



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

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INSIDE



Legalized Cannabis / A3

Claremont Station Artist



Joyce Kohl / A7

INDEX

Commentary	A4
Financial/Consumer	A5
Legal Notices	B1
City Notices	B10

The 2018 Rose Parade Floats Are Winners As Irwindale Becomes A Float Building Mecca

by Howard Palmer

PASADENA - It was typical Rose Parade weather in Pasadena, the sky a brilliant blue and temperature on the rise as thousands of spectators awaited the start of the 129th Rose Parade with its theme "Making A Difference". The anticipation of the parade's start was raised as the opening show presented by Honda commenced. Suddenly the crowd looked skyward as the Air Force B-2 Spirit stealth bomber came sweeping low over the parade route. Shouting "Here it comes" as it approached, every camera was quickly pointed to the west. The bomber's 172-foot wingspan, more than half the length of a football field, could not be missed. Everyone from the start to the end of the parade route knew the Rose Parade was underway.

The beauty of the floats, music of the bands, and prancing of horses more than met the hopes of the spectators. Two hours of continuous oohs and ahs. Although all the floats have their own special theme the crowd looks for who will take the top honor. The Sweepstakes Trophy is awarded to the most beautiful float having an outstanding floral presentation and design. The Singpoli American BD headquartered in Pasadena won this pres-



The Sweepstakes Trophy went to the Singpoli American BD float with its jumping fish.

tigious award for the second time with their float titled "Rising Above". They received this top honor in 2016 and have won an award for five straight years. Their floats have been built by Paradiso Parade Floats and this year's float was one of the most

densely flowered floats in the parade with over 250,000 blooms. The float featured three magnificent animated fish and eight waterfalls as well as mist.

The significance of the leaping fish is tied to the Legend of the Dragon Gate. According to the legend fish who swim upstream in the Yellow River aim to reach the gate at the source of the river. If they can jump over the gate they will be transformed into dragons. The legend ties into the theme "Making A Difference" with the encouraging message of perseverance. Never give up through life's adversities and you can make a difference in the world.

In 2017 a major relocation occurred for one of the float construction companies. The Phoenix Decorating Company moved from its facilities in Pasadena to Irwindale. Phoenix has been

building floats since 1985. The name is renowned in float building and could be considered synonymous with the Tournament of Roses. Now two of the primary float-building companies are located in Irwindale, Phoenix and Fiesta Parade Floats. Fiesta has been in Irwindale for many years. They designed and built the Rain Bird Corporation floats from

1997 through 2010 winning the Sweepstakes Award nine times during their association. Sunday, the day before the Rose Parade you could see 29 of this year's floats lined up on Irwindale Avenue as they proceeded on their trek to Pasadena. Many who could not be at the parade had their own mini-parade viewing.

Photos by Jean Palmer

AUSD Board Member Yolanda Pena Hosts 15th Annual Children Christmas Party

By Jorge V. Rosales

AZUSA - This year School Board Member Yolanda Peña and her family hosted the 15th annual neighborhood children Christmas party, known as "Posada Para Los Niños" (Lodging For Children), in memory of her late husband, Michael Peña, Sr., on Tuesday, December 19 at her residence located on Renwick Road in the City of Azusa from 5:00-8:00 P. M. with the arrival of Santa Claus at 6:00 P. M. There were nearly 300 children in attendance with their parents and approximately 25 volunteers, many of them students from Azusa Pacific University under the direction of Michelle Martinez.

Mike and Yolanda Peña started hosting this event in Azusa over 14 years ago when their oldest son invited them to a Christmas party for children in a neighborhood in Pomona. The children were being served cocoa and cookies and entertained with arts and crafts and a train ride. Yolanda saw how happy those children were and she convinced Mike to do the same for children in their Azusa neighborhood.

It was not hard to convince Mike because they both had grown up in a housing development poor neighborhood near Downtown L. A. in the community of Boyle Heights. When they were children they were taken on field trips during the Christmas holidays to the Shrine Auditorium and



there they were given free gifts and a Christmas stocking. They never forgot the big Christmas tree and Santa Claus at the auditorium, as well as the beautiful Christmas music playing throughout the event.

They were not as fortunate as children in other neighborhoods to have a Christmas tree at home or have the opportunity to go out and see Santa Claus because their parents could not afford it. That's what got them to realize that many parents in their neighborhood could not afford to take their children to the mall to see Santa. They could do a similar event like the one in Pomona for the less fortunate children in their neighborhood. It was their opportunity to give back to the Azusa community, so they decided to bring Santa Claus to them.

When they held their first event in 2003 they were only able to serve cocoa and cookies and give each child a candy

cane. However each year it has grown thanks to the generosity of many people and sponsors. Nowadays the Peña's provide face painting and crafts making for the children, as well as entertainment for children and parents. Her son, Mike Peña, Jr., a professional D.J. played Christmas music all night. She continues to serve cocoa and cookies, in addition to hot dogs, chips, goodie bags and a toy present for each child from a very special Santa Claus.

She got help from many people in the community and family to make this Posada Para Los Niños 2017 a success. Her family is very helpful in decorating the yard with snow globes and lights and setting up for this big event each year.

Children in the community look forward to this event each year. Early in December when they see her in the neighborhood they come up to her and ask her if she is going to have a Posada this year.



Air Force B-2 Spirit stealth bomber was escorted by two F-35s from Edwards AFB during the Rose Parade flyover.

Glendora High School Choral Groups At Glendora Woman's Club



The Glendora High School Illumination Choral Group, wearing costumes with gold sashes, is pictured following the groups recent Christmas program "Music For The Holidays" for the Glendora Woman's Club. At the right, is the groups' director Dr. Brian Trevor, and at the left, is the group's piano accompanist Karen Wingert. Photo Rose Myers

By Joan Hallidy

GLENDORA - "Music For The Holidays" was presented by Glendora High School Girls Choral Groups for the Glendora Woman's Club at a recent program that helped to usher in the Christmas Season, said Club President Chris Lear.

The Christmas program, under the direction of Glendora High School's Dr. Brian Trevor, featured the award-winning Glendora High School Girls Choral Groups of the Sil-

houettes and Illumination. The two choral Groups, performing separately and together, presented a varied program of well-known Christmas songs and traditional arrangements, said program vice president

Helen Storland.

Following the program, Dr. Trevor, who has been with the district for 16 years, gave an update on the group's present activities and future plans.

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Pathfinder Ministry Of Azusa Holds 12th Annual Toy Giveaway

1,496 Children Ages 0-17 Years Old Received A Toy

By Jorge V. Rosales

AZUSA - The climax of an annual effort spearheaded by Mayor Joe Rocha, supported by Pastor Gilbert Becerril of Pathfinder Ministry, and the assistance of several community organizations and dozens of community volunteers took place on Saturday, December 23, 2017, when nearly 300 pre-registered needy parents gathered in the parking lot of the front office of Lee Elementary School commencing at approximately 6:30 a.m. in order to receive one free toy for each of their children for Christmas. They endured the cold weather, with some waiting for over four hours in order to receive what perhaps would be the only toy their children would receive this Christmas.

It was the Azusa Pathfinder Ministry's Twelfth Annual Toy Giveaway organized by Mayor Joe Rocha with the support of Pastor Becerril, MeLisa Dominguez as coordinator, and a group of approximately 100 volunteers, including a couple of Girl Scout groups, Foothill and Slauson Middle school students, and students from all three high schools who in addition to helping with the unloading of toys from trucks, getting them into the cafeteria and sorting them out by gender and age groups, helped with gift wrapping toys for some of the parents if they chose to do so.

