



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

To reach us:
Phone: (626) 852-3374
Fax: (626) 852-1904
E-mail: sgexaminer@aol.com
Web: www.sgvexaminer.com

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

December 5 - 11, 2019

Eugene F. Moses, Former Mayor of Azusa, Publisher of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner, Passes Away

By Jayam Rutnam

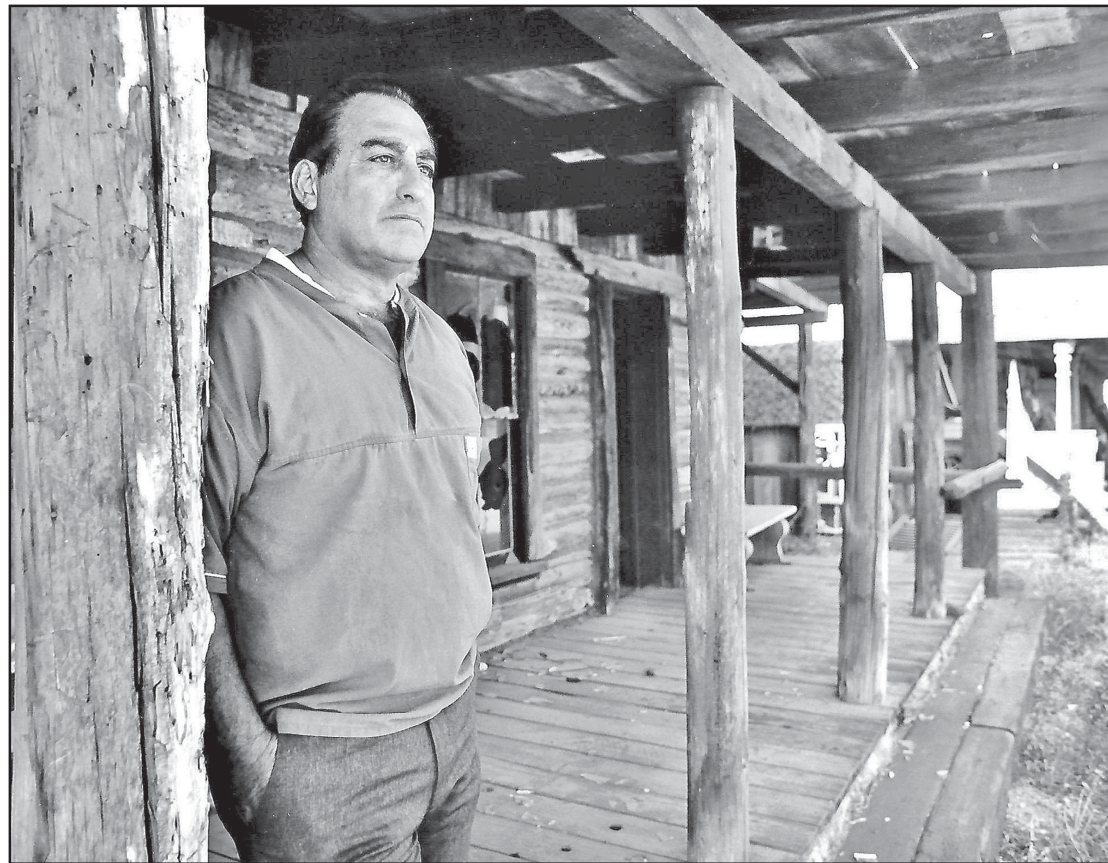
GLENDORA - Eugene "Gene" Moses passed away at the Intensive Care Unit of the Foothill Presbyterian Hospital just before noon on Monday November 18th, 2019.

Gene's health was failing for almost two years, as he fought congestive heart failure. His medical condition worsened about two weeks ago, when he was hospitalized. The doctors suggested heart surgery with a 50/50 chance of survival. He chose to forego the operation and take his chances.

Gene leaves behind his wife Illuminada (Inday), who has always been by his side. They were married for 25 years. He also leaves behind his son Michael who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona and his brother Roger who lives in northern California. Two brothers Jim and Eddie predeceased him. Gene was born in Newcastle, Pennsylvania in 1933. His parents moved the family to Southern California where he attended grade school to High School in Pasadena. He was Captain of the Football Team at Elliot Junior High. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Navy and served in the Korean War. He was then given an Honorable Discharge from the Navy.

