State of the State

Termed-out Governor Jerry Brown gave his last State of the State address, which lasted about 16 minutes and was certainly a recap of his agenda from his perspective and certainly not from Shade's Perspective.

Brown reminded all when he came into office in 2011, he faced a \$27 billion deficit and all major news media proclaimed California dead in one fashion or another and would have an ongoing "structural deficit." Over the years, that so called "structural deficit" has been patched up with bond after bond and tax after tax.

California Republican Party Chairman, Jim Brulte, disagrees and says, "Jerry Brown has dealt with nothing but a growing national economy since he was elected. The national economic recovery began in 2009, and he was elected in 2010. He's had eight years of economic growth as Governor ... Under Governor Brown's watch, our state has become more unaffordable for ordinary Californians. He needlessly raised taxes by billions of dollars while diverting vital money away from infrastructure, poverty, and housing issues ... Seven years later, our roads and dams are at a crisis point, the poverty rate is the highest in the nation, and the dream of buying a home is all but dead."

Brown is still obsessed with his high speed rail project that others now call "the train to nowhere." Voters approved \$9.95 billion worth of bonds to cover about 1/4 of the cost, with private investors covering part of the cost, federal government dollars to be invested and revenue bonds to finish off the project and the cost. Revenue bonds would be paid off with the fares charged to the ridership. The 2008 estimate of fares was \$55 from Los Angeles to San Francisco now estimated to cost \$125. The speed is down, the cost of the ride is up, they just found another replacement CEO, and have not gotten through the Tehachapi Mountains yet. We will be paying \$647 million a year out of the general fund on the cost of the initial bonds. We're paying an arm and a leg for 1970's technology while Elon Musk speeds forward with state of the art tech-



Shade's Perspective
Lois M. Shade
Former Mayor of Glendora

Brown also talked about the WaterFix project that is, by some reports a \$25 million project to protect the Delta Ecosystem. The State Auditor's Report on the portion to deliver water to the Central Valley, the bread basket of California, and then on to thirsty Southern California does not have the structure in place to proceed with the water delivery portion of the project. The Twin Tunnels is sitting high and dry and has been reduced to perhaps one tunnel. In fact, Department of Water Resources, in charge of that portion of the project, according to the state auditor, violated state law when it hired a replacement project manager.

Jerry Brown says regarding state water delivery, "Local water districts, in both the North and South, are providing the leadership and the financing because they know it is vital for their communities, and for the whole state." Metropolitan Water District has committed \$4 million to the tunnel project and a major water district in the Central Valley has withdrawn its commitment. A November communications announced President Trump was rejecting support for WaterFix. A two-year bill, back again this year, is thought to once again propose a tax on water ... every drop of it.

Department of Water Resources, the same agency in charge of the state water system and Oroville Dam spillway that failed and caused the evacuation of 188,000 people is now looking at cost overruns. Initially \$275 million was estimated to repair damages to the spillway and that has now risen to \$870

million according to the L.A. Times this week.

California's violent crime rate is up 15.7% over the last two years because Gov. Brown led the effort to let the bad guys out of jail and prison. Instead of building new prisons or finding alternative ways to keep these criminals behind bars, he supported AB 109. Prop 47 and Prop 57 and reduced jail time, turned felonies into misdemeanors and allowed citations for stealing less than \$950 worth of property. All we have to do is look daily into any newspaper and see what is happening on our streets. We know from our own experience in the 48th Assembly District, an early released felon broke into a house, attacked the resident and when the episode was over he will be charged with eight various counts including attempted murder.

Governor Jerry Brown's comments on crime certainly lead me to believe he is supporting the same path that is having a devastating effect on our communities and why the League of California Cities and local elected officials are screaming "Take Back Our Communities" and asking for reform for our criminal justice system. It is costing all our local governments more and more to keep rounding these bad guys up time after time. And, the human toll is incalculable.

Gov. Brown said he would be fighting any repeal effort on the gas tax. Don't recall anything about housing costs or homelessness so apparently he is not terribly concerned in his last year of California politics about the poverty levels in this state or the ability of many to find housing.

Brown did not mention trying to prevent the recall of Democrat Senator Josh Newman. If I am mistaken, please correct me.

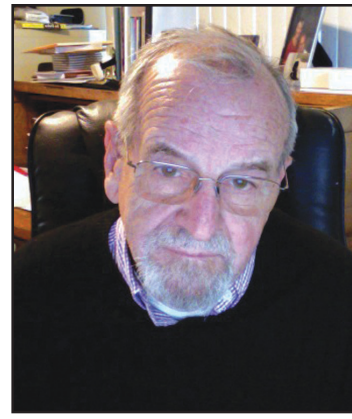
Can Any Honest Christian Still Support Donald J. Trump?

At first I was simply curious. What was it in Trump's announced policies, promises, programs, tweets or Executive Orders that would cause any thinking person to support him? The answer popped to the surface. A significant portion of American voters are political conservatives, and their position merits respect.

As much as I might like them to be, not all Americans are liberals or progressives. There are millions of honest folk who get up on the right side of the bed each morning, and stay on the right side until they fall asleep. What they think about taxes, labor unions, the size of government, immigration and capitalism flows from a legitimately held conservative perspective. In my estimation these people may be wrong, but what they believe is evidence of a consistent political and social philosophy. Isn't this philosophic division what undergirds any democracy? So the contest becomes one of persuasion, with each party making its best case as it attempts to recruit those in the middle who most often will decide the outcome.

At the same time, I have been struggling with a very different matter, which has more to do with one's religious perspective than it does with one's political prejudices. In the last election 81 percent of self-identified Christian evangelicals voted for Donald Trump, and still seem committed to him and his agenda. But here is the question that continues to haunt me: What in there in the ethic of Jesus that might lead a Christian to support Donald Trump?