The Ministry gets its toys year-round from individuals,

businesses, and toy drives. Toys are collected through toy drives by the Azusa Canyon City Friends which on Sunday, November 26, held its Second Annual Pancho Padilla Christmas Toy Drive Breakfast consisting of Menudo, Pozole, and eggs and pancakes; the Azusa Chamber of Commerce which on December 5 held its 11th Annual Gift of Giving Toy and Fundraiser Drive at the Azusa Eagles Post 180; and by Mike and Yvonne Milton's 6th annual toy drive at their Viewcrest Drive residence in the City Azusa on Friday, December 22. This year a truck load of toys was delivered to Lee school by George Chavarine and 1st Sergeant Naranjo of the Pico Rivera Marine Corps Reserve Center.

The Ministry, with the help of MeLisa Dominguez and the Azusa Unified School District, develops a list of all the children in need by having their parents sign up weeks in advance and verifying the number of children that each family has at the Ministry's weekly food bank and referrals from the AUSD. The day of distribution the toys were distributed to the parents in the order that they had signed up.

Toys had been stored at the Mayor's garage, so before they were transported to Lee Elementary School they were dusted and price tags removed by volunteers. After a prayer and blessing by Pastor Becerril the toys were unloaded and

brought into the cafeteria and then volunteers began to unpack and sort them out on top of the school lunch tables into girls, boys, and infant categories, and by approximate age breakdown.

By 9:00 A. M. over 2000 toys were ready to be distributed. Again this year, there were only two families allowed to enter the cafeteria with their children. The first family was escorted by lifelong resident, Josie Vera. The second family was escorted by Mayor Rocha's Daughter-in law. All other families, only one parent was allowed into the cafeteria to select a toy for each of their children and was accompanied by a volunteer chaperon

As other parents' names were called, each parent was accompanied into the cafeteria by a volunteer escort with a color coded card to indicate the number of toys they were allowed to select; one for each of their children. Once they had completed their selection, they were escorted outside the cafeteria to an area where they were given the opportunity have their toys gift wrapped.

It took less than two hours to escort close to 300 hundred parents, many of which were happy and thankful for the opportunity to give their children a toy and see them smile during this Christmas. Over 1500 children between ages 0 to 17 received a toy for Christmas 2015.



One of the only two families allowed to enter the toy area with children at Pathfinder Ministry's 12th Annual Toy Giveaway at Lee Elementary School's cafeteria with (Left to Right) Escort Rosie Sandoval Rocha, Azusa Mayor Joe Rocha, and George Romero (far right).



Six mobile bench cafeteria tables and benches were overflowing with toys for boys of all ages from toddler to 18 years old on the left side of the Lee Elementary School Cafeteria during the 12th Annual Pathfinder Ministry Toy Giveaway.

Glendora High Students March With Rose Parade Tournament Of Roses Honor Band



Band Members Valerie Olivas, Matt Plazola, Nathan Hang, Natalie Olivas

by Howard Palmer

PASADENA - The Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Honor Band has appeared in every Rose Parade since 1930, making 2018 its 89th consecutive appearance. The current PCC Lancer Band members are joined by a select group of Southern California high school students representing over 70 high school bands. More than 600 students auditioned for 200 plus spots in the Honor Band.

Nine Glendora High School Band and Pageantry members were selected for this year's Honor Band. This is the most ever to be chosen from GHS. They are composed of three seniors, five juniors, and a sophomore first-timer.

The time commitment for Honor Band members is extensive as they rehearse every Sunday in November and December and almost every day during their winter break to prepare for the six mile trek down Colorado Boulevard. They will have marched over 25 miles in rehearsal before they step off on the parade route. This is one reason why the Tournament of Roses Honor Band looks and sounds as good at the end of

the parade as they do at the beginning.

Four of the students are playing members of the band. Twins, Valerie and Natalie Olivas, are 17 year-old seniors and have been in the GHS band throughout high school. Valerie plays the trombone and said, "I've been in the Honor Band for three straight years and each year it becomes more challenging to be selected". Experience with the band does not give you an automatic selection. Everyone has to go through the interview and try-out procedure every year.

Natalie Olivas plays the trumpet and also has been in the Honor Band before. She chimed in "This is an amazing experience as we have wanted to carry on in our father's footsteps who was the Honor Band drum major in 1984".

Nathan Hang, a senior, plays the euphonium with the GHS band and trombone in the Honor Band. He has been in the GHS band for three years and has experience with the Honor Band and said, "Turning the corner at Colorado Boulevard takes your breath away".

Matt Plazola, a junior, plays alto saxophone and with his

three years marching in parades and field shows at GHS finds the Rose Parade an entirely different atmosphere. Matt said "It hits you. There are millions of people watching you from all over the world!"

Five members of the GHS pageantry made the Honor Band color guard performing with the tall flags. Four are juniors: Emma Loucks, Carolynn Peterson, Lindsay Duckworth and Rose Ciarfalia. The only

sophomore, Idonnia Arriago, was surrounded with the support of the juniors. 150 area students tried out for the 32 spots available in the color guard. The experience marching with the award winning GHS Band and Pageantry paid off for these five students.

Emma Loucks said "I am excited to look back at the pictures after the parade and relive the experience". Carolynn Peterson chimed in "I'm look-

ing forward to seeing the little kids' faces as we go down Colorado".

Lindsay Duckworth surprised everyone with "My uncle was in the Honor Band 30 years ago". Rose Ciarfalia has been in the GHS pageantry drill team that has been undefeated in competition for the

past two years and that speaks for itself. Idonnia Arriago, the only sophomore in the group, was wide-eyed taking it all in.

Marching with the Honor Band in the Rose Parade is a remarkable experience these band members will remember and treasure for a lifetime.



Color Guard Members Idonnia Arriago, Emma Loucks, Carolynn Peterson, Lindsay Duckworth, Rose Ciarfalia



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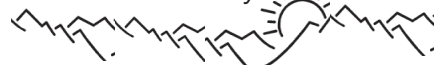
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Legalized Cannabis Is Here: What L.A. County Residents Need To Know In 2018

LOS ANGELES —With retail cannabis sales set to begin in California on Jan. 1, 2018, Los Angeles County residents should be aware of what is—and is not—permitted in their communities.

Although some local cities—including Los Angeles—have opted to permit commercial cannabis operations, many other areas have not, including unincorporated parts of L.A. County. In addition to meeting all local permitting requirements, cannabis businesses must also obtain licenses from the state of California.

Under the new state laws, sales of adult-use cannabis to people under the age of 21 are never permitted, and cannabis can only be purchased legally from licensed retail outlets. It will remain illegal to smoke cannabis in public or to drive under the influence.

Earlier this month, the county's Office of Cannabis Management released a set of proposed cannabis policies for unincorporated areas of the county. The policies seek to "prioritize the protection of public safety and

health as well as the quality of life in our communities," and are tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in January.

Supervisors already have adopted a health and sanitation ordinance for cannabis businesses. The ordinance, approved on Dec. 19, 2017, establishes clear health and safety standards for those preparing and selling cannabis products. The ordinance also requires businesses to abide by operational standards to avoid adversely affecting neighbors. The L.A. County Department of Public Health is working with cities that will permit commercial cannabis operations to im-

plement the new ordinance countywide.

