



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

December 12 - 18, 2019

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Citrus College STEM Event Underscores Importance of Co-Curricular Activities

By Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, Citrus College Governing Board Member

GLENDORA - Some college students use their summer breaks to relax and recuperate. Glendora resident and Citrus College student Ibrahim Abboud, however, chose to spend his summer conducting research in an organic chemistry lab at California State Polytechnic Institute, Pomona. An aspiring doctor, the Citrus College biology major recently discussed his impressive work at the college's 2019 STEM Research Symposium.

I had the opportunity to learn more about Mr. Abboud's research, as well as the research of several other Citrus College students, when I attended the symposium earlier this fall. The annual event featured scientific posters highlighting the work of 29 participants in the Summer Research Experience (SRE), an innovative program that provides students with the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research at one of seven internationally respected institutions.

Every year, a select group of students receive firsthand experience in scientific investigations by participating in the SRE. As part of the program, they are placed at a research site, paired with a mentor and tasked with

working full time for an average of eight weeks. SRE involvement includes, among other things, conducting lab research and field work, identifying and reading scientific articles, and public speaking.

This year's cohort conducted research at one of seven sites: Chapman University; City of Hope; California State University, Fullerton; Cal Poly Pomona; Keck Science Department; Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens; and Oak Crest Institute of Science. Projects included researching cosmetics and cancer risk; the relationship between weather and fire ignition; and the design of biodegradable polymer for packaging applications.

Also on display at the STEM Research Symposium was the work of 20 Citrus College students who participated in this year's Bridge to the Geosciences project. This unique opportunity exposes participants to the wide range of career possibilities the geosciences afford. Over the course of a year, students conduct research in the different sub-fields of the geosciences alongside scientists at the Oak Crest Institute of Science, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations

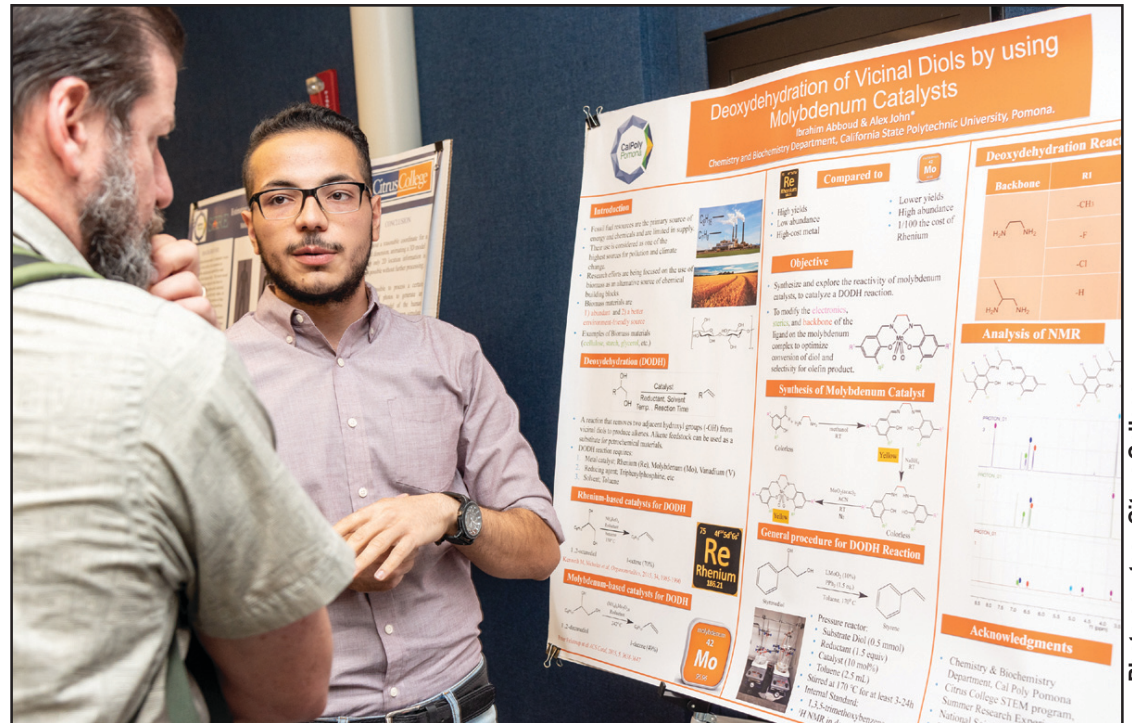


Photo courtesy Citrus College

Ibrahim Abboud, a Citrus College biology major from Glendora, discusses his Summer Research Experience with Terry Miles, faculty member in the natural, physical and health sciences division.

and University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

As Glendora's representative on the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, I am incredibly proud that Citrus College provides students with innovative co-curricular activities like the SRE and Bridge to the Geosciences. Participants receive hands-on training, develop marketable skills and establish professional connections

that will be valuable as they pursue their careers. These experiences also help students decide if a specific field is a good fit for them, allowing them to focus their goals.

Such is the case with Mr. Abboud. After conducting chemistry research at Cal Poly Pomona, he is thinking about changing his major from biology to biochemistry. Now in his final year at Citrus College, Mr.

Abboud says his ultimate goal is to one day save lives.

"I would like to thank Citrus College for all of the opportunities they offer," he said. "My involvement in the Summer Research Experience will give me a huge advantage in the future as I pursue my dreams. This college is a powerful place that is producing a generation of successful citizens."

I would have to agree.

Pointers On Protecting Your Packages And Property

5 Ways to Protect Mail & Packages

- Don't leave packages unattended for any length of time.
- Won't be home? Use the Hold for Pickup option at USPS.com
- Leaving town? Use the USPS Hold Mail services at USPS.com
- Customize delivery by using USPS.com and your tracking number.
- Use USPS special services like Signature Confirmation or Registered Mail.

You can have a happier holiday season if you take a few simple steps to make sure that all of your cards and gifts arrive safely.

This holiday season, the Postal Service™ looks forward to delivering a great deal of holiday cheer, along with more than 15 billion mail pieces. The United States Postal Inspection Service®, the federal law enforcement arm of the Postal Service, is working to keep your important shipments safe and prevent mail and parcel theft.

What can you do to ensure your gifts and cards are safe? Postal Inspectors offer six tips to help ensure your important packages reach their destinations and brighten lives this holiday season.

1. Don't leave your delivered mail and packages unattended. Just as you wouldn't leave valuables on the front seat of an unlocked car overnight, mail

shouldn't be left sitting in mailboxes or on front porches for any length of time.

2. Going out of town? Hold your mail at your local Post Office. If you plan on taking a trip or know you won't be able to check your mail for a few days, use the USPS Hold Mail service on usps.com. Your mail will be held securely at your Post Office until you pick it up or request delivery to your home.

3. Plan ahead. Ship using Hold for Pickup. When shipping packages, the Hold for Pickup option means recipients can collect their packages at their local Post Offices. If you are expecting a package, you can redirect it to your local Post Office by selecting Hold for Pickup using Intercept a Pack-

age under Track & Manage on usps.com.

4. Customize the delivery. If you know the package will not fit in your mailbox and you won't be home to receive it, you can authorize the carrier to leave it in a specified location. Visit usps.com, enter the tracking number in Track a Package, and select Delivery Instructions.

5. Secure the shipment using USPS Special Services. Signature Confirmation requires a signature at the time of delivery. For your most valuable packages, you can opt for Registered Mail service. Registered Mail receives special handling from the time it's mailed until the time it's delivered, with documentation every step of the way.

6. Monitor your front door. If you have a home security camera system and you catch any mail thieves in the act, save the video and alert your local Postal Inspectors.

For more great tips you can use not just during the holidays, but all year long, visit: usps.gov. (NAPSI)

Rotary Club Partners With East Valley Community Health Centers And School Interact Club To Provide Thanksgiving Baskets To 75 Local Families



The Thanksgiving Basket project is a community service project by the Rotary Club of West Covina

WEST COVINA - On Wednesday, November 27, 2019, East Valley Community Health Centers (EVCHC) distributed baskets of food to 75 local families. The baskets contain all the food for a complete Thanksgiving turkey dinner for an entire family. The turkeys were donated by Sysco Los Angeles and South Hills Country Club, Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, Senator Susan Rubio, Supervisor Hilda Solis, members of the Rotary Club of West Covina and the West Covina High School Inter-

act Club provided other items. Foothill Transit provided drivers & transportation services.

EVCHC selects the families, coordinates collection of the donated food and distributes the completed baskets. West Covina High School Interact Club donated canned goods from their food drive and the other items are donated by members of the Rotary Club of West Covina. The baskets contain: a Turkey, Butter/Margarine, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberries, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Apple/Pumpkin Pies,

Rolls, Baking Tins, Whipped cream, Green Beans, Soup, Corn, Misc. vegetables all put into a Sturdy Laundry Basket.