Gene was an entrepreneur establishing many businesses that included a vending machine company, steakhouse (Alhambra), ghost town, bait and tackle shop and newspaper.

Gene's prize was the Canyon City Ghost



Town built in Azusa, which was very popular at the time. He welcomed class field trips to educate children of the history of the old west. He also owned a Bait and Tackle store in Azusa, which was a meeting place for politicians and friends. His enthusiasm and motivation lead him

to be the entrepreneur he became.

Gene was also elected to the Azusa City Council in 1978, then ran for Mayor of the City of Azusa in 1982 and served in that position for an unprecedented 12 years.

During Gene business and political career, he

was honored and awarded by various organizations during his life. Some of them were Citizen of the Year, Governor's Award, Outstanding Community Award and many others.

He was published in Personalities of America, Mayors of the World, Personalities in North America, Who's Who in the West, Biography of the Year, Who's Who in California and Who's Who in Society.

In 1997, he founded the San Gabriel Valley Examiner, which is a popular local newspaper serving the San Gabriel Valley. He owned and operated the newspaper as Publisher and Editor. His wife Inday as Assistant Editor and Marc Pijuan, Inday's son, was instrumental in putting the newspaper together.

Gene will be remembered as an entrepreneur, innovator, loyal friend, and a true, proud patriot of America. In the words of his good friend for many years, Jan Quackenbush "Gene was as honest as they come. It was his honesty that made him successful."

A Memorial Service/Viewing will be on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 pm at Oakdale Memorial Park Chapel. Funeral services will be on Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 pm at Oakdale Memorial Park Cemetery, 1401 South Grand Avenue in Glendora. For further information refer to the website link: www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/glendora-ca/eugene-moses-8935861

West Covina Unified Student Pursues Dream of Founding Medical Startup



Edgewood High School senior Vanessa Li, second from left, helped create a discreet and efficient HIV test with a team of university students and working professionals, capturing third place in their track at the MIT SF Grand Hack event.

WEST COVINA—A senior in Edgewood High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) program, inspired to seek new academic and professional challenges, has won a coveted award that will help her launch the startup company SafeDetect.

EHS senior Vanessa Li—working with a team of two UC Berkeley bioengineering students and a data scientist—co-created a simple, discreet and efficient way to test for HIV during the MIT San Francisco Grand Hack event held this fall. Their efforts captured third place in their track and secured a UC San Francisco Rosenman Institute Prize, which provides resources to help winners patent their products, pitch to investors and launch startups.

"When I was a sophomore in high school, I didn't think I could do anything that would have an impact beyond me, but this makes me feel like I'm doing something for my community," Li said. "Seeing professionals in the field agreeing with my ideas

reinforced my confidence in my vision."

The MIT San Francisco Grand Hack brought together 400 university students and working professionals on Oct. 11-13 to build innovative solutions for the healthcare industry. Li was the only high school student to attend and compete.

The Grand Hack consisted of three tracks: mental health, rural and low-resource health setting, and chronic disease. Attendees formed teams based on topics of interest and were asked to pinpoint a problem, find a solution and present it before judges.

Li's team worked in the rural/low-resource track, designing discreet and ready-to-ship HIV tests that could be ordered online by people who otherwise would not have access. The thought, Li said, is to serve people who live in rural areas and LGBTQ individuals who lack safe access to testing.

With the help available through the UCSF Rosenman Institute

Prize, Li and her team are working to launch a startup and purchase a prototype. The SafeDetect team is currently looking for business consultants and will meet with QB3—a startup support service—at the end of November for advice and funding assistance.

"The idea of having a startup company sounds crazy, but now that we're moving forward with the prize and using those resources, it looks like it's actually going to happen," Li said. "The crazy concept can become a reality. This idea wasn't just something that existed during those three days for us; it is something we're serious about pursuing."

Li plans to balance her startup efforts with her rigorous studies in Edgewood's IB Diploma Programme and involvement in Science Olympiad Club, National Alliance on Mental Illness club and Key Club. She is considering a degree in biological engineering.