A clue. The other day I heard about a community that from its



Charles H. Bayer

inception had drawn its water from inland wells. Recently the community discovered that as the tides in the adjacent ocean began to increase as the water warmed, their wells were being infiltrated by salty seawater that rendered the well water undrinkable. Could it be that these fresh water Christians have had their religion infiltrated by the rising tide of rightwing politics?

I discussed this perspective in four columns from June through September of 2017, but hesitated to arrive at any definitive conclusion. I have been hesitant to impugn the religious commitment of either Donald Trump or the evangelical Christians who support him. But now that hesitation has been seriously eroded.

The wall of caution was finally shattered when a month ago Donald Trump branded Haiti and the African nations as "shit-holes," and suggested that instead of people from those areas, we should welcome more white people from, say, Norway. That statement puts a capstone on a life of bigotry, racist policies, lawsuits and tweets, all of which have been well documented elsewhere.

This record is not only repulsive and un-American, and is also contrary to the heart of the Chris-

tian faith and to the testimony of Jesus throughout his ministry. It stands totally outside anything that might be identified within the authentic Judeo-Christian tradition.

I ask the following of the evangelicals who voted for him and still support him. What part of the Trump agenda, policies or statements do you cite that identifies him as a Christian, and merits your allegiance?

If you hold that there is no connection between authentic religion and the rest of life, and that religion, basically the Christian faith, is only about saving souls so that they can be assured of heaven, I think you can still claim to be a Christian. But if that sums up what you believe about who Jesus was and what he taught, then by what evidence do you say that faithful Bible believing Christians have to offer that testifies to why any Christian ought to back Donald Trump? Whatever he believes and uses to support his racism bears little relationship to anything we know about Jesus and what he taught.

While judgment is to be left in God's hands, I find no evidence that would lead me to call Trump a Christian, and no way that anyone who claims to follow Jesus should support him. I speak here only to those who cite a relationship between their Christian commitment and what Trump says and does. If you hold that you find no relationship between your faith and your support of Trump, I have no argument with you. But if you hold that your support of Trump is connected to your commitment to Jesus, I ask for the evidence.

Contact Charles Bayer at candwbayer@verizon.net

"TIME JOCKEY" - Searching For Alvarado

By Joe Castillo

Monterey... As previously reported, Juan Bautista Alvarado was Governor of Mexican California from 1836 - 1842. His home was located in the city of Monterey where his family had built a successful business and had resided for the past half a century. His popularity grew following his governorship and Alvarado continued to make Monterey his permanent residence. The city still boasts a number of adobes and early homes which have been preserved and one of them was the Alvarado house. Located on Alvarado Street, the two-story building is now California Historical Landmark No. 348 with a plaque installed on September 4, 1949. The plaque reads 'Home of Juan Bautista Alvarado - Native of Monterey, Governor of California under Mexican rule, December 20, 1836 - December 20, 1842. During his administration, the increasing influx of Americans and the Russian settlement at Fort Ross, began to be regarded as a serious problem. Russian withdrew 1841'. The plaque recognizes Alvarado's home as a significant historical site of one of the last Mexican leaders in California who organized the Californios to battle for an independent California. Just down the street from the Alvarado site is another historic house known as the Larkin House. The home was built in 1835 for Thomas Oliver Larkin, who was the only U.S. Consul to California under Mexican rule from 1844 - 1846. In

addition to being the American Consulate, the house was used as a private residence, city hall, and headquarters for General Stephen Kearney and Colonel Richard Mason who was military governor of California from 1846 to 1847. The home has also been preserved and is now a California State Park allowing visitors to see the artistically built home. The proximity to Alvarado's house probably allowed for Alvarado and Larkin to cross paths in their daily activities, and both Kearney and Mason were known to have pursued Alvarado during the Mexican-American War with Alvarado eventually arrested for organizing the Californios in fighting against the U.S. forces during the war. In 1849, the California State Conventional Conference was held in Monterey with 48 delegates from the 10 districts of California to create a constitution for California. The delegates debated for six long days but eventually a constitution was drafted. It was written in both Spanish and English. Within 100 yards of each other in Monterey, Mexican, American and Californian leaders each pursued their own work of bringing new direction to California and changing a way of life which had been initiated in 1602....

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.

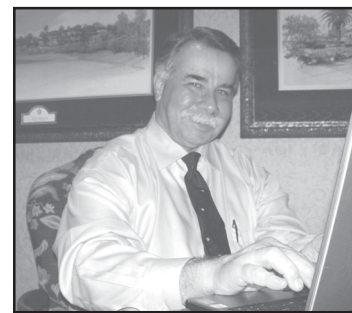
Many Tobacco Smokers Do Try, But...

Many of you who know me know I am a former smoker. I was a smoker that would irritate the hell out of you with my hacking cough. Little did I know at the time, that smoking really wasn't good for me. Just before I went into the military, I quit smoking. After I got out of the military I started going to school and working at that same time. I worked a night shift and going to school during the day. I went to the Police Academy and back then, you could actually smoke. So I started smoking again to help me stay awake. And within a few days, I ended up with that hacking cough again. I smoked for a couple years and finally decided I'm just going to quit. That was 40 years ago.

Way back then, they did not put the type of chemical additives in tobacco that they do today. In many cases, this was for the purpose of stopping insects from eating the tobacco leaves that were on pallets. More additives were put into tobacco to activate the nicotine to be more effective for its consumers. There are so many different chemical additives to the tobacco leaves that's hard for me to believe.