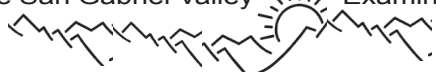
"Rotary Club of West Covina has been doing these Thanksgiving baskets for many years now and each year the families appreciate having this food provided," said Alicia Mardini, Chief Executive Officer, East Valley Community Health Centers. "The families and I are extremely grateful." Thank you everyone involved and have a blessed holiday with your families.

Duarte Boxing Competitors Take Home First Place Wins at 2019 Silver Gloves State Championships

DUARTE - On Saturday, Nov. 30, Carlos Mejia and Marcos "Boo Boo" Ramirez, representing the Duarte Boxing Club, brought home gold medals for the 2019 Silver Gloves State Championships, held in Compton, CA.

This was Mejia's (154lb weight-class) and Ramirez's (175lb weight-class) first time competing in the Silver Gloves State Championship. Both boxers are only 14 years old, and, notably, Mejia has been only boxing for about a year.

Mejia and Ramirez will advance to the Silver Gloves Regionals in January to compete against fighters from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Nevada. Regionals will also be held in Compton, CA.



How To Choose A Christmas Tree: Tips From Expert Arborist Mark Chisholm

There's more to decking the halls with just the right Christmas tree than many people realize. Here are seven hints that can help:

Select Your Location

Before you head to the lot or store to pick out this year's tree, you must be certain of where you want to place the tree and the space available. Try to avoid spots near heat sources such as radiators, fireplaces, heating vents and even televisions or sun-drenched windows. Also, try to tuck the tree into a low-traffic area to avoid accidental bumping and possible safety issues. Next, you'll need to measure the space dimensions you have to work with, bearing in mind that a tree stand will add a few extra inches of height, as will a star or angel to finish the top.

Consider a Charitable Tree Lot

If you're like me and look forward to contributing to the spirit of the season while picking a tree, you can look for charitable

lots. One I like to shop at donates all of its proceeds to a children's hospital. Another option would be to get an extra tree and then donate it to a family that can't afford one or to an organization that will find that tree the right home.

Select the Right Tree for You

At the lot you will likely see three or four common varieties of trees. Some things to consider when choosing are the color, shape and feel of the tree. Some trees are dark green, and others have gray or white shades. There are trees with tight branching patterns and some with more spaces. One thing to remember is that if the tree looks very full while absent of ornaments, it may be difficult to decorate. Most trees that end up on a lot have been groomed and sheared to look great during the selection process. Then you get it home and realize that there's very little space for ornaments. Choosing



Taking seven steps can help you get the right Christmas tree for your home and family.

one with some empty spaces might be a better route. You could bring a few of your favorite ornaments with you to test at the store. Also, be sure that the first foot of trunk is straight, or you could have one heck of a time getting it to stand up correctly at home.

Try a Live Tree

Balled and burlap or container trees can be a nice choice for a live tree. It will be heavier and

need more diligent care once home. After the holidays are over, it can be added to the landscape. One extra step you'll need to adopt is assessing the planting space for proper growing space, sunlight and watering needs. Make sure the species you choose will thrive where you plant it.

Test Your Tree for Freshness

Once you have the look you want, you'll need to test the tree

for freshness. Trees that are on a lot could have been cut and shipped weeks earlier. Look for greener trees with no signs of wilting or browning. What can be tricky is that many trees have undergone a colorizing treatment before they were shipped. That's why a quick pull test is next on my list. Grab a limb or two and pull them toward you. Release the limb slowly, letting it pull through your hand. A fresh tree will keep most or all of its needles in this test and the limb will not feel brittle or snap. Flexibility in the limbs is a must if the tree is to remain green for the next few weeks indoors. The final test is a quick drop test. Lift the tree a few inches off the ground and then let the butt of the tree hit the ground. That quick shock will release any dry needles and give you a good feel for how fresh the tree truly is. Don't worry about a few needles letting loose within the interior.

Prepare Your Tree for Indoors

Once you pick your tree and truck it home, make a fresh cut at the base, unless it was already done for you. One thing I like to do before I bring my tree inside is to take out my STIHL blower and give the tree a quick blast to

remove any loose needles, debris wedged in the branches and, most importantly, remove any insects or egg masses that might have survived the journey.

Recycle Your Tree

After Christmas is over, you'll need to dispose of the family tree. There are many recycling programs all over the country that account for the recycling of 93% of all trees nationally. Most get ground into mulch to be given back to the community or used as mulch in flower beds and parks. Some places have extensive erosion programs that take advantage of this biodegradable resource. Check websites such as RealChristmasTrees.org for more information.

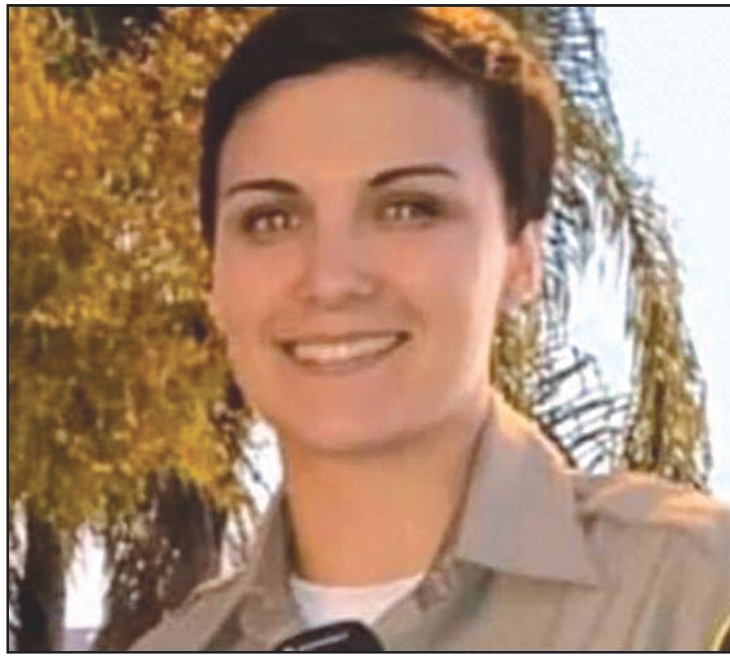
For further facts on tree care, go to www.stihlusa.com/information/how-to-guides/tips-for-choosing-real-christmas-trees/.

About Mark Chisholm

One part acrobat, one part expert rope climber, one part tree physiologist, and several parts competitor and thrill seeker, Mark Chisholm is a third-generation certified arborist with his family owned Aspen Tree Expert Company and STIHL Inc. spokesperson. (NAPSI)

Female Deputy in Critical Condition

Deputy is the daughter of recently retired West Covina Police Corporal Lori Hayden.



Deputy Dakota Palanca critical condition.

By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - On Monday, November 25, a LASD Deputy was critically injured while in a foot pursuit with a suspect who attacked her while she was in her vehicle. Deputy Dakota Palanca responded to a report of a man who was acting crazy in a shopping mall parking lot in the City of Paramount. When she arrived, the suspect ran up to her vehicle and started attacking her. He punched her through her window and then opened the door and punched her. As soon as she got out, the suspect ran through the parking lot with Palanca chasing him.

As the deputy was crossing a main street, she was struck by an SUV. The attack was recorded on a cell phone but the hit and run was not. The driver apparently stopped nearby or was detained near the scene. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for felony DUI. The suspect that attacked

the deputy was apprehended by other deputies who arrived in the area. Both, the suspect in the assault nor was the driver have not had their identities released by authorities at the time of this article.

Deputy Palanca, 25, is currently in critical condition at an area hospital. The deputy is assigned to the Lakewood station, and patrols the City of Bellflower. She is the daughter of recently retired West Covina Police Corporal Lori Hayden. Hayden and her husband Rick, a retired Azusa Lieutenant are very close to the West Covina Police Department.

Law enforcement officers from various agencies are at the hospital 24/7 to assist the family as needed. After two weeks, she is still in a coma with her "numbers" going up and down. There has been an outpour of well wishes and support for the young deputy.

Foothill Gold Line Board Re-Elects Chair and Vice Chair

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and La Verne Council Member Robin Carder will remain Board Chair and Vice Chair

MONROVIA - At their December meeting, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority (Construction Authority) Board of Directors voted unanimously to re-elect Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval as Chair, and La Verne Council Member Robin Carder as Vice Chair, to lead the agency's nine-member board. The continuing leadership of Chair Sandoval and Vice Chair Carder comes at a critical moment for the Foothill Gold Line, as the \$2.1 billion, 12.3-mile Glendora to Montclair light rail extension heads into major construction.

"Thank you to our colleagues on the board for their continued trust in us," stated Chair Sandoval following the vote. "We have a tremendous task ahead as we extend the Foothill Gold Line into more cities in the San Gabriel Valley, and we will work hard to ensure that another successful project is delivered on time and on budget."