VFW Putting Together Holiday Packages for the Combat Veterans in Afghanistan



Mary Dugan (left) with Joanne Negley putting packages together for our combat veterans. By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - Mary Dugan and Joanne Negley, who are Auxiliary members with the West Covina VFW Post 8620, are putting together Christmas packages for combat veterans in Afghanistan. This has been a longtime program that the Auxiliary has done for years.

Joanne and Mary spent a good part of the day putting various items to include snacks, toiletries and some fun items into the boxes. They plan on doing more in the near future.

In the past, they have received letters back from the combat veterans thanking the "ladies" for

taking the time to think of them during the holiday season. Both Joanne and Mary have expressed that the veterans really appreciate getting a little something from "home". The girls also expressed that they feel good that they are there for their "boys" (their veterans).

Windsong Southland Chorale's Christmas Concert, Sunday, Dec. 8

LA VERNE - Bells ringing! Voices singing! Brass resounding! That's what you can expect to hear when you attend Windsong Southland Chorale's Christmas concert on Sunday, **December 8, 4 p.m.** at La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church, 1040 Baseline Ave., La Verne.

Celebrating its Silver Jubilee 25th Season, Windsong, directed by Founder Dr. Janet Harms, and its affiliates, The Bells of Windsong, directed by Joan Hamm, and Canyon City Brass, directed by Mike Edwards, will present an exciting and diverse afternoon of holiday music. Featured works are "Behold New Joy!" by internationally-known local La Verne composer, Shawn Kirchner, with Choir and Brass,



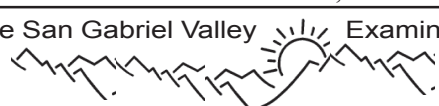
Mike Edwards, Dr. Janet Harms, Pedro Manuel Toro (Windsong accompanist), and Joan Hamm

and "Carols and Lullabies, Christmas in the Southwest", by Conrad Susa, featuring Harp, Guitar, and Marimba.

The Bells of Windsong will perform three Christmas carols, and the Canyon City Brass will

have their own spotlight on the program.

Reserved tickets are \$15, General; \$10, Students; \$30, Family (parents, children under 18), \$20, at the door. Tickets may be reserved by calling 909 983-9879.



Unique Christmas Tree Collection on Display at the Duarte Museum



DUARTE - Celebrating the holidays, Duartean Ann Valleroy and her daughter Jeanne are sharing their Christmas tree collection at the Duarte Historical Museum in Encanto Park through December. Ann's husband, now deceased, loved to decorate and she and Jeanne now not only cherish the trees he collected, but also the trees his father collected dating back to WWII.

They are displaying a fifty-year-old two-foot tall ceramic tree with tiny protruding lights, purchased at Montgomery Wards. This type tree has made a come back and is again popular. "My daughter and I started our tree collection in earnest in the Christmas season of 2000. Be-

cause we were traveling out of state, rather than putting up a fresh tree, we purchased a 3-foot-tall fiber optic tree plus a few small artificial trees. The collection has snow balled and we now look only for unusual decorative trees."

"One of my favorite trees is an 18-inch-tall 'stuffed' cloth tree, sewn by developmentally disabled adult women, who were taught to sew by Angela Levy, of Angela Levy School of Fashion and Design in Alhambra," says Ann. She also treasures another stuffed tree circa 1990 to 1995 which was crafted by the seniors at Immaculate Conception Church. These seniors used to make delightful decorations for the annual Christmas boutique at

IC School. They also made a tree from children's building blocks which she describes as "quite unusual."

"Jeanne is also quite crafty. She has hand-painted several trees, along with other hand-painted Christmas decorations which adorn our house. The collection grows bigger each year."

Ann and Jeanne are happy to share the collection. They see it as a tribute to husband and father John Valleroy (1932-2000). The Museum is located at 777 Encanto Parkway in Duarte and is open Saturdays 1-4 p.m. and the first and third Wednesday each month from 1-3 p.m. For details check the museum website: www.RanchoDeDuarte.Org.

San Gabriel's City Clerk Visits Hong Kong and Reports on Protests

By George Ogden

SAN GABRIEL - Julie Nguyen, who is the elected City Clerk for the City of San Gabriel, went overseas and visited Vietnam and also went to Hong Kong. Not only was it a visit, but also to see what was going on in the way of protests in Hong Kong.