The reason for my tobacco cough is because I am allergic to nicotine. Over the years, with the increased "activity" of nicotine in the cigarettes and other tobacco products has become really rough for me as a non-smoker. I'm not alone with this, with other people as well.

It has gotten so bad for me; I cannot be around other people that smell of tobacco. Most smokers do their best to respect other people who do not smoke. I can't tell you how much non-smokers appreciate this. However, there are other issues that also need to be considered. If I meet somebody new, I dare not dare to shake hands with that person as I do not know if they are smokers. I am so allergic to nicotine and if I get it on my hands or



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

if a smoker hugs me, I can have a pretty bad reaction. A couple of months ago, I did a show and called the young lady up on stage and it wasn't until then that I realized that she was a smoker. I could smell it on her. I shortened that part of the skit just to get rid of her. Later on after the show, we were in the patio area and I was drinking one of those fake beers when this "same" young girl that I had on stage came up to me with her girlfriends. She appeared to be pretty intoxicated. She wanted to get some pictures taken with me; she was hanging all over me and rather a frisky fashion. The problem was she had a cigarette in one hand.

We did this so-called photo shoot for a couple minutes and then she went on her way. Within minutes, I was having trouble. I was in Burbank and needed to head back to the East San Gabriel Valley to get home. It was coming up on 2 AM. I did not make it. I exited the freeway and went to the VA hospital in downtown Los Angeles which is an outpatient clinic and it was closed. I pulled into the street level parking lot and was quickly challenged by security. They wanted to call the paramedics because of my condition. I talked him out of it and told him that this would pass and I would be on my way. I just needed some time to get it myself together. He thought I had been in a fight because the blood vessels in my nose had hemorrhaged and my gums were swollen and bleeding. I was coughing and sneezing blood. Pretty scary!

I was messed up for the following two months. I do take medication for this however I did not that night.

So what can nicotine do to people like me that are allergic to this chemical. Nicotine on direct application in humans causes irritation and burning sensation in the mouth and throat, increased salivation, nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea. Gastrointestinal effects are less severe but can occur even after coetaneous and respiratory exposure. Predominant immediate effects as seen in animal studies and in humans consist of increase in pulse rate and blood pressure. Nicotine also causes an increase in plasma free fatty acids, hyperglycemia, and an increase in the level of catecholamines in the blood. There is reduced coronary blood flow but an increased skeletal muscle blood flow. The increased rate of respiration causes hypothermia, a hypercoagulable state, decreases skin temperature, and increases the blood viscosity. (Trust me, I didn't know all of this off the top of my head, I looked some of it up).

The addictive ingredient in cigarettes can be quite a lethal compound. It's widely recognized to be deadly at doses between 30 and 60 milligrams, making it more dangerous than both arsenic and cyanide.

Nicotine is one of the most toxic of all poisons and has a rapid onset of action. Apart from local actions, the target organs are the peripheral and central nervous systems. In severe poisoning, there are tremors, prostration, cyanosis, dypnoea, convulsion, progression to collapse and coma. Even death may occur from paralysis of respiratory muscles and/or central respiratory failure with a LD50 in adults of around 30-60 mg of nicotine. In children the LD50 is around 10 mg. Call your doctor immediately or get emergency medi-

cal help if you experience any of the following serious side effects: Signs of an allergic reaction, which may include hives, breathing difficulties, or swelling of the lips, face, tongue, or throat, chest pain, uneven heartbeats, seizures, weakness, severe rash or swelling.

Do you wonder what chemicals are actually in cigarettes? Cigarette smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals, including 43 known cancer-causing (carcinogenic) compounds and 400 other toxins. These cigarette ingredients include nicotine, tar, and carbon monoxide, as well as formaldehyde, ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, arsenic, and DDT... and much more. Some of the additives are to kill insects, stop mold, and preserve the leaves and to enhance some of the active chemicals.

I am in charge of running a large cocktail bar. We cannot hire any bartender that smokes. This is for a number of reasons including liability. If the bartender opens up a beer for example, and she or he just got through smoking a cigarette, there is a huge chance that there will be nicotine exposure to the top of that bottle. In the past, we have had customers complain that the bartender smells like an ashtray. So the bottom line would be, if you smoke, don't apply.

For all you smokers out there who try so hard to respect the non-smokers, we thank you so much. You may want to consider using the fist-bump instead of a handshake and explain to the other party that you smoke and out of respect you are doing the fist-bump instead of a handshake. I'm sure they will be very appreciative, and if they don't have an issue, they will open their hand for a handshake.

We all live on this planet together, and a little respect, goes a long way.

"That's Just the Way it Is!"



Stocks Explode out of the Gate in 2018

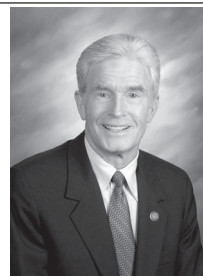
2018 is off to a roaring start as the market momentum that was lagging for a good part of December is now back, with relative strength indicators pointing to higher prices for stocks in most sectors. I find the hot start to the New Year attributable to a global wake-up call about what the upside of tax reform will mean to rising corporate profits. This has triggered a buying wave of cash coming off the sidelines that is nothing short of impressive.

Some market professionals express that the strong market gains may also be a result of what is called the "January Effect". Several theories have been put forth to explain why the January Effect occurs. One explanation is that mutual fund managers will sometimes go shopping at the end of December to purchase stocks that have appreciated significantly during the year - a deceptive practice known as "window dressing." Any holdings that a fund owns at year-end will be listed in its annual report to shareholders, and it always looks good for a portfolio to contain a few big winners among their holdings.