The re-election of Chair Sandoval and Vice Chair Carder caps off their first year of leading the light rail agency, which culminated with the historic signing of the Alignment Design-Build Contract for the light rail project on October 4, 2019, between the Construction Authority and the Joint Venture team of Kiewit-Parsons. The contract includes an \$805.6 million base scope for the first nine miles of the project from Glendora to Pomona, with a two-year contract option to complete the full project to

Montclair for a total contract amount of \$1,186.9 million if additional funds are secured by October 2021. The extension will add new stations to the Metro Gold Line system in the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair, and may be built in phases if the additional funding is not secured in time to initiate the contract option. The Glendora to Pomona segment is anticipated to be completed in 2025, and the entire project altogether to Montclair by 2028 if the contract option is initiated.

"The contract option provides a tremendous opportunity for our region, by offering potential funding partners a firm, fixed bid price - not an estimate - to complete this project in the next few years," added Chair Sandoval. "We will continue to press forward and work with our partners and elected officials at all levels to seek the funding needed to complete the line to Claremont and Montclair and bring the train to all of the cities that have been planning for its arrival for decades."

The Foothill Gold Line board is made up of elected and appointed representatives from throughout the project corridor. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, the board currently includes: Duarte Council Member and Metro Board Member John Fasana, Ontario Mayor Paul Leon, Los Angeles representative Melchor Ilomin, Ontario Council Member Alan Wapner

(non-voting), Pasadena Council Member Gene Masuda (non-voting), and South Pasadena representative Dan Evans (non-voting). The Governor's appointee is currently vacant.

About the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority - The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority is an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1998 by the California State Legislature to plan, design and build the Metro Gold Line light rail system from Union Station to Montclair, along the Foothills of the San Gabriel Valley. The agency completed the first segment from Union Station to Pasadena in 2003 and the Pasadena to Azusa segment in 2015; both on time and under budget. The agency began work on the Glendora to Montclair project in 2003. The Glendora to Montclair project was environmentally cleared in March 2013 un-

der the CEQA and again in 2019 to allow the potential for phased construction. The project completed advanced conceptual engineering in 2016. When completed, the extension will add new light rail stations in the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair. The project may need to be built in phases, due to funding constraints.

The project is being built in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The Los Angeles County portion will be funded mostly by Measure M, with residual funds from Measure R not used to complete the Pasadena to Azusa segment. San Bernardino County is responsible to fund their portion of the project to Montclair (in San Bernardino County). The State of California is also providing \$300 million in funding through a TIRCP grant awarded in 2018.

Old Fashioned Christmas - Meet and Greet

WEST COVINA - The Historical Society of West Covina is presenting a December Old Fashioned Christmas - Meet and Greet on Friday **December 20**, 6:30 - 8:30pm.

There will be special music, caroling, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Entertainment is with Top Billing Singers and Dancers.

West Covina Historical Museum is at 336 S. Glendora Ave. West Covina.

Those attending will have an opportunity to purchase a custom made ornament for a Memorial Tree in Honor of or in Memory of a loved one or friend. Cost is \$25. or \$150.

For any additional information call 626-716-2689.

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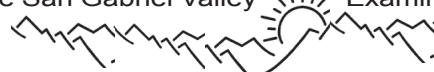
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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield.

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Rates are accurate as of 07/01/2019. Rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Additional restrictions apply. Must qualify for membership. A \$2 membership fee may apply. The credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. Added savings protection provided by American Share Insurance. Please speak to a credit union representative for details. Equal Housing Opportunity.

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LA County Fire Department Funding Measure to Be Put to Voters

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to place a measure to raise much-needed revenue for the Los Angeles County Fire Department on the upcoming March ballot. If approved by voters, the six-cent parcel tax measure will allow Los Angeles County Fire Department to hire more paramedics and firefighters, update lifesaving equipment, and meet the challenges presented by more frequent wildfires and rising 911 calls.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department serves 58 of the county's 88 cities and all of its unincorporated areas, including county beaches which make up the County's Consolidated Fire Protection District. The LA County Fire Department is not funded through the County's general fund. Instead, the Fire District is responsible for raising its own revenue via property taxes collected within the district. Unfortunately, the

funding collected has not kept up with the Department's growing resource needs.

"Today's fast-moving, explosive wildfires and the rising numbers of 911 calls are really putting a strain on the hard-working men and women who are our local firefighter/paramedics," said Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby. "There's a human impact on them as we stretch to ensure the safety of our neighbors and community. We desperately need more resources to meet today's demands. I'm grateful to the Board for placing this much-needed ballot measure before our voters."

Over the past decade, the demand on the Department for emergency medical services has grown exponentially. Since 2008, LA County has seen an over 50 percent increase in calls for assistance in medical emergencies, such as strokes, heart attacks and car accidents. Yet, in that same time period, there has been less than a 5 percent increase in paramedic units to respond to those calls. The Fire District currently lacks the funding to meet national standard staffing levels as set by the National Fire Protection Association.

"With an extended fire season and a substantial increase in calls for emergency medical services, voters will have the opportunity to help the Fire Department address its structural deficit to ensure our first responders are fully equipped to continue providing the highest quality public safety services," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

LA County firefighters and paramedics are using decades-old equipment that needs to be replaced. 20-year-old fire engines and rescue vehicles frequently break down and are

costly to repair and maintain. The Fire District's antiquated 30-year-old 9-1-1 communications system is incompatible with modern wireless and digital systems. This poses challenges for paramedics who need to communicate directly with emergency rooms while transporting patients and to firefighters on the ground coordinating fire response and evacuations. The system does not provide GPS mapping, a critical tool to reduce response times. The department is also in need of thermal image cameras used to locate and rescue children, the elderly, and people with disabilities who are particularly vulnerable during fires, floods and earthquakes.

The measure will be placed on the March 3, 2020 ballot for voters within the fire district. Should voters approve by a two-thirds vote, the resulting parcel tax of \$0.06 per square foot would collect approximately \$134 million a year from residents in the Consolidated Fire Protection District. Government parcels, non-profits, and low-income seniors would be exempt from the parcel tax. The funds will be used to hire and train additional firefighters and paramedics and replace aging safety gear, communications tools, and lifesaving rescue equipment.

A May 2018 needs assessment ordered by the Board of Supervisors for the Fire District demonstrated that additional funding is urgently needed to hire and train more firefighters and paramedics to accommodate the increasing need for lifesaving emergency medical services and to maintain, upgrade, and replace its safety equipment, emergency communication systems, facilities, life-saving devices, and vehicles.

Los Angeles County To Identify More Beds For Mental Health Treatment

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisor Kathryn Barger to improve access to mental health treatment in Los Angeles County by adopting a two-year pilot program to procure up to 500 beds for those in need of care.

"Mental health hospital beds have dwindled, leaving a significant number of patients and their families without access to critically needed care," Supervisor Barger said. "This is a significant step forward in my commitment to increase access to quality services for those suffering from mental illness, especially among the homeless population and those in our jails. We must explore all options to provide additional avenues to recovery."

By adopting the recommendations from the October 29,

2019 report issued by the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the county is seeking to increase its treatment beds and deliver higher quality care for those with mental illness and substance abuse, many of whom cycle in and out of hospitals and on and off the streets with no sustainable path to recovery.

"This effort isn't just about increasing the number of beds," said Dr. Jonathan Sherin, the director of the county's Department of Mental Health. "It's also about increasing the quality and efficiency of care and creating a coordinated, connected, and integrated network across all hospitals, whether they're county hospitals or private hospitals."

Currently, many individuals who no longer need hospital care linger in our hospitals due

to a lack of post-hospital options. According to recent analyses referenced in the DMH report, LA County may need up to 3,000 additional subacute (longer-term) mental health treatment beds. Individuals often wait in hospitals for months for subacute care; wait times for state hospital care are often a year or more.

The motion directs the Board to adopt the October 29, 2019 report and approves the "Recommended Actions for the Board of Supervisors", including a two year pilot to procure up to 500 mental health treatment beds. These additional beds will decrease waitlists for post-hospital care, free up hospital beds for more individuals who need them, and reduce the number of individuals suffering from mental illness on our streets and in our jails.

DPSS And Amazon Urge Toy Donations To Benefit Low-Income Youth

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Just in time for #GivingTuesday, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Toy Loan Program and Amazon are encouraging charitable donations via the Amazon Wishlist website to benefit nine Toy Loan Center sites serving low-income communities.

With the support of the County's Internal Services Department, the site brings the convenience of Amazon shopping to benefit thousands of families who rely on the Toy Loan Program.

DPSS encourages donors to post a screenshot of their Toy Loan donation to Facebook,

Twitter, and Instagram with #ToyLoan.

For 83 years, the County's Toy Loan Program has been a cherished memory for so many who recall the thrill of checking out a toy from one of the now 54 lending libraries. The program is a voluntary, community effort supported by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

The Amazon site, <http://toydrive.lacounty.gov/> allows users to geographically select a Toy Loan Program site and have in-need Amazon Smile charity wish lists items shipped directly to the site.

The new partnership serves as a continuation of an existing

effort by Amazon, #GivingTuesday, which is celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. It's a time when many tend to focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy with events throughout the year.