One area of protests is at Poly University, but they also have many protests throughout Hong Kong as well. Many students have escaped the university, but some are still trapped inside. They use various ways to escape and some even made zip-lines and slid down from

the university with motorcycles waiting to rescue. When the police learned that, they pretended to be the rescuers and trapped the students and arrested them.

Nguyen, speaking with the residents, has been told that many people have sacrificed their lives during these protests and many more have been injured. They said police are under extreme stress and would throw random tear gas bombs at the protestors.

She said she witnessed an 8-year-old boy, not joining the protest, but helping put up barricades against the police.

Many people were buying him candies to thank him.

She reported the streets are pretty dead and the night markets have less than 30 people when normally there are hundreds. "We arrived on the day the election was won, so they said they are taking a break and will resume in a few days. So, the protest we witnessed wasn't as extreme," she stated.

Due to the protest, they barricaded all the entrances to the airport and you have to show your boarding pass and ID just to get into the airport.

This is very sad for all of Hong Kong.

Monterey Park Police Announce Arrest of Hit and Run Suspect

MONTEREY PARK - On November 18, 2019, at approximately 9:20 p.m., Monterey Park Police officers responded to a call of a traffic collision in the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Newmark Avenue. Upon arrival, officers learned that a 14 year old male, identified as Joshua Madrid, was struck by a vehicle while riding his skateboard across Atlantic Boulevard. The vehicle then fled southbound on Atlantic Boulevard. Monterey Park Fire Department paramedics transported Madrid to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The Monterey Park Police Detective and Traffic Bureaus responded to investigate the collision. The preliminary investigation indicates Madrid was not in the marked crosswalk and entered the intersection on a red traffic signal when he was struck by a vehicle travelling southbound on Atlantic Boulevard.

On November 22, 2019, detectives located a white minivan involved in the traffic collision



MPPD announces arrest of hit and run suspect Cristina Navarro and subsequently arrested the driver for hit and run and vehicular manslaughter.

The suspect is identified as: Cristina Navarro, 63, Montebello, Calif.

Navarro is out on bond and set to appear in the Alhambra

Superior Court on February 24, 2020 for arraignment.

Investigators continue to ask persons who witnessed the collision, or have information about it, to contact the Monterey Park Police Department at 626-307-1200.

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Supervisors Fast-Track Homeless Housing Plan

Supervisors Approve Barger Motion to Develop Strike Team

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisor Kathryn Barger with co-author Supervisor Janice Hahn to initiate a strike team of county agencies and private sector partners to develop a plan with concrete, measurable and attainable housing solutions to tackle the homelessness crisis.

“We’re at a critical junction in our efforts to combat the humanitarian crisis on our streets,” Barger said. “Our current approach to building housing is unsustainable, unaffordable and inefficient. My motion organizes and streamlines the County’s work to construct interim and permanent housing.”

“There are people dying on our streets and our current strategy is not good enough,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn. “We need to address homelessness with the same level of urgency as we would a natural disaster. That means changing our strategy,

turning our attention to shelters and emergency housing as well as continuing to build new affordable and permanent supportive housing.”

The motion directs the CEO to develop an Urgent Housing Plan and identify all sources of capital funding to support it. Additionally, the motion calls for the CEO to collaborate with a private sector housing expert to spearhead the plan.

“The government is not the expert in building housing,” Barger added. “Our partners in the private sector know how to get the job done quickly and affordably. With the help of a strike team composed of County Departments, I’m confident the private sector expert will think critically and creatively to construct housing rapidly.”

The motion cites successes in other jurisdictions, such as the City of San Diego, where local leaders have pushed for immediate housing solutions, like Sprung structures, modular and pre-fabricated units, to serve as bridge housing. These facilities serve as a temporary stay for people transitioning into permanent housing while they receive supportive services from health counselors, substance abuse counselors, case managers and outreach specialists.

The initiative also calls for a robust communications and out-

reach strategy to engage with impacted communities and emphasizes increased transparency and accountability concerning the development of homeless housing. Beginning December 10, the Board of Supervisors will receive bimonthly public updates on the progress of the Urgent Housing Plan.