Conversely, as the end of the year approaches, many investors unload shares of underperforming stocks. Some of them may be simply trying to cut their ties to bad investments in order to get a fresh start to the new year. Primarily, though, year-end trading is heavily influenced by tax considerations, and many people sell their losers in order to realize capital losses that can be used to offset capital gains. Once the new year begins, proceeds from those sales are deployed back into the market, sending prices higher.

There is also the notion that a boost in stock prices can be attributed to investor psychology. For many investors and corporate

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

retirement fund managers, the start of January is a good time to fund retirement accounts, since it provides the greatest amount of time during the calendar year for assets to grow on a tax-deferred basis. That makes sense as positive money flow is the oxygen for higher stock prices.

My colleagues on Wall Street feel that all three of these elements are contributing to the current elevation of stock prices against the investing landscape of synchronized global growth, structurally relatively low interest rates, and the low risk of core inflation spiking.

As we all know, the stock market doesn't move straight up without bouts of intense short-term selling to relieve technically overbought conditions. Following a torrid week of gains, many on Wall Street expect the market to pause in front of the fourth-quarter earnings. Not only should the companies that make up the S&P 500 post a solid Q4 2017, the bigger story will be what forward guidance commentary looks like with tax reform providing a major tailwind for further gains.

So - now that the Dow has crossed 26,000, the S&P has cleared 2,800, and the Nasdaq has topped 7,300, what does that mean for the market on a short-term and intermediate term basis? Is the market rich and overvalued or does the bull trend have a higher valuation perspective in store? There is no substitute for

the Wall Street adage of "the trend is your friend" and this time around is no different.

Are There Any Concerns About Inflation?

Bond traders are concerned about inflation, just as they were at this time last year. The difference is a much stronger case for faster inflation now, particularly to those who give credence to the traditional understanding of a trade-off between labor slack and inflation. As a result, inflation is likely to be the most significant influence on interest rates this year in three ways: 1. The actual inflation figures; 2. The way the FOMC reacts to inflation "inputs"; and 3. How both affect inflation expectations.

Tax cuts should have a significant effect on economic growth for 2018, primarily thanks to the significantly lower corporate rate. Many analysts on Wall Street have raised their growth forecast to 3.3% in 2018 and 3.5% in 2019 because the US cannot be the only G-30 economy immune to a lower corporate rate. Significant cuts in the UK, in Ireland and Germany had big, lasting GDP effects. The many commentators who view that the benefits in the US will be negligible or temporary are overcautious. It's noteworthy that in the UK, where the corporate rate was most recently cut, the government forecast declining tax revenues. The economy grew so much, however, that revenues are higher despite a rate more than a third lower than where it started. Indeed, the biggest risk to the forecast here in the US is faster growth.

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

We have a mortgage and a HELOC on our home. How does the new tax law affect our mortgage interest deductions?

The old tax law allowed taxpayers who itemized to deduct mortgage interest on mortgages totaling up to \$1.1 million, including home equity loans up to \$100,000. The new tax law does not allow taxpayers to deduct mortgage interest paid on old or new home equity loans. Because you got your main home mortgage loan before January 1, 2018, that mortgage limit amount stays at \$1.1 million for determining your deduction. Those whose have a mortgage beginning January 1, 2018 (until January 1, 2016) can only deduct mortgage interest on a mortgage loan up to \$750,000. Again, no more HELOC and 2nd's mortgage interest deduction for anybody. If your total (main mortgage plus HELOC) is less than \$750,000, you might want to consider refinancing both loans into one main mortgage.

How can I reduce the anticipated amount of my tax bill?

You have until April 17, 2018 to take action. If you qualify, (mostly based on income limits), you might consider putting up to \$5,000 (\$6,000 if you are 50 or older) into an IRA (Individual Retirement Account). (Roth IRA's don't give you an upfront tax break.) Some lower-income taxpayers might qualify for a Retirement Savers Tax Credit. Note that a tax credit has a lot more impact on your tax bill than a tax deduction.

I don't need the earnings from my investments at this



Julia Yoder

time, and it's putting me into a higher tax bracket. My CPA suggests I mortgage my paid-off house so I can write off the interest. I don't want to do that! Is there another way to lower my tax bracket?

Since you do not need the investment earnings, you could reposition your investment dollars into a tax-deferred product. That way, you'll only pay taxes on the earnings when you decide to use the money. Financing a paid-off home in order to get the mortgage-interest write-off is throwing your money away. First of all, it takes time to recover the costs involved in getting a mortgage. Secondly, if you work out the math, you would be paying roughly \$2 - \$3 per \$1 of mortgage-interest deduction; that's not good.

We cannot afford life insurance, long-term care insurance, AND investing in retirement. What do you recommend?

There are life insurance policies that can also cover your long-term care needs in the future. Often these policies not only leave your heirs an inheritance upon your death, but also

give you access to some of the money while you are alive. There are also annuities which have living benefits for expenses such as health, emergencies, retirement income, education, entertainment, and more.

What are the different retirement accounts, and which one(s) are best?

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

Ask Julia by email:
juliayoder@yahoo.com

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

Home loan application:
<https://blink.mortgage/app/signup/p/allsourcemortgage/juliayoder>

Accident-Medical-Dental discount plans:
CalStarBenefits.com/28485

Don't Miss the Deadline to Reduce Your Property Tax!

by **Jerome E. Horton**
Member, 3rd District
State Board of Equalization

The deadline to file your claim for an up to \$7,000 property tax exemption is February 15, 2018 - after that date, you will only be eligible to receive 80% of the exemption. I know that most of us are concentrating on getting our personal income tax filed by April 18 and claiming the up to \$6,318 in federal earned income tax credits (EITC), up to \$2,775 in state EITC, and other appropriate deductions. But don't forget about your Homeowner's property tax exemption!