For more information about the Toy Loan Program or a complete list of the nine Toy Loan Center sites where a charitable donation can be made, visit the Toy Loan Website at <http://toydrive.lacounty.gov>.

Police Determine Origin of Firearm Found Near Repetto Elementary School

MONTEREY PARK - On December 5, 2019, at approximately 1:16 p.m., Monterey Park Police officers responded to a call of a firearm, which was found on the outside perimeter of the Repetto Elementary School campus. In an abundance of caution, Repetto Elementary School and the surrounding area was searched both by police officers and an article detection canine. No additional weapons were located and there have been no

known threats made to the school.

It was later discovered the firearm had been stolen in a residential burglary in the 600 block of Garfield Avenue in Monterey Park earlier in the day and appears to have been discarded by the fleeing suspect. The burglary was reported when the residents returned home from work.

The Monterey Park Police Department and Alhambra Unified School District have an ex-

cellent working relationship and take the safety and security of students and school staff very seriously. Out of an abundance of caution an additional search of the campus will be conducted before school resumes on Friday, December 6, 2019 and the Monterey Park Police Department will provide extra patrol and visibility on and around the campus.

The Monterey Park Police Department Detective Bureau is investigating this incident.

Residential Refuse and Recycling Rates to Increase Beginning January 1, 2020

Duarte residents will see an 11.8 percent increase to their monthly refuse and recycling bills.

DUARTE - The City of Duarte's solid waste services agreement with Burretec reviews and adjusts rates annually, to be effective Jan. 1. Rates are adjusted up or down based on various cost factors including Consumer Price Index, fuel prices, tipping fees, and State mandates, such as minimum wage increases. Burretec may request an adjustment more than four percent, when justified.

Over the past year, the factors that make-up the rate have increased dramatically particularly due to changes in the Chinese recycling markets known as the "China National Sword" policy. Prior to January of 2018, the U.S., as well as other countries, have relied almost solely on China to accept recyclables such as paper, cardboard and plastics. Since the introduction of the policy, China has established strict new contamination thresholds,

which includes bans on mixed paper and various grades of post-consumer plastics. This shift has impacted recycling programs and is most evident in the sizable increase of cost in processing these materials. Due to this increase, a recycling fee of \$1.25, instead of a credit, is now a part of this year's rate adjustment.

The most common form of service utilized by residential customers is the 90-gallon trash container, 60-gallon recyclable container, and 60-gallon green waste container. This rate will increase from \$23.89 to \$26.71 a month. Burretec also requested a slight \$0.06 cents increase for residential street sweeping raising the fee from \$1.84 to \$1.90 per month.

Commercial customers will also experience rate increases. The most common level of refuse service, one 3-yard bin serviced once per week, will increase by \$7.83 per month,

from \$182.78 to \$190.61. Commercial street sweeping will also see an increase in 2020 by 12 cents going from \$3.54 to \$3.66 per month. Duarte continues to maintain some of the lowest rates in Los Angeles County.

Burretec Waste Services began providing franchised refuse collection and recycling services in the City of Duarte in 1996, with the most recent contract extension approved in 2019. In recent years, Burretec completed the conversion of the diesel fleet to alternative fuel trucks, implemented a used oil curbside collection program, and integrated free paper shredding and compost giveaway at Community Cleanups, a construction and demolition processing option, and most recently, a new commercial food recycling program. For more information on Burretec Waste Services and the cost increases, call 1-(800) 325-9417.

San Gabriel Valley Examiner
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Mission Statement

- We believe that journalism should be free from any motives other than relaying information to its readers. It should not be used to win a favor by flattery, to enhance a particular political interest, or for the purpose of financial gain.
- 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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BART The BLOCKHOUND



My tattered spirit is beside itself with anxious anticipation on what looks to be quick fix to the gathering bloom...
BOOK of BART

Rumors of Harris VP Run Circulating

Last week Kamala Harris dropped out of the Presidential race with comments indicating her committee was in chaos, one of her lead staffers had run out to join the Bloomberg campaign and there were money issues. This week on the morning shows there were reports of Harris up and running again and this time for V.P. Yes - "running for V.P." Her past performance as California Attorney General tells me she would bring baggage to that campaign.



Shade's Perspective
Lois M. Shade

Former Mayor of Glendora
that office that looks credible on paper.

- Took felony conviction rate from 52% to 67%, highest in a decade.
- 85% conviction rate for homicides
- 56% to 74% in drug dealer convictions
- 73 homicide backlogged cases were cleared with 40% taking plea deals.
- Pushed for higher bail for criminals involved in gun-related crimes saying "...low bail encouraged outsiders to commit crimes in San Francisco".
- San Francisco P.D. gave her credit for closing loopholes in bail and drug programs defendants had used in the past.

Kamala Harris's track record as a prosecutor, first in San Francisco and then as Attorney General for the State of California, are probably important discussion items. Her record as district attorney goes back to 1990 in Alameda County where she specialized in child sexual abuse cases.

In 1994, Harris began to date former Speaker of the Assembly, Willie Brown and took leave of her district attorney position to accept appointments to the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board at \$100,000 a year and then the Medical Assistance Commission at \$70,000 a year. Both courtesy of Willie Brown. In 1995 when that relationship ended, Harris went back to being an attorney.

In 2003, Harris decided to run for San Francisco D.A. and ended up being attacked over her relationship with Willie Brown. Try hard as she did, she could not erase the connection and Brown made it difficult when he contributed \$500 to her campaign unknown to Harris. California Voter Project, a new PAC, also contributed repeatedly and according to Wikipedia that too was without her knowledge. Total amount she spent: \$625,000 or four times the amount spent in the campaign history for that office. Besides the money she was able to raise, known and unknown contributions, she was able to convince the 24-member Sacramento Democratic Party Central Committee, including Nancy Pelosi and Dianne Feinstein, to endorse her. Again, another first. The Committee had never not endorsed an incumbent.

Despite the interesting facts concerning her San Francisco District Attorney election, Kamala Harris did have a history in

or Penalties Initiative and turned it into Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act. Does reducing penalties for shoplifting articles under \$950 make for safe neighborhoods and schools? It has kept thieves and drug addicts out on our streets pilfering repeatedly.

Sacramento Bee criticized A.G. Harris for not taking an official position on the ballot measure and failing to tell voters the police could only obtain DNA samples from suspects accused of felonies. Sacramento County D.A. Anne Marie Schubert said the state was processing around 15,000 new DNA samples a month but since passage of Prop 47 that number dropped to 5,000. Those DNA samples are collected, recorded and used to solve future criminal cases.

American Civil Liberties Union contributed \$3.5 million and Open Society Policy Center provided \$1.460 million to make sure this passed.

Prop 57, California Parole for Non-Violent Criminals and Juvenile Court Trial Requirements Initiative was retitled by A.G. Harris as the California Public Safety & Rehabilitation Act. In the summary, Harris told voters "A 'yes' vote supported increasing parole and good behavior opportunities for felons convicted of nonviolent crimes..." Those "non-violent" crimes became drive by shootings, human trafficking and sex with a minor ... and more like that.

Prop 57 was passed by a 2 to 1 vote in 2016. Both Governors Brown and Newsom and Presidential candidate, Tom Steyer supported this proposition. Governor Brown's Ballot Measure Committee contributed \$4.1 million; California Democratic Party gave \$2.175 million; Thomas Steyer contributed \$1.75 million; Mark Zuckerberg put up \$1 million along with Open Society Policy Center. And, that was the top 5 contributors. Total spent was over \$15 million.

Anyone taking on Sen. Kamala Harris as a vice-presidential running mate should be called out on these failed criminal justice amendments putting all of us law-abiding citizens at risk. Harris needs to go be the Senator she was elected to be at least until 2022.

Think Again Elizabeth

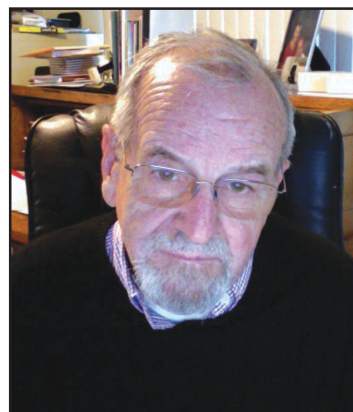
While it is weeks before delegates are selected for the 2020 election, these days many of us are struggling with our own choices even as we stay in touch with those who will make the decisions. As the weeks have rolled by I have tentatively focused my attention on supporting Elizabeth Warren backed up by Mayor Pete. It strikes me that a woman at the head of the ticket and a young male as a possible Vice Presidential candidate, might be our strongest option. Among other strengths, of all the possible candidates Elizabeth Warren may just be feisty enough not to be steamrollered by Trump.

But before I go any farther, Elizabeth has a problem. While I consider climate change to be the nation's number one issue, perhaps health care will get and is getting top billing among potential candidates. And here is where I have a serious problem with Elizabeth's current stance.