The motion, found here, directs the CEO to:

- Develop a process by which all steps necessary to implement the urgent housing plan, including permitting, zoning and approval processes, are streamlined and expedited, working in consultation with LACDA, DPW, Planning, Fire, HI, Sanitation Districts, DPH and others, as appropriate. Also consider appropriate exemptions to Title 22.

- Identify ongoing and one-time funding for capital projects to be used for the development of homeless housing.

- Identify a housing expert from the private sector to provide oversight for the development and implementation of the plan.

- Develop a robust communications and outreach strategy to engage with communities impacted by the implementation of the plan.

- Schedule bimonthly set item on the Board’s agenda for status reports beginning on December 10, 2019.

El Monte Toy Importer Charged with Possessing, Manufacturing \$1.4 million in Counterfeit Goods

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The owner of an El Monte toy import business has been charged with manufacturing and possessing more than \$1.4 million in counterfeit goods, including plush toys, backpacks and playing cards, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced in a press release.

Wan Piao aka Edison Piao or Edison Park, is charged in case BA481608 with seven felony counts of counterfeit of registered mark. The charges include an allegation of taking

more than \$500,000 through fraud and embezzlement.

He is expected to be arraigned on Dec. 4 in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The case was filed for arrest warrant on Oct. 4 and Piao was arrested on Nov. 1.

The defendant is accused of manufacturing and possessing for sale more than 500,000 knock-off items, according to Deputy District Attorney Duke Chau of the Consumer Protection Division. The products were discovered by law en-

forcement on March 21, 2017, at Piao’s two El Monte warehouses.

The counterfeited brands identified in the felony complaint include Pokémon, Hello Kitty, Angry Birds, Lego Ninjago, JanSport, Shopkins and Super Mario.

If convicted as charged, he faces a possible maximum sentence of 12 years in custody. Bail is set at \$370,000.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

New Landscapers in Duarte to Clear Brush in the Foothills – A Tribe of Goats!

DUARTE – About 150 goats have arrived to do brush clearance at several city locations and nibble away the flammable vegetation in the foothills.

Using goats to clear brush saves energy, reduces waste, and is more environmentally friendly than herbicides or the use of power equipment. For two months, the goats will be munching away at foliage and brush in areas that are also challenging for people and machines to safely access but easy for the animals to navigate. These effective furry friends are an important part of wild-fire prevention while also being just plain cute.



For more information about the program, please contact Community Development at (626) 357-7931.

Assessor Prang Gives the Scoop on the Most Common Real Estate Fraud

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The dream of home ownership remains one of the most important goals for many residents of Los Angeles County. Owning one’s home or business is a source of pride and security and provides an opportunity for financial growth. Unfortunately, real estate scams can steal these dreams with a single forged signature or get-rich-quick scheme. This type of crime can have serious, long-lasting impacts on its victims.

Unscrupulous individuals can do inconceivable things with personal – and public – information ranging from the relatively minor infractions to the abhorrently mind-boggling scam.

While anyone may fall prey to one of these scams, the groups most targeted by real estate scammers are usually the elderly, homeowners already in foreclosure, and individuals with low incomes.

The following is a set of examples (by no means all-inclusive) of the types of real estate scams that are pervasive across the country. Of course there may be completely legitimate real estate transactions that have similar circumstances as the scams outlined below.

- **Foreclosure Rescue:** These companies prey on people who are behind on mortgage payments and whose mortgage company has commenced foreclosure proceedings. The companies tell desperate mortgage holders that they can save their home if the borrowers enact a “temporary” title transfer to the rescue company. The companies promise that the borrower can stay in the home and pay rent during the temporary title transfer time – what they claim is a “leaseback.” Often these “rescue companies” sell the homes once they obtain the title from the real owner. Because the rescue

companies claim it is a leaseback, they often only pay the owner a minimum amount that rarely reflects what the owner would have made if they had sold the property on the market. In the meantime, the owners remain on the hook for the original mortgage payments on their home.

- **Mortgage Elimination:** These programs offer borrowers a way out of their mortgages in a relatively brief period of time (for example, eradication of a full mortgage in less than a year). They convince borrowers that there are loopholes that will allow the borrowers to escape the mortgage, and these companies charge a premium for this so-called “service.”