The Office of Cannabis Management is also developing a universal emblem program for cannabis retailers that will include a campaign to educate consumers. Once the program begins in the months ahead, the distinctive emblem, similar to a restaurant grade, will let consumers know at a glance whether a cannabis business is licensed.

For more information, including proposed cannabis regulations for the unincorporated areas, frequently asked questions, resources for parents and teens, and rules for personal cannabis cultivation, please visit <http://cannabis.lacounty.gov>.

Asian Industry B2B New Year Kickoff

ALHAMBRA - The Asian Industry B2B cordially invites business leaders to attend our upcoming monthly mixer, a special New Year's kickoff, featuring Bob Wilson, CEO of H Saga International, a Taiwanese logistics and supply chain company. Bob will be speaking about the transformation of "mom and pop" shops into enterprise and the cross cultural challenges of Western and Eastern cultures in a business setting. We will also feature two speakers: Shawn Herz, of the Heritage Clinic, speaking about mental health issues in the Asian Pacific Islander community and Secretary of State candidate, Mark Meuser, to speak on election integrity and voter rolls.

With a consistent attendance of over 50 firms and profession-

als during our monthly mixers, featuring celebrities and local political figures, AIB2B continues to grow fueled mostly by its charitable initiatives, ranging from military, to autism to cures for terminal diseases.

Networking at AIB2B's event gives you a great opportunity to participate in the local community and advance your business. A RSVP is required to attend.

Events are free of charge with an RSVP required for attendance. Dinner and beverages will be provided.

Asian Industry B2B New Year Kickoff is on Wednesday, **January 10**, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Coldwell Banker - George Realty, 1611 S. Garfield Avenue, Alhambra.

Woman Critical After being Hit by Van

By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - West Covina Police responded to the intersection of La Puente Road and Sentous Avenue in West Covina on Thursday, Dec. 28 round 11:30 a.m., to a pedestrian vs. van traffic accident. When police arrived, they found an unidentified woman unconscious in the street. Paramedics were also dispatched to attend to the critically injured woman. She was transported to the trauma center

at Pomona Valley Hospital.

The woman was not identified nor was the driver of the van who remained at the scene. The accident scene was closed off for about 4 hours and reopened around 3:00 p.m.

The accident is still under investigation and anyone with any information or may have seen something is being urged to contact the West Covina Police Department.

Department of Motor Vehicles Reminds Motorists of New 2018 Laws

SACRAMENTO – With the new year just around the corner, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) wants to inform the public of several new laws or changes to existing law that, unless otherwise noted, take effect January 1, 2018.

Cannabis Use in Vehicles (SB 65, Hill): This law prohibits smoking or ingesting marijuana or marijuana products while driving or riding as a passenger in a vehicle. The DMV will assign negligent operator point counts for this violation. In addition to the California Driver Handbook, the DMV also will revise the Motorcycle Handbook and the DMV's website to include information relating to marijuana violations.

Buses and Seatbelts (SB 20, Hill): Beginning July 1, 2018, this law requires a passenger on a bus equipped with seat belts to be properly restrained by a safety belt. This law also prohibits a parent, legal guardian, or chartering party to transport on a bus, a child who is at least 8 years of age but under 16 years of age, unless they are properly restrained by a safety belt or an appropriate child passenger restraint system that meets federal safety standards. A violation of these provisions is an infraction punishable by a fine.

DUI—Passenger for Hire (AB 2687, Achadjian): Beginning July 1, 2018, this law makes it unlawful for a person to operate a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 percent or more when a passenger for hire is in the vehicle at the time of the offense. This will mean that drivers of passenger for hire, in their personal vehicles, will be held to a higher standard of safety while transporting people. The DMV will suspend a person's driver license if a conviction is added to their record. Commercial driver license holders will receive a disqualification.

Parking Violations for Registration or Driver License Re-

newal (AB 503, Lackey): This law makes changes to a requirement under which vehicle registration renewal and driver license issuance or renewal is not granted for having unpaid parking penalties and fees. The law creates a process for low-income Californians with outstanding parking violations to repay their fines and penalties prior to the parking violation being reported to the DMV. The law also allows the registered owner of a vehicle to file for Planned Non-Operation status when unpaid parking penalties are on the vehicle's record. It also allows for someone with outstanding parking penalties and fees, to obtain or renew a driver license.

HOV Decal Program (AB 544 Bloom): Beginning January 1, 2019, this law creates a new decal program to allow certain low emission vehicles to access high-occupancy vehicle lanes, regardless of vehicle occupancy level, for a four-year term. Access to high-occupancy vehicle lanes for vehicles with green and white decals will expire January 1, 2019. Vehicles issued a green or white decal in 2017 or 2018 will be eligible to reapply for a decal in 2019 granting them access to high-occupancy toll lanes until January 1, 2022.

Disabled Person Parking Placards and Plates (SB 611, Hill): This law makes changes to the administration of the Disabled Person Parking Placard and Disabled Person License Plate Program, including requiring applicants to provide proof of true full name and birthdate. The law also will limit the number of replacement disabled person parking placards an applicant can request without obtaining a medical certification to four in two years. It also requires the DMV to establish a renewal process that requires applicants to return a renewal notice by mail every six years. Currently, all permanent disabled placards expire in June 2019 and they are automatically renewed every two years. The placards

expiring in June 2023 will be the first batch of placards subject to renewal. Applicants will not be required to obtain a medical certification as part of the renewal process. For more information about the new law effecting Disabled Person Placard and Plates, visit the DMV website.

Motorcycle Training Courses (AB 1027, Acosta): This law authorizes the DMV to accept a certificate of satisfactory completion of any motorcyclist-training program approved by the California Highway Patrol in lieu of the required motorcycle skills test. Applicants for an original motorcycle license or motorcycle endorsement under 21 years of age continue to be required to complete a novice motorcyclist-training program.

Firefighter License Plate Program for Surviving Family Member (AB 1338, Low): This law allows a surviving spouse, domestic partner, or child of a deceased firefighter or deceased retired firefighter to independently apply for and receive a California Firefighter Special License Plate for their vehicle.

Private Carriers of Passengers (SB 19, Hill): Beginning July 1, 2018, this law transfers regulatory authority over private carriers of passengers (such as church and youth buses) from the California Public Utilities Commission to the DMV.

Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program (SB 1, Beall): Beginning January 1, 2018, the DMV is required to begin collecting at the time of registration or renewal the Transportation Improvement Fee (TIF) ranging from \$25 - \$175, based on the vehicle's current value. The law also requires the department, beginning July 1, 2020, to collect a Road Improvement Fee for zero-emission vehicles with a model year of 2020 or later. The TIF is based on the vehicle's current market value. Customers with a vehicle renewal notice due on January 1, 2018 and later will include the TIF.



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Two Dead in Baldwin Park, Murder/Suicide

By George Ogden

BALDWIN PARK - Baldwin Park police responded to the 4200 block of Center Street for the second day in a row. This time it was on Tuesday, the day after Christmas.

Christmas day officers were there for a domestic violence issue. Albert Villagomes Ong, 49, who had a restraining order to

stay away from his estranged wife, was creating an issue. He had a history of domestic violence in the past and had been arrested the year before for a felony domestic violence and released on a \$50,000 bail. He was sentenced to 3 years probation and to do 52 weeks of domestic violence counseling. He also had a recent arrest Dec. 15,

2017 which was 10 days before which appear to be a violation of the restraining order. He was released on a \$20,000 bail pending a court appearance.