Medicare For All may well be the best possible long-term solution as the nation seeks a way to see that everyone is insured. But it is not the best current political solution if it cannot and will not resonate with America's voters. In fact, as things stand now, anyone advocating Medicare For All will probably doom the nation to four more years of the current disaster.

Elizabeth Warren was lured into support through the gale developed by Bernie Sanders who first advocated it and became the author of the "damn bill." Sanders wants to establish himself as the most radical of all the candidates, and Elizabeth Warren also longs to be the far left of the political mid-stream.

But neither of them has made



Charles H. Bayer

the case for Medicare For All, or explained just how it would be financed. To say that middle-class families will save money even if their taxes go up may be accurate, but few of these Americans are jumping on that bandwagon. The ten year cost of thirty TRILLION dollars is too large a lump for most Americans to swallow, even if that gigantic bill gets funded by unspecified Federal budget cuts and a revision of the obscene Trump tax cuts.

While neither of the advocates will admit it, obviously there will be an across-the-board tax increase of some size. There seems no other way to pay for it. The prospect of a middle-class tax increase is bitter medicine that just won't go down. Savings in co-payments is not a convincing argument. It is also true that a significant number of current Medicare recipients must also have expensive supplemental policies. Medicare costs, unless you are in a HMO that pays all the bills, will not evaporate just because everyone is required to join it.

There is another gigantic problem. Medicare For All automatically eliminates private insurance and nullifies the hard-won contracts that have been negoti-

ated by America's unions. And where are many of these industrial collective bargaining bodies centered? Why in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, the very states the Democrats must win if they are to garner enough electoral votes. No one should discount the political power of the insurance industry and its couple of a million employees. This paired with an attack on the work of the nation's unions may spell defeat for every progressive cause and candidate supporting Sander' and his Medicare For All.

Few politicians are comfortable when asked to modify a position they have defended, even if holding on to it spells political disaster. But at this point Bernie Sanders is rapidly becoming obsolete and Elizabeth Sanders is in serious trouble as the economic and political facts about Medicare For All continue to surface.

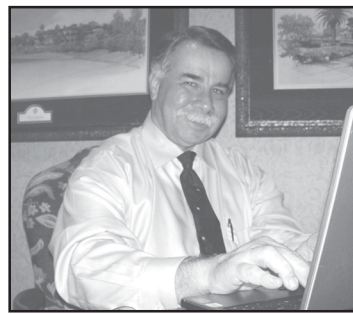
There is another option that may guarantee the universal coverage Democrats support. It is Mayor Pete's "Medicare for all who want it." This option would welcome everyone into the Medicare system and at the same time allow those who want to hang on to their private plans to do so. This route to universal coverage would cost a fraction of the Medicare For All option., and would guarantee choice.

As long as Elizabeth Warren is wed to Bernie's approach, I think her drive to be the Democratic candidate is toast, and even if she manages to get the nomination, my current guess is that her electability would be doomed.

Elizabeth, take another look before it is too late.

People Either Forget The Law Or Don't Care

Recently, two ladies were found trespassing on private property with their two dogs. They set off an alarm that alerted someone that people were on the property of a non-profit organization. They were seen walking across the parking lot to the rear of the building where there is a grass patch across the end of the property.



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

These were the same two ladies observed on the surveillance recordings in the past. They bring their dogs to do their business on the lawn and just leave it. While there, the ladies would steal the lemons and limes off the two trees. The trees are there to service the facility when they need lemons or limes for their private events.

The bottom line is that they are trespassing into a restricted area as they are not members of the facility.

The women were approached and when they saw the individual coming, they tossed the lemons and limes that they stole from the tree to the side.

When confronted, they acted stupid and as if they didn't understand English. At that point, the individual who challenged the two ladies and their dogs lost it and used some heavy profanity to tell them to get off the property. Their English was miraculously restored and commented that the language used wasn't necessary.

getting hurt or killed. A property owner saw someone alongside his house taking lemons from his tree. They actually came through a gate and went up the driveway. There was a gate that separated the front yard and the back yard. The property owner let his pit-bull out the back door. The plan was that the dog would start barking and the people would make a fast exit. These people apparently opened the gate to go into the back yard to take fruit from a back-yard tree. The dog was now loose to go into the front yard and the dog attacked both the man and woman that was stealing from the trees. The owner was in shock when he saw the dog in the front yard attacking the people. Both people were seriously injured and ended up in the hospital. The owner ended up pressing charges to protect himself.

In another case, the property owner ended up shooting those on his property stating he was in fear of his life and he was standing his ground. Well, you could claim it was a justifiable homicide, but who really knows. The D.A. could never get a conviction, so no charges were filed against the home owner.

If it is not your property and you don't belong there, stay way. The life you save may be your own.

"That's Just the Way It Is!"

'TIME JOCKEY' - King City Gem

By Joe Castillo

Mora - Stanton Theater...

In 1939, President Roosevelt initiated the Public Works Administration (PWA) program to help communities throughout the nation receive funding for projects which would benefit the entire community while also paying for labor costs and using local materials and supplies. The PWA program was the federal governments' attempt to get people back to work in the post-depression era while working on beneficial community projects.

King City is located 40 miles south of Salinas and 40 miles north of Paso Robles, and was one of the many agricultural towns along the Salinas Valley while also having a secondary interest in oil production. In 1939, the PWA awarded the King City Union School district funds to build a theater on its high school campus. Architect Robert Stanton was hired to complete the building while following the requirements from the PWA with one of its requirements being to include an artistic element in its

design. Stanton hired his colleague Joseph "Jo" Mora to add the artistic element to the building. Mora was already a renowned artist at that time and chose to sculpture theatrical images into the exterior of the building, images that were carved in cement. Mora's images were based on the experiences he encountered in his lifetime, places he had been to, seen, worked and even lived.

Born in Uruguay, migrated to the East Coast at the age of six, Mora at an early age showed signs of being a skilled artist, similar to his father Domingo and brother Luis. In a day when cameras and film were not in use, newspapers hired illustrators to draw pictures of the events of the day. Mora was hired by a Boston area newspaper to be their illustrator and by the time he turned 25 years old, Mora had been employed on a regular basis and was about to be offered a ten-year contract. But Mora had another wish on his bucket list and wanted to experience the real West. So, Mora packed his bags and moved West, working on cattle

and horses ranches throughout California, one of the first being Donahue Ranch which was the site of today's tourist village of Solvang.

Mora kept a daily journal of his days in the West and would eventually use them in his drawings, sculptures, maps, books, and paintings. His skills grew and included working with cement sculpturing, a skill he used in his art work on the King City-Robert Stanton Theater. On December 7th, the theater was dedicated as a historical site by the Native Sons of the Golden West with the Mayor, School board representatives, County Supervisor and past students and teachers in attendance. The theater was used for the school's performing arts classes as well as community programs, and every graduating senior dons their cap and gown in the theater prior to marching to the football field for graduation. Said a former student and now county supervisor, "I used to sleep in the balcony watching my sister practice ballet. Now when I see students in the balcony, I repeat the same story but I tell them that they too may become something special someday." The King City - Robert Stanton Theater is indeed something special....

Joe Castillo is a freelance historical writer who has been covering Southern California history for 11 years and has written 5 books on the topic. He can be reached at joecastillo@aol.com.

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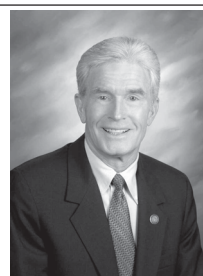
The Dow, Political Turmoil And Priorities

If you're looking for another reason to give thanks this Holiday Season, look at the 2010-19 decade for stocks. As of Monday, this decade will be 99% in the books, and the Dow was up over 167% (through last Friday). That places the Dow's gain firmly in 4th place in the 12 full decades since the Dow was born (in the late 1890s). That's especially encouraging because the 2000-09 decade was the second worst in Dow history, trailing only the Depressing 1930s.

It is hard to believe, but this may still be the most un-loved bull market in history. A recent survey by UBS (a Swiss investment bank) of 3,400 investors (with at least \$1 million in investable assets) found that more than half of them think there will be a significant market sell-off by the end of 2020. The survey showed that this specific group of investors has moved to an average 25% cash position, despite a world that pays near-zero interest on cash. Two-thirds (66%) of those surveyed believe the market will be driven more by negative external headlines (geopolitics) than internal market fundamentals, even though corporate earnings may be "set to take off" in 2020 and 2021. Those investors do not seem to remember that through all the good, bad and ugly headlines of the last century, the Dow increased over 260-fold (from 107.23 on December 31, 1919 to around 28,000 now).

The level of unrest around the world appears to be widening (in at least some key areas that investors should monitor closely). Trade negotiations with China have cooled since President Trump signed into law congressional legislation supporting the Hong Kong protestors (despite angry objections from Beijing). The passage and signing of the "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act" has put "phase one" of trade negotiations on ice, and put into motion the next round of tariffs (an additional \$155 billion in goods scheduled to be subject to the same 15% levy on December 15). President Trump said he had warned China's president Xi Jinping that crushing the Hong Kong protestors

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

would have "a tremendous negative impact" on efforts to reach an accord to end a 16-month "trade war".