- **Equity Skimming:** Equity skimming happens when a buyer who wants to take out a large mortgage convinces the seller to re-list the house for an extraordinarily high amount (for instance, twice the original amount) so that the buyer can obtain a larger mortgage from his/her bank. Often times in these situations, the buyer will take out the larger mortgage, pay the seller the original asking price for the house, and disappear with the rest of the loaned funds. The house usually ends up in foreclosure as a result.

- **Equity Fraud:** This is old-fashioned theft. The criminal in this situation actually obtains the personal information of the victim and uses this information on mortgage or loan origination documents. In addition, the criminal forges the victim’s name on the deed and steals the equity from the property involved.

- **Fraudulent Loan Origination:** This happens when real estate professionals help unqualified buyers get the money necessary to purchase a home with an FHA-insured mortgage.

Real estate professionals in this situation promise potential homebuyers that they will qualify for mortgages that are much larger than the buyers’ ability to repay, and often then falsify official documents to assist homebuyers in obtaining these properties.

- **Land Fraud:** This happens when companies obtain information about potential homebuyers and sellers from mailing and call lists. The companies then engage in a direct mail and telemarketing campaign, promising huge profits and gifts if the sellers agree to buy land from the company. These companies sometimes sell unimproved, recently purchased lots that they purchased for \$1000 or \$2000 to unsuspecting buyers for up to \$50,000.

- **Rental Fraud:** Rental fraud occurs when a person files false “satisfaction of loan” documents with the local court. In order to file this paperwork, the renter has to forge the owner’s signature, the bank officers’ signatures, and bank seals. This document shows no encumbrances on the home, and the criminal is free to take out new loans on the property (which he/she does). They usually vanish shortly thereafter.

For more information about real estate fraud, including information about reverse mortgages, please visit the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs website at: <http://dca.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dca/main/home/yourhome/owningyourhome>.

San Gabriel Valley Examiner
INFORMATION GUIDE

1160 Englewild Dr.
Glendora, California
91741

Phone (626) 852-3374
Fax (626) 852-1904
E-mail: sgexaminer@aol.com

EUGENE F. MOSES
Publisher/Editor

Jayam Rutnam
Contracted Reporter

George Ogden
Contracted Reporter

Glenn Purbaugh
Photographer

Contributing Writers

Pat Murphy
Joan Hallidy
Ken Herman
Charles H. Bayer
Jorge V. Rosales
Lois M. Shade
Julia Yoder
Gene Morrill
Jenny Park

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

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Newsom Proposed Prison Closures

There seems to be no organized thought or definitive solutions on some of the critical issues like homelessness, housing and criminal justice in California under the current California leadership.

Gov. Newsom signed AB 32 because he wants to end the private prison system and the use of private companies by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to retain immigrants for deportation. He also wants to close a state prison because it is so expensive to operate those facilities. Prison expense is actually \$15.8 billion in this year's budget but the objective of the Governor is to show a commitment towards rehabilitation for certain inmates rather than incarceration. To close a prison could potentially bring us back to release or early release of some low-risk offenders. That makes some of our cities and counties, not to mention just us average citizens, shudder after the last round of "fixing" prison overcrowding by releasing early some low-risk offenders and more releases when some crimes were re-defined by Prop. 47 and 57 as misdemeanors that were hard-core felonies.

One of the costs penciled into running a prison of course is personnel and the California Correctional Police Officers Association (CCPOA)--prison guards) the last 5 years has been able to extract regular pay increases, over the warning of the Legislative Analyst as being "unjustified," but without hesitation from Jerry Brown or Gavin Newsom. If layoffs or early retirement offers are proposed due to prison closures, the most powerful union, CCPOA, in this state may not go easily along with that given the comfortable and easy



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

to acquire income stream.

One of the options-way-back before Brown and Newsom, was to contract out to the private sector for prison incarceration services. As of October 2019, Gov. Newsom ended that option when he signed AB 32 to end the use of the private system in January 2020. That is unless, according to Reuters, Steve Gorman, the court orders more inmate incarceration limits and the privately-owned prisons become staffed by the "state corrections agency." If "state corrections agency" personnel are involved, so is the union, and base salaries and pension retirement costs will be adjusted accordingly.