To claim the Homeowners' Exemption, you must be an owner, co-owner, or purchaser listed on the contract of sale for your principle place of residence. To determine whether your property is your principal place of residence, think about the address on your voter registration, your car registration, and where you re-

turn after work. Essentially, this is the place where you will live for the majority of your time this year.

Much to my dismay, over 400,000 taxpayers in Los Angeles County and 27,000 taxpayers in Ventura County forget to claim their Homeowner's property tax exemption, according to Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang and Ventura County Assessor Dan Goodwin. During these times of Tax Reform it is important that homeowners familiarize themselves with the various tax deductions, credits, and exemptions to minimize their tax liabilities, maximize their refunds, and lower their cost of living.

With over 8 million Californians living in poverty and an epidemic of homelessness, mental illness, and drug addiction throughout the state, lowering one's tax liability is one way to

stimulate the economy and create jobs. In Los Angeles County the population of low-income individuals is higher than the average for the state. The Homeowner's Exemption and the federal and state EITC are a few of many forms of tax relief available to them that can help them survive the high cost of living in California.

For more information on how to file your claim to receive the full property tax exemption, and for answers to any questions you may have, visit my website at http://boe.ca.gov/members/horton/property_taxes.html. Also, to get free tax preparation assistance, find a Volunteer Income Tax (VITA) site near you at <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>. VITA services are offered at convenient times and locations in Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties during tax season.

Californians Arrive Prepared to Apply for REAL ID Cards

SACRAMENTO - On January 22, the first day the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offered Californians the opportunity to apply for a REAL ID driver license or identification (ID) card, more than 5,000 customers submitted applications for a REAL ID compliant card. Many said they used the REAL ID interactive checklist at REALID.dmv.ca.gov to gather the required documents needed to apply for the new federal compliant REAL ID card.

"We are pleased with the interest Californians are showing in this new optional card," DMV Director Jean Shiomoto said. "The REAL ID card is available to Californians who want to con-

tinue to use their driver license or ID card to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities when new federal requirements take effect October 1, 2020."

There is no need to rush into a DMV field office to apply for a REAL ID because the federal requirements don't go into effect until October 1, 2020. The ideal time to apply would be at the time of your driver license renewal.

A valid California driver license or ID card can be used for federal purposes, including boarding a domestic flight and entering military bases or secure federal facilities, until October 1, 2020. After that date, only a REAL ID card or other federally

approved documents will be accepted, such as a valid U.S. passport, passport card or military ID.

To apply for a REAL ID:

- Make an appointment (recommended) to visit a DMV field office.
- Provide proof of identity, such as a certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, employment authorization document, permanent resident card or foreign passport with an approved form I-94.
- Present proof of your Social Security number, such as an SSN card, W-2 or paystub with full SSN.
- Show a California residency document, such as a rental or



THE CAR GURU

WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

Replacing a Car Battery... Why It Takes an Expert!

Our vehicles are much more complicated than they used to be. Each system is controlled by a separate computer module and each car can have as many as twenty of these modules. They each have their own "memory" and they depend upon the car's battery to keep the memory intact.

We all have had to reset our car's clock after a battery disconnect but these days more can be lost than your car's clock time. Here are some of the issues that can occur after a battery power failure or disconnect:

- Loss of time on the clock, loss of set radio stations and

anti-theft lockout

- Stalling, failure of emission monitors
- Loss of power seat and mirror positions

• Door control loss such as locking, driver door switch pad, child lock switches, etc., which are associated with the driver's door. In most of the cases the driver door module acts as a master and others act as slaves in communication protocols.

If you have replaced your car's

battery on your own and you are experiencing any of these issues, please contact us today. We can help your car get its memory back!

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.

Home Town Service You Can Count On!

Retired Teachers to Hear Update from Local Superintendents

Change of Location: Meet at Monrovia Community Center on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 11:30 am!

MONROVIA - Members of the California Retired Teachers' Association #71 (CalRTA-SGV) will have the opportunity to hear from area superintendents about changes and innovations in the public schools they represent. The Retired Teachers will learn more about current building projects, changes in curriculum, emphasis on STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math), student achievement, and much more.

The CalRTA #71 luncheon meeting will take place on Friday, February 9, at 11:30 a.m. at the Monrovia Community Center on 119 S. Palm Ave., Monrovia CA 91016. This is a change of location because of renovations at the customary meeting place

in Arcadia. Some parking is available next to the Monrovia Community Center, but more ample parking is available on the street and is still close to the meeting place. The cost of the luncheon is \$12 for members. For luncheon reservations, please call John Gera at (626) 286-0714 by February 2. The cost of the luncheon for those who pay at the door without reservations is \$13.

Membership in the California Retired Teachers' Association is open to all retired educators, as well as to current educators and to any others interested in joining this active group. CalRTA's motto is "Your Partner in Pension Protection."



Around the Valley & Senior News

AZUSA

Volunteer Drivers Needed

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

TOPS Meeting

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

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

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

ARCADIA

Arcadia Senior Card Club Looking For New Members

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

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

BALDWIN PARK Candlemass Cultural Celebration

Join us on Friday, **February 2nd** from 9:00 am – 11:00 am in celebrating Candlemass with a warm tamale and coffee for breakfast. We will also be having live performances by a Mariachi and Ballet Folklorico. Tickets are \$5. Last day to register is Thursday, **February 1st**. Call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323 for more info.

Valentines Dance

Come enjoy a romantic evening at the Julia McNeill Senior Center on Saturday, **February 10th** from 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm. There will be live music performance, raffles, and much more! So bring your sweetheart for a night of fun and dancing. Hot meals will also be available for a nominal fee of \$6.00. \$15 for pre-sale tickets and \$20 at the door. Call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323 for more info.