China trade may be the short-term priority for market participants; but, even if a "phase one" deal could be accomplished (and the S&P sprints to new highs) it's my view that it won't change America's long-term challenge of curbing China's behavior. It's a clash of much more than just cultures. Even though both sides are formidable, America cannot trade away the free world's ability to stay that way! Trump is correct in protecting freedom and democracy, even though some "world view" opinions express less concern about the spread of, or even domination of Communism.

Against a backdrop of negative (primarily fake) news reporting on how the trade war with China could drive the U.S. economy into recession, what we're actually seeing is data pointing towards more growth in 2020.

How will the market likely trade if there is no China trade deal, and further tariffs are imposed? Well, the S&P 500 seems to be doing a nice job of consolidating its recent gains. Is that a clue?

On the upside, 3,200 on the S&P looks very doable, if the right headlines cross the tape. What seems clearer, heading into year-end, is that not cutting a deal with China won't derail the U.S. economy; but, it could spur more businesses to relocate operations out of China (to neighboring Asian countries or elsewhere). This is where the trade war could be won by America (over the longer term). Consider the possibilities for U.S. business investments leaving China, combined with the flight of Chinese

private and commercial capital (also leaving China).

It's apparently already happening! Bloomberg reported recently that China's hidden capital flight surged to a record high in the first half of this year, suggesting that residents wanting to move money abroad are using unrecorded transactions to evade China's tight capital controls. "Net errors and omissions" in China's balance of payments, widely seen as an indicator of concealed capital flight, rose to a record high of \$131 billion in the first six months of his year, roughly 40% higher than the average over the past four years.

I think this capital flight is about the only thing China's ruling party might respect - they may fear and react to that "giant sucking sound" of capital leaving their country.

China just celebrated its 70th anniversary of its victorious military control over the Chinese mainland (in October 1949), and they are now coming up to the centennial of the birth of the Chinese Communist Party (on July 1, 1921). As they near that "centennial moment" of the most powerful communist nation in history, we are witnessing a nation that appears very vulnerable to financial calamity. President Trump, Congress and America should continue to support the undoing of China's VERY REAL global threat, while it is still possible!

Amid all the wall-to-wall impeachment hearings, it's easy to miss some important economic and world news. Many global "hot spots" are erupting; but they have also been shunted to the back pages of most news reports. Clearly, the world is a dangerous place; and, as more crises arise, the world will seek safe havens. The U.S. remains the #1 oasis for international capital! An ongoing "flight to safety" should continue to benefit our U.S.A. financial markets.

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

Your Money - Ask Julia

Be safe! It can save you time and money.

DUI's are very expensive! Although use of marijuana is now legal in California, you can get a DUI if found driving 'high.' Also check the warnings on your prescription and over-the-counter drugs for advice against operating machinery (also includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc.). If you drink (even if you only have a light 'buzz') don't drive. Don't advertise to burglars. They figure there are gifts under that beautifully decorated Christmas tree on display in your picture window. When shopping, put your packages in your car trunk, or cover with a dark sheet or blanket. Do not leave your purse unattended in your shopping cart. Lock your doors, and keep your garage door closed when not in use. Be aware.

Be alert. Please check your smoke detectors and install new batteries. (I encourage you to do this for a senior, or disabled, neighbor, too.) If you are taking a trip, be discrete about loading luggage into your car. Stop your newspaper and mail delivery, or ask a trusted neighbor to collect them for you. Put some interior lights on a timer to go on at night, and leave your porch lights on.

How do I go about figuring out my RMD?

The IRS provides worksheets and tables for calculating your Required Minimum Distribution.



Julia Yoder

(See IRS.gov) You must receive the RMD for the year you turn age 70 ½ by April 1 of the following year. For all subsequent years, you must receive your RMD by December 31st of that year. Failure to do so results in a 50% penalty of the amount that should have been distributed to you.

What's the deadline for opening a Roth IRA?

To start a new Roth IRA for 2019, you have until April 15, 2020. You can also open or add to a Roth IRA for 2019 in 2020. The Federal income tax and California State income tax due date will be April 15, 2020. Check with your CPA for further clarification about a Roth IRA, and/or visit the website: irs.gov

Can I just wait until 2020 to cash my end-of-year bonus check so I don't have to pay taxes on it as income in 2019?

No, the income would still be

earned in 2019. However, you could ask your boss to issue the check in 2020. Make sure to ask for taxes to be withheld. An important factor in deciding whether to get your bonus this year or next is to determine whether or not you are going to be forced to pay the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT.) Either do your research online at the tax websites, or talk to your CPA.

What's the website for money the State is holding, waiting for people to claim it? If I find any funds there, how do I go about claiming it?

For the state of California, go to <https://ucpi.sco.ca.gov/ucp> Don't let anyone charge you to do this for you. (If you do not have access to the internet, I'll look it up for you - no charge.) Instructions for filing a claim are on that website, and might require the claim document to be notarized.

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/Real Estate Broker 01238153/ Nat'l. Ethics Assoc. Accident-Medical-Dental discount plans: CalStarBenefits.com/28485

Retirees Are Knocking at the Door. Will You Answer It?

by **Genine Wilson**

There's a "new generation" entering the workforce. Recent retirees bring experience and a host of desirable qualities to the job and integrating them into a multigenerational office doesn't have to be daunting. Work with the differences and similarities of the generations to foster a diverse and productive workplace.

Understand the value retiree-workers bring to the multigenerational workforce

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment projections for the 2018-28 decade, a staggering one-quarter of American workers will be 55 or older by 2026. A Pew Research analysis of official labor force data found that in 2018, 29 percent of Baby Boomers ages 65-72 were currently working or looking for work.

Staffing experts have long recognized that older adults have much to offer, and many LA County Fortune 500 companies employ mature workers and have successfully integrated them into their multigenerational workforce.

Older adults are eager to learn. Two-thirds are attracted to jobs that offer a chance to acquire new/cutting edge skills

and nearly half are drawn to jobs that expose them to the latest technology. And, research also shows that retirees have a higher level of satisfaction and focus on the job, specifically:

- They are more engaged at work than other generations
- They are more satisfied with their work-life balance
- They are far less likely to let financial stress get in the way of their focus and productivity

Introducing mature workers into an office full of Millennials (and other generations) can be a positive experience for everyone as long as employers have an inclusive culture in place. This creates an understanding that each generation has its unique perspectives and motivations - as well as similarities.

Incorporate retirees into your staffing plans

Today's multigenerational workforce is made up of many ingredients that complement one another. Employing workers of all ages expands a company's collective brainpower, fosters collaboration and teamwork, and improves efficiency.

When developing a staffing plan, consider the different

characteristics of each generation. Retirees prefer face-to-face communication while millennials prefer text and email. They are less interested in receiving praise from their manager and prefer the recognition of their peers, while millennials are hungry for manager feedback.

On the other hand, both generations are alike in that they enjoy collaboration, they want to feel like they have ownership of their decisions and they seek purpose in their jobs. These similarities should be celebrated and reinforced.

Older adults will continue to flock to the workforce and make an impact. They have a strong work ethic and a wealth of problem-solving experience. Giving them a place in your organization while also aligning them to core values and overall objectives helps to nurture a collaborative culture while boosting overall productivity and profitability.

About the Author
Genine Wilson is the vice president, Pacific Region for Kelly, a global leader in providing workforce solutions. She oversees the staffing and business solutions operations for Kelly throughout the Western U.S., with a focus on engineering, information technology, industrial, manufacturing, office clerical, science, and finance and accounting staffing. Connect with Genine at: www.linkedin.com/in/geninev.



THE CAR GURU

WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

Never Assume

In a recent study of several hundred people, the question was asked, "Does the auto shop where you take your vehicle employ certified technicians?" The vast majority answered that they assumed that they were certified.

Sadly, this is not the case! Someone who cuts hair or does manicures is required to be state certified and take continuing education classes, but a mechanic, who works on tires, engines or brakes doesn't need a single day of training nor are they required to have the proper tools.

The only certification system we have in the automotive repair industry is strictly voluntary and is administered by Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) which offers a series of written tests that a technician

can take to be certified in many different areas of the car. All tests are voluntary, not required. At Certified Auto, I require all the staff to be ASE certified and I know many other shops do as well.

A smog technician is the only exception. Smog technicians are licensed by the state and require continuing education.

I recommend using an AAA Approved auto shop because they require ASE certified technicians and those technicians must have a minimum set of tools for the cars they work on. AAA approved shops have tough standards and you, the consumer, have a voice through the arbitration system if you feel something went wrong with your car repair.