When the police responded the next day, they found that Ong had stabbed his wife to death and then killed himself. The incident is being treated as a murder/suicide.

Authorities did not release the name of Ong's wife because her relatives have not been contacted. The incident is still under investigations. The 4200 block of Center was closed to traffic for about 30 hours while the crime scene was processed.

Covina Senior Services has Moved to Lark Ellen Elem.

COVINA - The City of Covina Senior Services programs has moved to Lark Ellen Elementary School located at 4555 N. Lark Ellen Ave., Covina. Parking and entrance is at the corner of Cypress Street and Lark Ellen Avenue (North Parking Lot).

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 and all classes and programs will be held in the new location.

For more information, please contact the Senior Services Division at (626) 384-5380 or the Parks & Recreation Department office at (626) 384-5340.

They officially opened on

Farmers Market

LA VERNE - "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.

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End of the Year Perspectives

I hope everyone had a happy celebratory New Year's Eve and all are ready to support the beginning of a very productive and economically successful year in California beginning with a turn-around in the political make-up and attitude in Sacramento.

We have state elections, assembly and senate, and a replacement Governor for our current Governor Brown. Also out there are a myriad of proposed initiatives floating around trying to qualify for the ballot. If those initiatives do qualify, we, the voters, will have a monumental task ahead of us in June and more so in November studying, reviewing and voting on all those on the wish lists.

Going into 2018, we will see Governor Jerry Brown moving toward retirement to a family owned ranch north of Sacramento and leaving behind an unfinished legacy, two of which appear to be in grave trouble financially and could leave us all holding the money bag that seems to have no bottom. Brown is termed-out in 2019.

The Bullet Train (high speed rail) is once again in a state of delay trying to decide on the location of the station in Bakersfield and will be delayed by 4 years and cost millions of dollars because of that change. The \$68 or \$69 billion project (depending on which report or newspaper you read) was originally to be a \$9 billion project.

With a proposed station change in Bakersfield, comes new alignment and must be approved by the Federal Railroad Administration and the Surface Transportation Board. Capitol Weekly reports the Bakersfield City Council passed a resolution in support of the draft supplemental EIR with the new station location six days before the State held a public hearing to accept public comments on the changes and costs.

The Twin Tunnel or WaterFix promoted as bringing more water south to drought ravaged Central Valley and Southern California appears to be dead in the water (Sorry ...). The State Auditor's report was highly critical of Brown's WaterFix and the Department of Water Resources heading up the water delivery



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

portion of the proposal. Quarter of a billion dollars and no plan - can't show the project is financially viable, how or who will operate it and why state law was not followed the bidding process for a replacement program manager for the conservation and conveyance program that ended up raising the costs from \$4 million to \$14 million.

Depending on which plan or which newspaper we read, we again have cost estimates for the Delta and estuary preservation from \$10 to \$25 billion. Proposed to pay for these projects are revenue bonds and will be paid for by the water agencies and ultimately the water users and with no vote required by the water users - we, the people.

Both President Donald Trump and the Central Valley water purveyors declined to support the project.

We have four initiatives on the June 5th ballot, all placed there by Sacramento Democrat elected officials.

1. California Transportation Taxes and Fees Lockbox Amendment is on the ballot as a constitutional amendment. This requires revenue from Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), also known as the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 or as a gas tax to fix our broken roads. A 'yes' vote would require The Gas Tax revenue to be used for transportation related projects. A 'no' vote would reject that proposal. There will be more on this issue including a proposal for a total repeal of the gas tax. Stay tuned for more.

2. Cap and Trade Revenue Amendment would require a 2/3 vote in the assembly and senate in 2024 to pass a spending plan for the fees collected from Cap

and Trade. If there is not a 2/3 vote in favor of a spending plan after 2024, the money would still be collected and just sit in the reserve fund. A 'no' vote would reject this proposal. Again, you will hear much more on this as we get past the first of the year.

3. California Effective Date of Ballot Measures Amendment is a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. A 'yes' vote supports a move of the effective date of ballot propositions from the day after election day to the fifth day after the secretary of state certifies election results. The question we should all ask is how long would it take the Secretary of State to certify an election? Remember, the current SOS, re-wrote the title of Repeal the Gas Tax initiative submitted by Assemblyman Travis Allen, forcing it to court where a judge rewrote the title of the initiative. We'll hear more on this one too ... You can be sure!

4. California Parks, Environment, and Water Bond (formerly known as California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 when it was Sen. Kevin De Leon's SB 5 in the legislature) and asking you to approve a \$4 billion general obligation bond. General obligation bonds use general fund money to pay it off and usually costs in interest almost as much as the bond itself. Quite honestly, this bond is all over the place making promises for parks, trails, wildlife corridors, infrastructure in disadvantaged areas ... there are more promises in this initiative than there is money to pay for all the goodies. Once the bond is approved, the money can be spent on any reasonable project. Oh, yes, you will hear more about this state legislative request also.

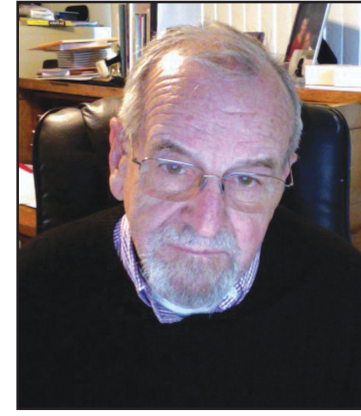
Gov. Jerry Brown is retiring but he will certainly be leaving his mark on California. Big ideas, big projects but those big projects seem to have very poorly constructed management and funding plans or just not very straight forward plans. Most times government's funding plan for government's great ideas is reaching deeper into my pocketbook and I see that as the current tactic in California. One more tax after another. Stay tuned.

Nearing The Bucket's Rim

As my foot draws ever closer to the proverbial bucket, the list of things I need to do or want to see before my last kick, continues to shrink. I am reminded of an old friend, Dr. J.J. Van Boskirk, whose wisdom, if not his energy, seemed to expand with every passing year. I encountered him for the last time at a national assembly of our churches. I believe it was in Indianapolis. He was practically being carried across the convention hall floor by four sturdy friends. On route they were accosted by a much younger delegate who rushed up to this caravan and said, "Dr. Van Boskirk, 'I've always wanted to get to know you!'" Without batting an eye or losing a step, the ancient saint replied, "Then you had better hurry!"

While I may or may not be that close to the edge of life's ultimate cliff, it occurs to me that my bucket list is already considerably diminished. In reviewing the remaining catalogue a few months ago, I said, to Wendy, "I would like to go to the Panama Canal." Don't ask me why that was on my shortened list. It was just something I have wanted to do for a long time.

So Wendy, who has almost always responded to my solid or even my harebrained notions said, "Let's do it!" So a few weeks ago we were on a cruise ship headed south through the Caribbean. Sitting quietly reading seemed to be the way I preferred to spend energy during those days



Charles H. Bayer

at sea. Three or four times I did enjoy the swimming pool aerobics, followed by a session in the adjacent hot tub. This floating hotel had both. Since I am now very wobbly, just getting in and out of the hot tub was a hair-raising event, and only accomplished by taking carefully placed two-inch steps, while holding on with both hands to whatever was available. Once I got to the tub's edge it was three steps up and four steps down into the bubbling hot water. One afternoon as I was making this brief albeit perilous journey, the ship's captain seemed to believe that this was the precise time to find the roughest patch of the Caribbean, making my adventure even more problematic. I finally made it into the spa and back out, and managed to crawl my way across the deck to one of those ubiquitous poolside lounge chairs.