Trip to The Grove & Farmer's Market

Come join on Thursday, **February 8th** from 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm as we drive out to The Grove and Farmer's Market in Fairfax. The Grove is a world-renowned shopping, dining and entertainment destination where guest can experience old-fashioned trolley rides and magnificent dancing fountains. If you're looking for fresh produce and a fun atmosphere, visit the Original Farm-

er's Market. Located right next to The Grove, the Farmer's Market offers over 100 gourmet grocers, restaurants from across the globe, and world class shopping in an open-air setting. Try the "La Chezy Moi" Nutella crepe at The French Crepe Co. or a Shrimp Po'Boy from The Gumbo Pot. Meals not included. Tickets are \$10. For more information, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323.

Annual Lunar New Year Celebration

The City of Baldwin Park in partnership with Baldwin Park Unified School District Older Adult Program, will be hosting our Annual Lunar New Year Celebration. Please join us as we celebrate the Year of the Dog on Friday, **February 16th** from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Celebration will take place at the Performing Arts Center located at 4640 N. Maine Avenue, Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

Location to register for all events and workshops is at Julia McNeill Senior Center, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd., Baldwin Park. Call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323 for more info.

McNeill Fitness Program

A challenging but accessible workout regimen, which includes basic calisthenics, arm workouts, legs and torso, and a steady run/walk around Morgan Park. Nutritional guidance is also offered. Eating well and exercising will not only improve your overall health, but also improves your mood and energy levels. Group meets in senior center dining hall Monday through Thursday from 8:00am – 9:00am. This class is free to participate. For more information on the class or registering, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323

February Birthday Celebration

Join the Julia McNeill Senior Center monthly Birthday Celebration on the third Wednesday of the month (Feb 21) from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. Dance to the music of DJ Sonic Boom as active adults celebrate their birthday. Have some cake and lots of music, as well as door prizes for your celebration! \$1 door admission.

Call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323 for more info.

COVINA

Community Garden Parcels

The City of Covina Parks & Recreation Department has a Community Garden located at Cougar Park. Parcels are now available. Grow your own vegetables alongside other gardeners who are passionate about gardening and growing healthy organic produce! Annual fee of \$50 for large or handicap accessible parcel, and \$44 for small parcel. Applications are available at covinaca.gov. For more information, call (626) 384-5340.

Covina's T.E.A.M.

The City of Covina Parks & Recreation Department is looking for Covina teens who would like to help out and volunteer in their community. Join Covina's T.E.A.M. (Teens Endeavor to Accomplish More) and participate in service projects and community events each month. Attend a

meeting for more information. Meetings held on Tuesdays (February 13, March 6, and April 10) 6-7 p.m. at Cougar Park, 150 W. Puente Street. No preregistration required.

For more information, call (626) 384-5340.

Basketball And T-Ball

The City of Covina Parks & Recreation Department is offering Winter Basketball for ages 18 months-11 years and T-ball for ages 3-6. These programs provide instruction and fun in a non-competitive atmosphere. For more information or to register, please call (626) 384-5340 or visit covinaca.gov.

DUARTE

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 \$3. 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.

Volunteering Does Your Heart Good!

The Duarte Senior Center is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to give back to the community, please consider being a Senior Center volunteer. For more information call 357-3513.

GLENDORA

Not Exactly! The Price Is Right Game Show

Guests will enjoy a Mexican style dinner with fun games and entertainment even before the show begins! The Travelin' Game Show will be hosting "Not Exactly! The Price is Right at the La Fetra Center. You'll have a chance to come on down and play games similar to those on the classic game show we all know and love. Don't miss out on this opportunity for a fun night! To register, please sign up in person at the La Fetra Center. \$12 per person Saturday, **February 10** 5:00pm to 7:30pm. For more information please call (626)914-8235.

Alzheimer's Peer Support Group

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's can be frustrating, challenging, and sometimes distressful. This peer support group is designed to share experiences, coping strategies, information, and ideas with each other, and to offer understanding and encouragement to one another. We meet the **2nd Thursday of each month** from 6:30-8:30 pm at Glenkirk Church, 1700 Palopinto

Ave., Glendora, in Room #11. We caregivers look forward to lifting each other up as we journey through this season of life. For more info, visit glenkirkchurch.org or call Glenkirk's church office at (626) 914-4833.

Glendora After Stroke Center

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

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.

Instructors Needed At The La Fetra Center

The City of Glendora's La Fetra Center is looking for new class instructors! We are seeking out instructors to teach the following: Cooking classes, Spanish lessons, and American Sign Language (ASL) classes. Share your talents with your peers! If you would like more information on teaching a class at the La Fetra Center please contact Jennelle Markel at (626)9148-8235, or please email jmarkel@ci.glendora.ca.us.

LA VERNE

Farmers Market

"La Verne Fresh," Old Town La Verne's certified Farmers Market continues every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Farmers Market is located at the corner of D Street and Third Street, south of Bonita Avenue. The market features a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, specialty foods, fresh flowers and plants, tasty food offerings, and unique handcrafted artisan goods. Live music is always provided. The merchants of Old Town La Verne sponsor and support this Farmers Market and hope you will support La Verne's own Farmers Market. For current information please check out La Verne FRESH Old Town Certified Farmers Market on Facebook, or call (714) 345-3087 or City Hall at (909) 596-8706.

Get About

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Transportation

Get About provides transportation for seniors aged 60+ and disabled residents of Claremont, La Verne, Pomona, and San Dimas. The door-to-door service can be used for shopping, doctor's appointments, church, senior nutrition sites and many other locations within the four cities. The service operates seven days a week and membership is free.