In these uncertain times, sav-

ing a few dollars is always something to consider, but don't get so caught up with a low price that you get poor service/repair. This will cost you more later. Have a knowledgeable certified technician perform the service or repairs on your car; it will save you time and money in the long run. Before you agree to have any work performed, ask if the technician working on your car is certified for that year, make & model.

Certified Auto Specialists: the friendlier and more helpful auto shop! Feel free to call 626-963-0814 with any questions and we will be glad to help, or visit our website at CertifiedAutoCa.com

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My Turn: Ms. Warren, We Did Build This

Well there they go again. Elizabeth Warren resurrects President Barack Obama's old speech, "you didn't build that, a lot of other people made it possible." What she really means is the government made it possible, having provided the protection, security, infrastructure, and the roads to make it possible.

She forgets that the government is really just a lot of people paying the taxes and the required fees to make it possible. And some of the people, those taxpayers, are from the very businesses she targets. Lifelong politicians have a hard time understanding how businesses work and what businesses are up against. The business owners, not the bureaucrats, take the risk, make the gamble, study the market, sacrifice the resources, and confront the hardships and the



Charles Lopresto

setbacks. And if they work with the land, they confront the weather as well. They hire the workers, provide them with benefits and shoulder their problems. And in the end, it is the business and business person, who is held accountable for what happens.

Yes, infrastructure benefits the businesses, but the businesses make the infrastructure possible.

And when a rich man buys a sports car or a yacht, which is something Warren might find frivolous, she also fails to remember the sports car or the yacht represent a lot of jobs provided. Someone has to provide the materials, build the product, market and advertise it, deliver it and sell it. Then someone has to repair it, service it, store it and resell it. One job after another, Ms. Warren. If there are no buyers, there is no working. And if there are no workers, there is no buying.

It is really just a chicken and an egg sort of thing. Simple stuff.

And if Socialist leaning folks like Elizabeth Warren fail to "get it," they will continue to remain out of touch with the American people. The people who did built that.

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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

Wanted: Men and Women who want to lose weight. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is a non-profit group that encourages men and women to lose weight. TOPS is a hands on, Pounds Off approach to weight loss. No Quick Fixes, just helpful information you need to reach your weight loss goal. We offer the latest nutrition, fitness and medical information. We also have information on the latest Diabetes resources. Motivational stories from successful TOPS members. Our meetings are every Thursday at 9:30am to 11:00am at Azusa Memorial Park at 320 N Orange. For more information please call 626-967-8829

ARCADIA

Orchid Hobbyists Monthly Meeting

San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists invite you to their **December 16**, monthly meeting at the L.A. County Arboretum Palm Room, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia. Judging starts at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. We will hold an Open Forum, Ques-

tions and Answers. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

Winter Play Date for Tots

Children ages 2 to 6 are invited to enjoy a cozy winter story, make a craft inspired by that story, and then stay and play with friends new and old. It's a wonderful way to enjoy a winter Saturday with family and friends. The story time and play day starts at 3 p.m. on Saturday, **December 14**, in the Jerry Broadwell Children's Room at Arcadia Public Library.

Visit www.ArcadiaCA.gov/library for more information or call the Jerry Broadwell Children's Room at 626.821.5566. The Arcadia Public Library is located at 20 W. Duarte Rd., 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 pinochle. The group meets at the Assistance League Community House, 100 So. Santa Anita Avenue every Monday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Lunch is provided for a nominal fee or bring your own lunch.

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

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

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.

DUARTE

Duarte Museum Needs Docents

It's fun and educational! Volunteer to serve as a docent at the Duarte Historical Museum in Encanto Park. You will serve about every other month on a Wednesday (1-3 p.m.) or Saturday (1-4 p.m.) with a seasoned docent who will train you. Greet visitors, show them around the museum and learn about local history. Training sessions are available. Call Claudia at (626) 358-0329 for more information.

Blood Pressure Checks

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

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

Meals on Wheels

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

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.

Senior Lunch

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.

GLENDORA

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. For more information, please call Toni Levyssohn at 909-843-5239. The program is **Wednesdays** 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 pm.

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 contact Jennelle Markel at (626)9148-8235, or email at jmarkel@ci.glendora.ca.us.

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.

LA VERNE

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, se-

nior 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. Chal-

lenge 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

Republican Women Christmas Meeting

East San Gabriel Valley Republican Women Federated will hold their Christmas meeting at South Hills Country Club, 2655 South Citrus St., West Covina on Friday, **Dec. 13**. Incoming President, Elizabeth Courtney, will be installed by the new California Federation Republican President, Sue Blair. West Covina High School Show Choir will perform at 12:30. Guests are welcome. For reservations please call (626) 824-8717

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 Holidays.

TOPS Meeting

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets each Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Cortez Senior Center, located at 2501 E. Cortez St in the back classroom building. Visitors are always welcome and your first meeting is free. Come now and learn about nutrition, portion control, food planning, exercise, motivation, and more every week. This group has motivated members from all over the San Gabriel Valley. For details, call Erika Hernandez at 6 2 6 - 3 8 4 - 0 5 0 2 (ehernandez57@aol.com).

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.

Hearst Castle At Christmastime

BALDWIN PARK - Special Christmastime tour of the castle! Multiple dates in December 2019 available to choose (12/13-12/14, or 12/14-12/15) We're off again to historic Hearst Castle, where both the castle and Solvang are beautifully decorated for the holidays. Day 1 highlights will include a stop in Solvang, with ample time for lunch (on your own) and shopping. By mid-afternoon we'll arrive in San Simeon for our deluxe oceanfront accommodations (Cava-

lier Oceanfront Resort.. Yes, evening fire pits and all.) Just a few miles away, our special evening Hearst Castle tour awaits us—an incredible two-hour look into the lifestyle of the late William Randolph Hearst. Not only is the castle beautifully decorated during the entire month of December, with docents dressed in '30s period clothing, but this special "Holiday Twilight Tour" is simply the best (kitchen, library, gardens, dining room, bed-

rooms, movie, etc.)

Day 2: We'll return to the Hearst Castle Visitor Center this morning for some shopping, or perhaps an optional IMAX film: "Building the Dream," followed by a quick drive-through of WR Hearst State Park. \$309.50 per person for Double Occupancy. \$379.50 for Single Occupancy.

For more information, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323

Yang's Braised Chicken Rice Celebrates Grand Openings in Rowland Heights and San Gabriel

Rapidly Expanding Chinese Brand Opens Two New Locations in Los Angeles County

SAN GABRIEL – Yang's Braised Chicken Rice, the wildly popular Chinese brand with a signature menu item, celebrated their grand openings of its new locations in Rowland Heights and San Gabriel on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The Rowland Heights restaurant, which will be the largest Yang's Braised Chicken Rice in the world, is situated at 1355 Nogales St., and the San Gabriel location at 140 W. Valley Blvd. #101. Both locations will build on the brand's successful U.S. expansion as well as its global popularity.

"It's an exciting time for us as we take our beloved concept to Los Angeles County," said CEO of the Yang's Braised Chicken Rice U.S. group Xinyu Zhang. "Our Huang Men braised chicken, which is a staple of the well-known Shangdong-style, Lu Cai cuisine, is steeped in tradition. The authenticity of our preparation and ingredients create an experience for our guests that is unlike any other."

In addition to the new locations in Rowland Heights and San Gabriel, the brand will be open-

ing locations throughout Southern California in Anaheim, Buena Park, Fountain Valley and Ontario by the end of 2019. The brand currently has locations in Tustin, Lake Forest, Aliso Viejo and, most recently, Santa Ana.

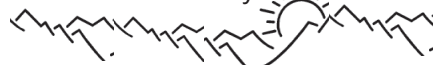
"We're proud to call Southern California our home in the United States. The people here have been so receptive and loving of our signature menu item," said Zhang. "We look forward to expanding our presence even more throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties."

The celebrated restaurant's single menu item got its start when founder Xiao Lu, Yang's grandmother passed down the secret recipe for the sauce. With years of culinary training under his belt, Yang began lovingly adapting the sauce of the braised chicken recipe and added rice before launching it at his fast casual restaurants in 2011.

Yang's Braised Chicken Rice is dedicated to ensuring the quality of its signature dish, starting with the consistent flavor of the sauce and simplifying the dining experience for customers. Cur-

rent and future U.S. Yang's locations, which offer a simplified restaurant operating model, feature the same signature one-item menu in three varieties of spice level: regular, authentic and spicy.

Founded by Xiao Lu, Yang, Yang's Braised Chicken Rice opened its first restaurant in Ji Nan, Shandong Province in 2011 and has since franchised more than 6,000 locations across China, Australia, Japan and Singapore, with its first U.S. location opening in Tustin, California, in 2017. The brand's innovative single-item menu is rooted in tradition and has developed a loyal international fan base. With a focus on quality through simplicity, Yang's is committed to the extraordinary flavor of its ingredients, starting with the signature, proprietary sauce used at all locations. Its recent U.S. expansion is poised to share braised chicken rice with the world through targeted growth efforts to begin in California, New York, Chicago and Hawaii.