Standing quietly just a few feet away was a distinguished-looking gentleman, who said as I collapsed into the chair, "I've been

watching you from the moment you arrived at the pool, and if it looked as if you might need a bit of help I was at the ready."

When I had regained my composure, I thanked him not only for his concern but also for his profound insight into one of life's vital rules. I went on to comment about how I believed that this ethical imperative generally practiced would make for a far better, safer world. His comment took me back for a moment. "Are you saying that I should be my brother's keeper?" "No" I responded, "just your brother's brother." Thus ended our conversation. When I arrived back at our cabin, Wendy inquired about my swim. "Nothing much happened," I responded. "Nothing except for discovering again one of the most profound secrets of a nobler society!"

Somehow getting that ethical axiom enshrined in a constitution or in some other formal set of rules would make for a kinder, gentler world for all of us. While the chances that any political system might enshrine that ethic are remote, perhaps the best we can hope for is an approximation in the way we order our personal lives, or in an occasional societal norm. Isn't that what all solid religious systems have to teach? Next week I will look with you at a few of the implications, political and otherwise.

Contact Charles Bayer at candwbayer@verizon.net

Good Luck on Living Through 2018, New Laws

I thought our laws were to protect the citizens. Every year, we have new laws that come into play that affect many of us. This includes laws that affect drivers and laws that affect the general public. We also have laws out there that are being passed by our legislators that protect the criminals that are here or that have come here to commit crimes. They have decriminalized many of the crimes and their penalties. They have laws that release prisoners back into our community to commit more crimes. Many say it is a racial thing because of the diversity of our legislators of today. I hope that is not true.

With many of the new laws that are being put into place restricts the good citizens of California from protecting themselves against the very criminals that have been released. Everything from gun restrictions, to buying ammunition in the state of California. If you're lucky enough to get a concealed weapon permit in a particular city that you live in, all I can say is "God Bless You". I hope that you will be the person standing next to me when a whack job comes in and starts shooting everybody. Hopefully, you will respond quick enough to take them out and save lives.

If you're one of those that like to smoke weed for recreational purposes, congratulations. The state of California has passed a law that makes it legal for recreational marijuana use. However, there are new laws on the books about using marijuana while driv-



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

ing a motor vehicle. Any consumption in any form while driving or being a passenger is not highly recommended. You will get nailed. If you're one of those smart people that want to give a cop a hard time about the weed that you have for your own personal use when you get pulled over, good luck. That same police officer can invoke their right to arrest you under a federal law. Remember, the Feds do not recognize California law. So if you want to be a wise guy, go for it. You can be arrested under federal law, your car can be impounded because it was used in the transportation of drugs. You can be held until the federal authorities make a determination on your case. I will bet my \$100 to your one dollar that the Feds will do nothing. But the bottom line is, you spent time in jail, and now you are going to pay big bucks to get the car out of impound. So if you want to be a jerk, be prepared to pay for.

Personally, I don't care if you smoke weed and if you enjoy it, more power to you. If I act jealous of the fact that you can smoke

weed and get high, maybe I am. I could never get loaded off of weed, strangely enough; there are few of us out there like this. However, if you're taking away on a joint, and you do something that affects me, my family, or my friends in a negative way, you are going to have an extremely serious issue with me. I will wish you the best. Enjoy your weed and don't become a jerk.

We recently saw an increase of \$.25 per gallon for gasoline. I guess that's going into the State's coffers. Now we see a raise in registration fees across the board. I feel bad for those that are on fixed incomes and senior citizens specially. California can't seem to control their spending so they take it out of our pockets.

The blood alcohol limit for those drivers that are "under hire" will be .04 which will include any driver that will get paid for moving one person from one place to another such as cabdrivers, Uber drivers, and any other same type driver. This will be expensive if you are caught.

Hopefully, many of these new additional laws on the books as well as revised laws will be out there to help you. Sadly, there are some laws out there that will not help you and will compromise the safety of you and your family. A good example is assembly Bill 109. This allows criminals out of jail early and back on our streets to commit more crimes. Have a great New Year.

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

Works and Wonders

In 1449, one might imagine the phrase "New Year's resolution" could've seemed a bit odd. In those days, "resolution" was sometimes used like "dissolution" or "decay"* - so "New Year's resolution" in that case could've carried the whiff of early demise.

Don't be dissuaded from any New Year's resolutions you might have made, though. There are lots of more inspiring ways to think of this annual ritual.

Through into modern times, "resolution" has also referred to the "reducing [of] a non-material thing into simpler forms ..." I love the idea of the year to come being parsed out this way, transforming our New Year's determination into steps or phases. In fact, from NBC News to Forbes, articles on successful New Year's resolutions talk about pursuing them incrementally, as smaller goals throughout the year.

Another meaning of "resolution" is "conversion into something else," which is another wonderful way of imagining our selves - or at least our habits - at the beginning of a new year. What will we become as these next 12 months go by? What activities



By Janet Stone

in our daily lives will we have transformed by December 31st?

Of course, many of us are familiar with the idea of optical "resolution" - measurement of the ability to make "the separate parts of an object ... distinguishable by the eye." Maybe a way to think about "New Year's resolution" is in our understanding of our status, our habits, and our desires: it is only about fixing or achieving them, or is it also about seeing them clearly?

Medically, "resolution" has referred to the "dispersion of ... morbid matter in the body." If we set aside the possibility of the New Year's Eve hangover and think a bit more metaphorically, is there any better way to think of our opportunities come the

first of January? With the turning of the calendar, perhaps we have a chance to breathe out the detrimental things that might have permeated our spirit over the past year. It's also rather meditative to think in January of converting "to a liquid state" - another "resolution" meaning. Picture all the icy tensions of last year melting away, and coming to a state of fluidity and flow.

Feeling peaceful now? How about "resolution" as "the process by which a discord is made to pass into a concord"? That way, "New Year's resolution" feels less like an iron imposition of self-discipline than the passing of a storm.

"The answering of a question; the solving of a doubt or difficulty" is another role the word "resolution" plays. I especially like this one in terms of solving doubt. Many years would be made better by learning and solving - by keeping the open mind of "doubt" while working past its implied fear.

So as you remind yourself of that New Year's resolution, also remember it doesn't have to be only a "fixed determination." I wish you your happiest New Year's solution of doubt, coming of peace, release of the morbid, and clarity of focus ever!

*Credit and thanks, throughout this column, to The Oxford English Dictionary (Second Edition) for its always excellent and fascinating histories (and it's just one of the wonders made available by the Glendora Public Library).

2017 Tax Forms at the Glendora Library

GLENDORA - In cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB), the Glendora Public Library is distributing tax forms and other tax-related resources.

The Library will receive IRS 1040, 1040 A, and 1040 EZ forms and a limited number of instruction booklets. Forms and instructions will be available in the Library's lobby as soon as they become available (usually late January or early February). Please contact the Library at

(626) 852-4891 for availability prior to making a special trip to the Library. These and other IRS forms are available online at www.irs.gov.

The Library will also receive California Resident 540 and 540 2EZ booklets. Forms are included in the booklets. Forms and instructions can be found at the California Franchise Tax Board at www.ftb.ca.gov

The librarian at the Information Desk can assist you in finding and printing tax forms. All

tax forms can be printed at the library for 10 cents per page.