To Register: (909) 621-9900
To Schedule a ride: (909) 596-5964

For more information, contact Abby Nuyda at 909.621.9900, Extension 228.

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 Thursday 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

TOPS Meeting

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) meets **every Thursday** at 6 pm at the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St in the classroom building. The weight loss group seeks members who wish to lose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Meetings last until about 7:30 and the first meeting is free. Visitors are always welcome. Come for support with your weight loss journey. You can do it! For more information, contact Erika Hernandez 626-384-0502 or email: ehernandez57@aol.com

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.

Kid's Night Out - My Funny Valentine!

ARCADIA - Valentine's Day is a sweet one! Giving out cards and receiving them is so fun! Flowers and hearts are the decorations, a day to show you care is reason for celebration! Chocolate and candy are sweet presents too, we love Valentine's Day, how about you? Come join us for some sweet fun! Kid's Night Out, on Friday, **February 9** - 6-11pm,

provides kids a night of fun and play so parents can enjoy an evening out or a quiet one at home. The Arcadia Recreation Staff and Volunteers offer dinner, themed games, supervision and a movie for children ages 4 and above. (Accommodations cannot be made for special dietary needs.) The fun takes place at the Arcadia Community Center, 365

Huntington Drive, Arcadia 91007, from 6-11pm. The cost is \$22.00 per child and includes snacks and beverages. Pre-registration is mandatory and can be done on-line at ArcadiaCA.gov by fax, 626.821.4370 or by coming into the Recreation Office, 375 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007. For more information please call 626.574.5113.

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El Monte Council Appoints New City Manager

EL MONTE—The El Monte City Council unanimously appointed Alex Hamilton as the City Manager Tuesday, January 23. Mr. Hamilton has been serving as El Monte's Assistant City Manager since 2015.

"Alex Hamilton has been an effective Assistant City Manager since he started working for our City," said El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero. "The City has been building momentum for many years and his leadership and steady hand will allow us to maintain continuity and continue building the future."

As a public servant, Mr. Hamilton has over 25-years' experience working in federal and local government. He began his career in the U.S Army Corp of Engineers in the Environmental Resources Branch.

"Alex Hamilton is a seasoned public servant," said Mayor Pro Tem Juventino "J" Gomez. "With his experience leading local government, we will maintain the City's drumbeat of success."

Mr. Hamilton's tenure in local government includes serving the cities of Los Angeles, Norwalk, Glendale, Com-



El Monte City Council appoints Alex Hamilton as City Manager.

merce, Montebello, and most currently El Monte. Within local government, Mr. Hamilton has worked in diverse areas, including planning, economic development and city administration.

"Throughout his tenure as Assistant City Manager, Alex has shown a diverse skillset that makes him an effective leader," said Councilmember

Norma Macias. "I look forward to this chapter of El Monte's leadership and the successes to come."

As Assistant City Manager for El Monte, Mr. Hamilton directed the development of the City's Economic Development Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2017. The Economic Development Plan serves as a roadmap for development in the City. Mr. Hamilton also facilitated the creation of the City's Strategic Goals and Objectives, adopted by the City Council in 2016.

"Alex has demonstrated a strong commitment to the City and its residents," said Councilmember Victoria Martinez. "With his guidance, we will continue bringing projects and programs that best serve our community."

Mr. Hamilton holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the California State University, Los Angeles.

"Two years ago, Alex Hamilton joined the City of El Monte as Assistant City Manager and he has been a part of the integral growth of the City," said Councilmember Jerry Velasco. "Today, his dedication and commitment has earned him the position of the City of El Monte's new City Manager. Working together, we will ensure El Monte continues to move forward."

Los Angeles County Board Of Supervisors Honors Deputy Probation Officer Catherine Brennan



2nd District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chief Probation Officer Terri L. McDonald, 4th District Supervisor Janice Hahn, 3rd District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 1st District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, DPO II Catherine Brennan and her husband, Mike Brennan, Chief Deputy Probation Officer Reaver Bingham, 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors proudly recognized Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officer II (DPO II) Catherine Brennan as the 2017 Award of Excellence recipient from the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) during its meeting on Tuesday, January 23.

The CPOC Award of Excellence is presented to a probation employee making significant contributions that have had statewide or far-reaching impact on the field of probation. These nominees can come from one of the 19,000 sworn, non-sworn or management ranks of Probation Departments across the state. Nominations are made by, or on behalf of individual Chief Probation Officers. One recipient is chosen from nominees throughout the state.

"Deputy Probation Officer II Catherine Brennan exemplifies a model of excellence for Probation Officers statewide," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, who arranged the Board's recognition of Brennan. "Probation Officer Brennan and her team have been positively impacting the lives of veterans, transitional age youth, victims of human

trafficking, those with mental illnesses, and our chronically homeless population by identifying modern approaches to reducing recidivism and promoting alternative sentencing frameworks. Probation Officer Brennan's efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I congratulate her and the entire Los Angeles County Probation Department on this well-deserved honor."

Probation Officer Brennan serves in the Community Collaborative Court (CCC) program within the Probation Department's Adult Services Court Officer Team (ASCOT) since 2015. The CCC program utilizes alternative sentencing, such as Drug Court, Veteran's Court, or Second-Chance Women's Re-entry Court for criminal offenses. These courts are community service-based alternatives to traditional incarceration which has proven to reduce recidivism. Brennan's work with probationers who are veterans, homeless, mentally-ill, substance abusers, and victims of human trafficking have garnered praise throughout the Los Angeles Superior Courts.