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Covina Armed Burglary Suspect Arrested

By George Ogden

COVINA - A man from Orange was arrested for burglary. He had a previous burglary conviction but he was able to post bail and was released. He was arrested Monday last week when Covina Police Officers responded to a burglary in progress alarm at NPI Enterprises at 1174 East Edna Place about 10:30 a.m. and police found Keith Laurent at the scene, armed with Glock style handgun, multiple silencers and ammunition for the weapon.

Laurent broke in through a locked door. He told police that he once worked there and was trying to recover some of his own property. Police contacted the owner and he said that he did not belong there.

Laurent has a felony conviction and is not allowed to possess weapons such as firearms. Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms were notified and they were able to get a search warrant to search the suspect's home. They recovered drugs, bullet proof vests and more ammu-



Keith Laurent Covina burglary suspect arrested.

nition. The suspect was charged with burglary, possession of firearms and a host of other charges. Bail of \$20,000 was posted and the suspect was released.

Foothill Presbyterian Hospital Auxiliary Installs 2020 Board of Directors



The 2020 FPH executive board includes Jack Mateer, Mary Barham, Dlorah Gonzales, Bonnie Singleton and Patty Mateer.

GLEN DORA - On Tuesday, the Emanate Health FPH Auxiliary introduced their 2020 board at a breakfast held at The Village Eatery in downtown Glendora. Leading the group will be Dlorah Gonzales (President), Mary Barham (1st VP publicity), Jack Mateer (3rd VP finance), Bonnie Singleton (secretary), and Patty Mateer (membership). Helping them to make this a successful year will be the many members that volunteer their time and services.

Because of the hard work of last year's auxiliary, a check for \$20,000, the second installment of the promised \$100,000, was presented to the hospital. This generous donation was made possible by the support the community gave to the 2019 auxiliary and the hospital's Gift Shop. The money raised from these endeavors goes towards the completion of the FPH Geleris Education Center and the scholarships presented each year.

The auxiliary members would like to congratulate Patty Mateer on being selected FPH Volunteer of the Year. The outstanding job she does as membership chairperson and her willingness to help in any way needed, made her the perfect choice. We would also like to thank Dr. Cigliano, of FPH, for the beautiful Christmas songs he sang during breakfast. If you would like more information or would like to become a part of this very worthwhile community organization, please call the volunteer office at (626)857-3103.



Michelle Stoddard of the Emanate Health Foundation accepts this year's gift of \$20,000 from Dlorah Gonzales, president of the FPH Auxiliary.



Dlorah Gonzales and Pat Gowder congratulate Patty Mateer on being named FPH's Volunteer of the Year.

10 Tips To Pick Your Best Plan In The Last Days Of ACA Open Enrollment

If you buy individual or family health insurance on your own, you need to know that the nationwide open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act is coming to an end on December 15, 2019. This may be your only chance to compare your options and enroll in a new 2020 health insurance plan.

Last year, open enrollment continued for three weeks after Thanksgiving weekend. This year, you only have two weeks after the holiday! To help you get motivated, here are ten health insurance shopping tips:

1. Avoid the last-minute rush. The last days of open enrollment can be hectic. Government-run health insurance marketplaces have been known to crash in the last-minute rush and it can be hard to get in touch with a real human when you need help. Avoid the rush and shop for your 2020 health plan today.

2. Know if you qualify for subsidies. If your household income is no more than 400 percent of the federal poverty level (about \$50,000 for an individual or \$85,000 for a family of three) you may qualify for government subsidies that can significantly lower your monthly health insurance premiums.

3. Set realistic expectations on cost. On average, individuals receiving government subsidies pay less than \$100 per month for coverage. However, people who don't get subsidies pay an aver-

age of \$456 per month for individual coverage or \$1,134 for family coverage, according to eHealth.

4. Shop beyond government websites. Government-run marketplaces offer ACA-compliant plans that can be purchased with government subsidies. But people who don't qualify for subsidies can find additional ACA plans through private exchanges and licensed agents that aren't listed on government sites. By shopping only through government sites, you may be missing out on a better match for your personal needs and budget.

5. Keep your preferred doctors. If you have a favorite doctor, make sure that he or she is a network provider for any new 2020 plan you're considering. Websites like eHealth can help you shop for plans based on preferred providers, but you'll also want to call your doctor to confirm network status.

6. Make sure your prescriptions are covered. While all ACA plans cover prescription drugs, they will differ in the specific drugs that are covered. At marketplaces like eHealth, you can sort your plan options according to those that will cover your personal prescriptions at the lowest cost.

7. Know what you'll pay for common medical scenarios. When reviewing your options, make sure you understand what you'll pay out of pocket when you

seek medical care for a sick visit, or when you pick up a prescription drug. Remember that ACA-compliant plans also provide some free preventive care, including an annual checkup.

8. Know your deductible and maximum out-of-pocket costs. When considering any new health insurance plan, it's important to understand your maximum out-of-pocket cost limit for medical care if you are hospitalized in the coming year. Make sure can afford this in an emergency.

9. Get help if you need it. It's pretty easy to shop for health insurance online these days. Just make sure you're working through a licensed online broker, and that any website you use offers you a way to contact licensed agents by phone or online chat if you need personal help or advice.

10. Whatever you do, don't go uninsured. Health insurance provides you with easier access to more affordable care and sets a limit to your personal medical liabilities. If you miss open enrollment, you may have to wait until January 2021 to get a comprehensive ACA health insurance plan. (NAPSI)

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. We request that articles be in Word format while photos be in jpeg. Articles should be in good taste.

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Annual Breakfast And Toy Give Away

COVINA - Project 29:11, a local non-profit, will holding its annual breakfast and toy give away. It will be held Saturday, **December 14** from 9 am to 12 noon. Luminate Church at 250 San Bernardino Rd in Covina will host the event.

Covina City Council Member Walt Allen along with Dora Gomez, president of the non-profit, will emcee the event. Covina Police will distribute toys to those who wish to pick out a toy. Breakfast for the entire family is provided by Cov-

ina Taco Bell. Food bags will be available for families to take home and families can take pictures with Santa. Last year we served hundreds and hope to see new faces this year. The entire community is invited.

Project 29:11 also offers a year round food bank and clothing rack to the community. We are open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2pm to 5pm, across from the fire fire dept on second street, Covina. To learn more visit our web site info.P2911@gmail.com.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

May the joy of the season bring you love and peace. Merry Christmas to a wonderful community!

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Arcadia Unified School Board Remains Committed to Education

ARCADIA—All five Arcadia Unified School District Board of Education members are heading to San Diego to join more than 3,000 school board trustees from across the state to tackle the most pressing issues facing public education at the California School Boards Association's (CSBA) Annual Education Conference and Trade Show (AEC).

"We take pride in knowing that we are as committed to lifelong learning as the students and staff in our district," said Arcadia Unified Board of Education Vice President Kay Kinsler. "We strive to stay informed on the issues and want to contribute to these important conversations for the benefit of our students and students everywhere."

In addition to attending this conference each year while they are on the board, being active in the Arcadia community, and serving time in numerous Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) roles, each Arcadia Unified Board of Education Trustee is a graduate of the CSBA Masters in Governance program. The five-course program equips board members "with the knowledge and skills to build and support an effective governance structure." The five courses are "Foundations of Effective Governance," "Policy and Judicial Review," "School Finance," "Human Resources," and "Community Relations and Advocacy."

CSBA's AEC is the paramount continuing education event for California school boards and the largest education leadership conference in the state. Uniting school district governing teams with superintendents, county office of education trustees, education advocates and some of the world's top thinkers, conference attendees have the opportunity to explore methods to strengthen



Arcadia Unified's Board of Education annually attends CSBA, an event highlighted by more than 120 professional development workshops on key governance topics

public schools and improve student outcomes.

"We're honored to host the largest gathering of elected officials in the state and to provide a forum where school board trustees can listen to experts in the field, learn from their peers, and evaluate strategies that have improved conditions and boosted academic performance in schools across California and around the nation," said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy.

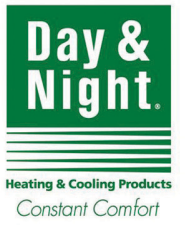
"CSBA's annual education conference allows school board members to engage with the most pressing topics in K-12 education and to enhance their governance practice in service of California's 6.2 million public school students."

CSBA's AEC 2019 includes more than 120 workshops on subjects such as teaching and learning; advocacy, engagement and community relations; equity, opportunity and access; wellness and safety; and funding, finance, and facilities. Arcadia Unified's Board of Education President Lori Phillipi, Superintendent Dr. David Vannasdall, and Chief Communications Officer Ryan Foran will host a workshop to share the district's experience in supporting transgender student advocacy.

CSBA's annual conference is the only statewide event that offers the governance perspective and the opportunity for education leaders to share insights and collaborate on solutions with their peers from across California.

Merry Christmas

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