The Library also has tax preparation computer software (TurboTax) for checkout. Please call the Library to check availability or to reserve your copy.

For more information about these and other Library services, contact the Glendora Public Library at (626) 852-4891 or visit the library's website at www.glendoralibrary.org. The Library is located at 140 S. Glendora Ave., Glendora.

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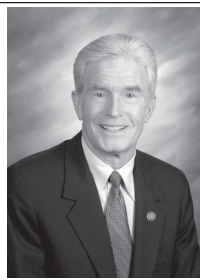
The Good, The Bad And The Ugly Within The Republican Tax Bill

The Republican \$1.5 Trillion tax reduction bill contains the biggest overhaul of U.S. Tax laws since 1986, delivering deep, permanent cuts for businesses paying tax as Corporations, plus temporary tax cuts for other taxpayers (individuals as well as pass-through entities). The Committee on Taxation predicted the bill will likely add \$1 Trillion to deficits over the next 10 years. Republicans assumed that tax cuts would generate enough new growth and eventual tax revenues over time to pay for these initial deficits (although no detailed economic analysis has supported that assumption). Only time will tell if these many tax changes were "worth it".

Most Americans, once they understand what has been going on in the world, should agree that reducing our country's Corporate tax rate was both overdue and necessary to stop (and hopefully even reverse) an ongoing flight of American capital and jobs to nations with much lower taxes. Since 2000 Ireland, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan (among others) have been reducing their Corporate tax rates to entice international businesses to invest more in those countries. This even resulted in American corporations merging with smaller entities in those countries (inversions) to significantly lower their effective tax rates. The headline national tax rate (excluding regional or state levies) has been below 15% for 14 years in Ireland! UK, Canada and Japan had maintained their headline Corporate rates near 30% until gradually becoming more competitive over the past 10 years. The UK will have a tax rate of 19% in 2018!

A Corporate tax rate of 21% for American Corporations should "stop the bleeding" from lost capital and jobs moving to lower tax cost countries! Our 21% tax rate should also encourage at least a gradual return to the USA of jobs and cash now located in previously lower taxed countries (by American Corporations). The effective tax rates in Ireland (12.5%) and the U.K. (19%) will still be lower than in the USA, but those differentials versus 21% will not be nearly as enticing as compared to 35%! France, Spain, South Korea, Can-

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

ada, Italy, Japan, Australia and Germany will at least temporarily have higher Corporate rates than the USA. With Corporate tax rates close to 30% today, Germany has been trying to further lower its rates (but hopes faded after the recent collapse of ruling coalition talks).

Even though a slightly higher Corporate rate would have been better for deficit reasons (while still making America competitive again), USA Corporate federal income tax rates becoming 21% in 2018 should be VERY GOOD for America (and certainly that reduction was the most compelling reason for this Republican tax bill to become effective in 2018)!

The immediate deductibility of capital equipment purchases during the next five years is certain to encourage expansion and renewal of American business assets, which should stimulate the economy while being beneficial to business entity bottom line profitability. This low-cost tax provision (essentially an interest free loan from the government for the tax deferral allowed to Companies that in the past depreciated and deducted such costs over time) may generate the "most positive bang for the buck" of anything in this tax bill. It is easy to imagine this "asset write off" provision re-energizing America's economy for the next five years!

Immediate expensing of business asset purchases should also be VERY GOOD, helping the economy remain strong in the USA!

The many individual tax changes will certainly be better for some individuals than others, with high income people in low taxed states being the biggest winners. The fact that these changes are only temporary (through 2025, because of rules which allowed the bill to be

passed with a simple majority) is hard to justify, considering that the Corporate rate could have been higher than 21% (while still becoming competitive in the world). Reductions of all individual rates, except for the top income bracket, make a lot of sense. Rate reductions (except the top marginal rate) look Very Good, while reductions for the top bracket look unneeded and BAD.

New tax breaks for Pass-Through Entities are intended to keep those entities competitive with lower Corporate rates, but the related lost tax revenue is hard to justify. Pass-Through Entities elect to be what they are to avoid double taxation when profits are distributed to owners (as opposed to taxation on dividends paid by Corporations). Pass-Throughs could incorporate if they prefer to pay the new 21% Corporate rate. Also, over half of the income generated by Pass-Throughs goes to very high-income Americans. The estimated tax cost for this last-minute change is \$114 Billion, even though this benefit is intended to be temporary. This tax reduction appears to be UGLY!

Maximum UGLY is clearly the elimination or reduction of Estate Taxes on America's most wealthy families (roughly only 2 of every 1,000 American taxpayers). Many of these powerful families avoid paying most capital gains taxes and create questionable deductions or tax-free income via private foundations and/or trusts. While death taxes may not sound fair, it is fair for extremely wealthy families to contribute more to America than many of them would in the absence of Estate Taxes. Loop holes which allow legal tax avoidance by the extremely wealthy have not been eliminated, leaving estate tax as the last opportunity for tax paying "fairness" on their part.

Even though not all Republican tax bill reductions are helpful, the overall impact of this bill should be beneficial for America!

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 bought our first home in 2017. What are our tax deductions?

Your mortgage deductions fall under the old tax laws, not the new tax laws. For mortgages in existence by December 31, 2017, the old tax law applies; they are grandfathered and can even be refinanced. By itemizing, using Form 1040 and Schedule A, you have the opportunity to deduct mortgage interest paid, any points connected with the loan, and property taxes paid. The new tax law affects deductions on first or second residences mortgages obtained from January 1, 2018 on. The mortgage interest deduction for 2018- is applicable to a mortgage debt of \$750,000 or less. (It was \$1,000,000.)

Will I have to pay taxes on my \$300-a-day long-term care benefits received in 2017?

The IRS excludes from income the lesser of either a policy holder's actual expenses for qualified long-term care OR the IRS' stated amount maximum benefit (over \$350 per day in 2017). Since the IRS' maximum benefit allowable exceeds your \$300 per day, you will not have to pay taxes on your long-term care insurance benefits for 2017. And remember that your long-term care insurance premiums can be added to your total qualified medical expenses for a potential 'health-care deduction.' (Only that amount exceeding 10-percent of your adjusted gross income, or 7.5 percent if age 65 or older, is deductible.)

How can we get monthly



Julia Yoder
mortgage insurance removed from our loan?

For FHA loans, the percentage of loan-to-equity must also reach 78%. VA loans are similar. For conventional Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac loans, once you have a history of on-time payments, and your equity is 20% (22% - 23% in some cases) of the original purchase price, ask your lender to cancel the mortgage insurance. Although the lender is required by law to do so, they may insist on an appraisal to determine the current value of your home. This will usually cost you around \$450 or more, depending on the size of your home. They may also require you to use "their" appraiser, but relax; to protect the consumer, lenders are required to use independent appraisal companies.

How are annuities taxed?

With qualified annuities (funded with money you have not paid taxes on yet), withdrawals are fully taxed as ordinary income. With non-qualified annuities (funded with money that you already paid taxes on), only the earnings are taxed upon withdraw-

al. Avoid the possibility of a 10% federal income tax penalty by waiting until you're at least 59 1/2 years old before making withdrawals. Be aware of the rules of your annuity. If you have several sources of income that fulfill your current cash-flow needs, consider delaying withdrawals that would increase your income and possibly result in having to pay more taxes.

How can you use life insurance to reduce taxes and as part of a retirement plan?