In the CCC program, a collaborative team approach with various agencies is used to identify the proposed level of care and treatment placement necessary to assist the probationer with appropriate services. Brennan, who has been with the Los Angeles County Probation Department since 1989, acts as a liaison between county and municipal agencies

and the Probation Department for her clients, frequently visiting them in Los Angeles and surrounding counties. Her concern is for the benefit of her clients, and credits the frequent collaboration with colleagues across the social services spectrum as an essential element in making her work effective.


"There are so many people who work alongside with me who share in this recognition," said Brennan. "Probation has offered many challenges and opportunities that I am thankful for and I am so proud and grateful to do the work that I do."

Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officer II Martha Aguirre, Senior Director Dalila Alcantara, Senior Detention Services Officer Ruth Tyson, Los Angeles County Probation Commissioner Don Meredith and Board of Supervisors Third District Justice Deputy Sherry Gold were also recognized by CPOC, receiving a Distinguished Service Certificate for their meritorious service.

The Chief Probation Officers of California is leadership association composed of Probation Department Chiefs from all 58 California counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders who are committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. CPOC's goal is to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims and promote healthy families and communities.

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The Glendora Woman's Club To Present Guest Speaker Robert Broski

By Joan Hallidy

GLENDORA - The Glendora Woman's Club will present speaker Robert Broski at the club's luncheon-meeting on Tuesday, **February 6**. His program titled "A Look at President Abraham Lincoln" is part of Broski's personal commitment to bring Lincoln's life and achievements to more audience. He has presented his special program at schools, churches, clubs, and presidential libraries, to name a few.

Special events have included Civil War reenactments. Broski has also portrayed President Lincoln in films, television, plays, and commercials said program vice president Helen Storland.

The Woman's Club meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a social time, followed by the business meeting at 11 a.m. The catered luncheon by Ritz Catering around noontime will be followed by the program by guest speaker Robert Broski.

The Members' Participation Art Display, held every month, featured a different display theme each meeting. The theme this month will be Red, White and Blue said committee member Loretta Salazar.

One of the club's ongoing service projects is Shepherd's Pantry, located in Glendora. The Pantry services families in need in 10 area cities and members are asked to donate non-perishable food items at club



Robert Broski, portraying President Lincoln, is the guest speaker for Glendora Woman's Club's luncheon-meeting. His program is titled "A Look at President Abraham Lincoln."

meetings for the families in need, said project chair Gloria Liddle.

Coming up on Tuesday, March 20, will be the Club's Annual Fashion Show, with the theme this year of "Journey To Hawaii." Fashions will be from Dressbarn and Undercovers Intimate Apparel, with the luncheon by Ritz Catering, said even co-chairs Joy Martau and Carolyn Cunningham. To or-

der Fashion Show tickets at \$40, or for more information, call 929-598-0554. Fashion Show sponsorships, available at four levels to choose from, the revenue will help the club continue its philanthropic donations and service projects. To participate as a sponsor as a sponsor by February 15, call 626-963-7725.

For more information about the Woman's Club, its four departments, service projects, or special events, call Patty at 909-929-0684; for information about renting the clubhouse or hall for a special event or meeting, call Ryan at Ritz Catering at 909-592-1130. The clubhouse is located at 424 N. Glendora Avenue in Glendora.

Work Force Training Center Debuts at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services



LA VERNE - A critical challenge for youth transitioning out of foster care is gaining the experience to skillfully enter the workforce. Without work experience, life skills, coaching, and support, these youth have difficulty obtaining employment and become prey to substance abuse, criminal activity, and homelessness.

The grand opening of the Youth Workforce Training Center at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services on January 24th was attended by transitional age youth in the program; members of the La Verne and Claremont Chambers of Commerce; representatives of local, regional and state officials; board members and employees of the agency; and many other supporters.

The new Center exposes local foster youth in the agency's Youth Workforce Training Program to job experience in retail and culinary service through internships. Working in a retail

store and café motivates youth toward self reliance, while boosting self confidence. Located at 1351 Palomares Ave., La Verne, on the agency's south campus, the Center houses three components:

· The Store @ David & Margaret. Hours: Monday, 1:00-6:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

· Dave & Maggie's Café. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00

a.m.-3:00 p.m. · The Workforce Training Lab, which provides a space to focus on independent living and job skills for transitional age youth.

For more information on the Youth Workforce Training Program, visit www.DavidandMargaret.org, or contact Transitional Living Programs Manager Marissa Scholefield at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3625, or ScholefieldM@DavidandMargaret.org.

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.

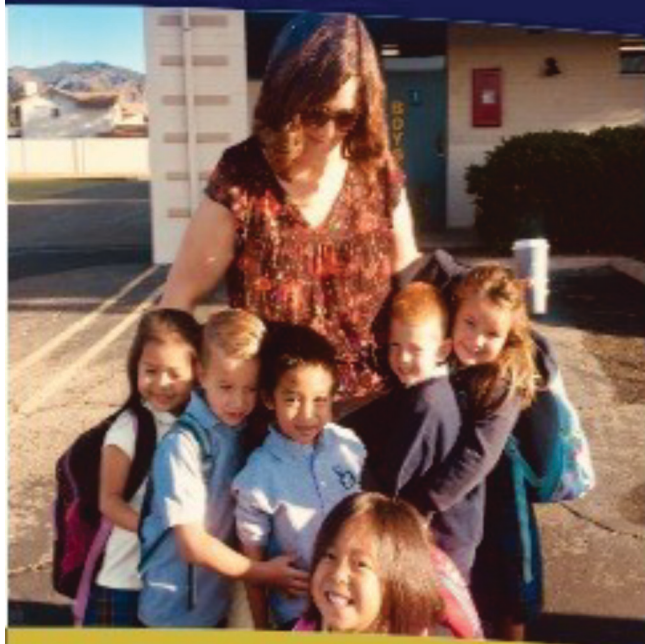
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