Some life insurance policies can potentially build up a cash account. You can arrange with the insurance company to get a monthly loan based on the collateral in that investment policy. Since this investment incorporates life insurance, if you choose to not repay the loan in your lifetime, the loan can be paid off with the proceeds from the policy's death benefit. Loans are not taxed. Death benefit proceeds from a life insurance policy are typically not taxed.

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

Building Wealth ABCs: Tax Money for College

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

People are asking, "What can I do to build wealth and help educate my children if I don't make millions of dollars?" One strategy to build wealth is to use public dollars to pay for your children's college education and then apply the savings to pay down your debt.

The ScholarShare 529 account, which allows your college savings to grow free of federal and state taxes, can result in up to 25% more money for higher education that can be used for certain college expenses. In addition, when filing your return, as an employee and the recipient of educational assistance payments from your employer, you can claim an exclusion from taxable income for up to \$5,250 a year. Then if you take these tax savings and pay down your debt, you save even more.

The following tax strategies will allow qualified taxpayers to defer or reduce federal taxes on money paid or saved for college, regardless of your state(s) of residence or where your children are attending college.

1. The ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan allows you to invest money for your children's college education and avoid paying taxes on the interest and distribution of the money toward qualified education expenses. Contributions to a ScholarShare account may help you reduce the taxable value of your estate and, together with all other gifts from the account owner to the beneficiary, may qualify you for an annual federal gift tax exclusion of up to \$14,000 per donor (\$28,000 for married contributors) per beneficiary. If an account owner's contribution to a Plan account for a beneficiary in a single year exceeds \$14,000 (\$28,000 for married contributors), the account owner may elect to treat up to \$70,000 of the contributions (\$140,000 for joint filers) as having been made over a period of up to five years for the federal gift tax exclusion.

2. The American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) is worth as much as \$2,500 a year per student for up to four years. If you meet the low-to-middle income requirements, the AOTC is worth 100% of the first \$2,000 of qualifying education expenses and 25% of the next \$2,000. Effectively, if you pay \$4,000 or more in tuition and other qualifying expenses, the government will give \$2,500 of it back to you as a credit. If you claim the credit on your return, 40% of it - up to \$1,000 - is refundable, meaning you get it even if you owe no taxes. In order to take the credit, the student must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program, must be taking classes on at least a half-time basis, have no felony drug convictions, and must be in the first four years of postsecondary education. If a student has already completed four years of college, he or she is no longer eligible, regardless of whether the credit was used for those four years. The credit phases out above a modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) of \$80,000 for single taxpayers (\$160,000 married filing jointly), and disappears completely above MAGI of \$90,000 and \$180,000, respectively.

3. The Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC) is designed for low-to-middle income taxpayers who paid qualifying education expenses but cannot meet the requirements of the AOTC. Unlike the AOTC, the LLC does not require the student to be pursuing a degree or attending classes at least half-time, or to be within the first four years of higher education. In other words, the student can take a single college course and claim the LLC. However, the MAGI phase-out thresholds are significantly lower, at \$55,000-\$65,000 (single) and \$110,000-\$130,000 (married filing jointly). If you qualify, the credit is worth 20% of up to \$10,000 in qualified tuition expenses per year. Another important distinction is that this limit is per return, not per student. The maximum credit of \$2,000 isn't that much different from the

AOTC, but you'll have to spend more to get the full amount. You can use the credit to reduce the tax you owe, but it isn't refundable if you owe no tax.

4. The Tuition and Fees Deduction is generally used by taxpayers who would otherwise qualify for the LLC but whose incomes are too high. This deduction has significantly higher phase-out thresholds than the LLC, at \$65,000-\$80,000 for single filers (\$130,000-\$160,000 married filing jointly), and allows you to exclude up to \$4,000 in qualifying tuition and fee expenses from your income, depending on your tax bracket. If you're in the 25% marginal tax bracket, for example, this translates to up to \$1,000 less in tax liability. Keep in mind that this is an above-the-line tax deduction, meaning that you can take it even if you don't itemize.

5. The student loan interest deduction allows you to deduct the actual amount of interest you paid on your qualified student loans, up to \$2,500 annually. Like the tuition and fees deduction, this is an above-the-line deduction, so you can take it regardless of whether you itemize or not. For purposes of this deduction, your student loan qualifies if it was taken out for the sole reason of paying for qualified higher education expenses within a reasonable time frame after the loan was taken out. The deduction has the same MAGI phase-out thresholds as the tuition and fees deduction, of \$65,000-\$80,000 for singles (\$130,000-\$160,000 for married joint filers).

It's important to mention that in claiming these tax breaks, you should only use the amount you paid during the calendar year, not the amounts billed by the school. Specifically, if your classes start during the first three months of 2018, but you pay the bill in 2017, you can apply the amount paid to calculate your 2017 tax benefits. These strategies may be quite helpful in reducing your federal taxes, so be sure to discuss them with your tax advisor as the tax filing season begins.

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

Oil Filter Warning

The oil filter is one of the most important parts of the engine. Its job is to filter out any contaminants created by the normal wear and heat of the engine. When your car has the oil changed, most likely the oil filter is also changed, at least I hope so.

Years ago, we all knew that the oil and filter was changed at 3,000 miles, it was just the way it was. Enter the new age of cars, oils and filters; especially synthetic oils which last much longer as stated in some of my previous articles. Many oil changes can last 5,000 to 10,000 miles depending on the type of car, type of oil and how many quarts of oil are in the oil pan.

Back in the day when we recommended the 3,000-mile service, any oil filter would easily protect the engine for that mileage, but not many oil filters would protect your car for more than 5,000 miles. If you are driv-

ing longer than 5,000 miles between oil changes and using a low cost oil change shop, you may be damaging the engine and not even know it.

Let me explain. Oil filters all look the same on the outside, but are very different on the inside. The difference lies in the amount of filtering material used and type of drain back valve used inside each filter. Less expensive filters, as you would suspect, have less filtering material and a less reliable drain back valve.

This may seem insignificant, but the results can be catastrophic. When you drive longer than 5,000 miles on one of the low cost filters, the filter starts to lose the ability to keep the contaminants contained and they slip into the engine bearings, causing premature wear. The eventual outcome is engine failure. It does not pay to have an inexpensive oil change and an inexpensive oil filter put on your newer

model car.

Currently, there is not a standard or law that says what part or quality of part, needs to be put on your car. If you have an engine failure that should be covered by a warranty, and you have been using cheap oil/filter, this is not only scary for you, the consumer, but it could get downright ugly as the manufacturer may deny the claim. Ultimately, the consumer should be aware of what is going on with the car and use a service center you trust.

A cheap oil change may save you money short term, but will not save you money in the long run.

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!

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 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

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 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.

Introduction To Computers And Internet Learning

Never touched a computer before?! You did, but felt confused? It's never too late to learn! Explore the basic skills to enrich your knowledge and understand the terminologies and access the online world through the Internet. Our hands-on practice can accelerate students to master computer learning while making it easy and fun. Register online at www.ci.glendora.ca.us or at the La Fetra Center; 333 E. Foothill Blvd. Glendora. \$120 Tuesdays, September 26- October 31, 11:15am to 12:00pm

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 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.

Arcadia Playground Basketball League

ARCADIA - The Recreation and Community Services Department is pleased to announce they are now taking registrations for the Youth Basketball League.

This league is designed to expose children to the fundamental skills of the sport while allowing them to experience team work and sportsmanship. The league is also organized to provide a fun, non-competitive, learning experience. Boys and Girls of all ability levels are encouraged to participate. The league fee is \$40, and includes a jersey.

Practice is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Highland Oaks Elementary for the "C" Division Team, grades 3-4 from 3:30-4:30pm. Practice is held on

Mondays and Wednesdays for the "A" Division Team, grades 7-8, and "B" Division Team, grades 5-6 at Dana Middle School Gym from 3:30-5pm. Practices began December 11 and will continue through March.

If you don't already have an account, go on-line and create your account. To get a copy of the winter "Buzz" stop by our office, 375 Campus Drive; Arcadia City Hall, 240 W. Huntington Drive; or the Arcadia Public Library, 20 W. Duarte Road. To register in person, stop by our office or go to the city's website at www.arcadiaCA.gov under the Recreation and Community Services Department tab to download a copy. For more information please call 626.574.5113

Mighty Mite Basketball

AZUSA - The City of Azusa's Recreation and Family Services Department is pleased to announce another great program for boys and girls ages 5-8. Mighty Mite Basketball is an instructional program geared to teach the fundamentals of basketball to the children. The height of the basket has been reduced, smaller ball implemented, and the rules modified.

The cost of the program is \$46.00 and includes: N.B.A. Replica Shirt & shorts, season ending banquet, and coaching by recreation staff professionals whose philosophies guarantee

that your child's first exposure to team sports is a pleasant and rewarding one.

Practices will be held at Memorial Park at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings. All games are scheduled for week nights and Saturday Mornings starting January 2, 2018, and are no more than 1 hour in length.

Registration is currently being taken now at Memorial Park, 320 N. Orange Place through December 28, 2017. Monday-Thursday 7:00a.m.-5:30p.m. in the main office and Monday-Friday in the gymnasium from 3:00-6:00 p.m. For more information call (626) 812-5280.

Duarte Museum To Honor Larry Walls At Black History Month Celebration

DUARTE - Larry Walls literally fought his way to success. His childhood in Duarte's Rock Town was rife with bloody noses, black eyes and worse. While he was often a victim, he was much of the time a perpetrator. He kept this in mind when he wrote the following in his autobiography:

"Here I am on a hot day in the Compton Superior Court waiting

on the jury verdict in a double murder and triple attempted murder trial." Walls could have been a defendant in the above trial. But, no, he was the Deputy District Attorney. How could this happen?

Celebrating Black History Month, the Duarte Historical Museum will honor Walls on **January 13**, 4-7 p.m. at 777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte. Walls

will talk about life in Duarte during the volatile 1950s through the 1980s and how Duarte moved forward to the town it is today. He will sign and sell his book entitled Hurdles; Struggles of a Black Man in the Land of Milk and Honey.

Admission is free. For more information call (626) 358-0329.

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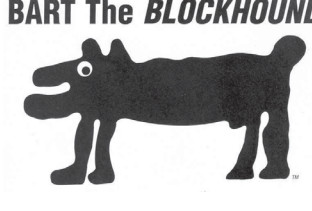
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WHITE'S FUNERAL HOME

Artist Joyce Kohl Selected For Claremont Goldline Station

CLAREMONT - Joyce Kohl is the artist selected for the Claremont Station of the Foothill section of the Goldline Metro. Her concept is derived from conversations and experience in Claremont, and her conclusion that Claremont has an amazing number of people (between the many colleges and community at large) who are thinking "outside of the box", in a vast number of fields, utilizing many languages.

The most prominent element of the artwork will be an internally illuminated iconic landmark, to be located at the corner of First Ave and College near the entrance of the parking structure. The sculpture is planned to be 12 feet tall, playing with the illusions and perspective of two line drawings of boxes at right angles. The boxes will have etched letters, symbols and numbers from the different 'languages' spoken and written in Claremont.



Artist Joyce Kohl was seen at the Claremont Station Booth at Citrus College during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Metro Gold Line on December 2nd.

The second element will have tiles installed on the canopy column bases of the station platform. Each image will represent a story, person or place that makes Claremont unique. These images will be linked to videos which will be made by local communication students, and linked to the tiles through apps on viewers phones. The community will

select scientists, researchers, artists, musicians, social scientists, educators, historians, creative writers and prominent places to be showcased. This will provide an interactive installation, where riders can learn about different unique aspects of Claremont, while they wait for the metro.

Year-End Is Rose Parade Float Decorating Time For Area Residents

by Howard Palmer

IRWINDALE - Phoenix Decorating Company moved to Irwindale from Pasadena in 2017 to an 110,000 square foot "state of the art" facility, Rose Float Plaza South at 5400 Irwindale Avenue. Phoenix has been building floats since 1985 within Pasadena proper and its new home was an entirely new experience for those who would show up at their doors to decorate floats for this year's parade.

One of those year-end employees is Mary Ann Griffin of Temple City. Mary Ann's family has resided in Temple City for 50 years. She has been a school teacher for 20 years and teaches fifth grade at St. Rita in Sierra Madre.

When the school break starts Mary Ann heads for the Phoenix Decorating Company for the year-end decorating rush of activity. She has been doing so for 20 years. This all started when Mary Ann said to her father, Joe Delgatto, a forty-year member



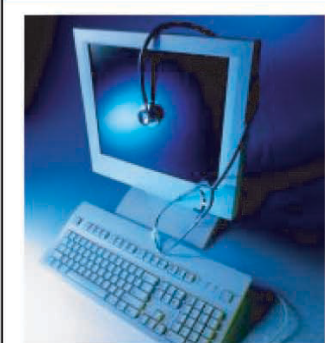
Area resident, Mary Ann Griffin, Phoenix Decorating seasonal employee. Photo by Howard Palmer

of the Tournament of Roses, "I want to volunteer to work on the floats". Joe introduced her to Phoenix founder Bill Lofthouse and he said, "How about I hire you as an assistant to the volunteer coordinator?" his wife, Gretchen. Then she became the VIP coordinator at the Rosemont Pavilion. Mary Ann for years was the first person you would encounter as you entered the Pavilion weather you were a VIP, media, client, or volunteer. Always with a smile she made sure you got to the lo-

cation you needed to be. This year-end she was at her post at the entry of the new location.

The on-site Phoenix staff, seasonal float team leaders, decorating detailers, and volunteers are like one big family gathering at holiday time. As Mary Ann said goodbye to everyone for another year on New Year's Eve the hugs were plentiful and many left with tears in their eyes. It was evident the bond was strong and sincere. Next year - same time, same place she'll be there!

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Denny's Windmill Icon Crashes Through Roof



Icon Building Windmill crashes through roof.

By George Ogden

ARCADIA - On Dec. 29th around 7:30 a.m. Friday morning, a piece of history came crashing down through the roof of Denny's Restaurant in Arcadia. Nobody was injured but it sure did wake up a few people who were having coffee.

The building was originally Van de Kamp's Holland Dutch Bakery's coffee shop back in the old days. It opened in 1967 and soon became an icon for the city. As of late, it became part of the

history of Arcadia.

In 1989, Denny's took over this building and location and decided to keep the building in its original form.

A year and a half ago, Denny's invested \$100,000 into getting the windmill up and running again. It ran 24-7 since then. Sadly, it came crashing down through the roof and closing the restaurant until it is repaired.

It is hopeful that the insurance will cover the cost of repairs and get it up and running again.

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