Reuters, Steve Gorman, also recorded Newsom comments: "[I] vowed to abolish private prisons in the state when [I] took office in January ... because they contribute to over-incarceration ..." Newsom was referring not only to those convicted of crimes but those immigrants being detained by ICE. He went on to say, "These for-profit prisons do not reflect our values."

There are two issues here. The state prison system and the federal immigration detention system. Private prisons across the

country hold the vast majority of immigrants who are detained for deportation. Facilities in California hold 8% of the 49,000 people currently in ICE custody. When Gov. Newsom signed this legislation, ICE said they would lose four privately run detention facilities over the next four years when contracts with the state run out. Currently ICE is housing 4,000 people at these private facilities in California.

One private prison/detention facility for ICE, GEO Group, CEO Zoley, told the L.A. Times, Andrea Castillo, the law, AB 32, only restricts any state or federal facilities to their contract terms ... and if there is a contract in place before the end of this year, it can go the full length of its contract term. AB 32 phases out existing detention facilities entirely by 2028.

CoreCivic, another private operator, plans a 500-bed expansion down by Otay Mesa bringing that facility up to 2,000 beds. Expected: New and amended contracts coming forward by mid-December.

At issue once again is the constitutional supremacy of the federal government. Does Newsom have the right to dictate to the federal government where to place and who runs ICE detention centers? He has put himself in the middle of the same controversy as he did when he announced, through legislation, President Trump couldn't be on the California ballot unless he released 5-years of tax returns. Is Newsom playing one-upmanship games with President Trump or just ignorant of history and the Constitution? Either way, he is using taxpayer dollars for his ridiculous attempts of having things his way.

"TIME JOCKEY" - Record Snowfall

By Joe Castillo

White Thanksgiving... It's not something you see every year, much less on Thanksgiving, but a strong winter storm from Alaska brought in a record cold front filled with wind, rain and snow to Southern California. More than two inches of rain fell throughout the southland while up to three feet of snow fell in the mountain areas. The amounts were the usual amounts one would expect in the Sierra Nevada Range but certainly not in Southern California. It rained starting Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and finally stopped on Friday morning before the clouds departed and opened up to bright blue skies. The storm brought in record low temperatures which had not been seen before on Thanksgiving and the erratic weather conditions made traveling dangerous and difficult during the most traveled holiday season.

The I-5 was closed for nine hours through the Tejon Pass as snow forced the main north-south state thoroughfare to shut down. I've seen snow fall in the Castaic area before but never the amounts that fell over Thanksgiving. But in the Cajon Pass, another large amount of snow fell and the ride north up the I-15 through the Devore junction resulted in a site you may never see again. The

backside of the San Gabriel Mountains was covered in a blanket of bright powder snow, from the ridge to the desert floor. It wasn't just in spotty sections but is the entire northern backside of the mountains. It's a site I've never seen and I may not have another opportunity to see it again in my lifetime.

Cars were stopped along the road to take pictures and frolic in the snow reminiscent of being in Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead or the San Bernardino Mountains. But on the verge of being in Hesperia and Victorville, it's a once-in-a-lifetime scene. Thanksgiving 2019 was indeed a White Thanksgiving giving more credence to climate change and bringing in more extreme weather conditions.

Sam Houston... Black Friday brought in numerous sale opportunities including my favorite at Barnes and Noble bookstore. I picked up an interesting book on Sam Houston focusing in on his life before and after the Alamo. The author claimed that it was President Jefferson's intent to include the region of Teexas (Texas) in the agreement with France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. However, when Secretary of State John Quincy Adams negotiated with Spain on the southwest

border with Mexico, Adams identified the Sabine River and not the Rio Grande River as the actual borderline. The error in defining the border placed the area of Texas within the Spanish possession, which would later become the Mexican Republic.

Another interesting note was that Houston was adopted by the Cherokee Nation and with his experiences as a Congressman, he was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to act as an Indian ambassador. As usual with Houston, trouble followed him and he was accused of assault on a political figure. Houston hired a lawyer by the name of Frank Key to defend him. Key adequately defended Houston but when the summation was made, Houston was the one giving it and the crowd of onlookers cheered ecstatically. It wasn't enough and Houston was found guilty. The interesting note was that Frank Key's real name was Francis Scott Key who would go on and author our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner"....

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.

An O. Henry Christmas Parody: Madge I.'s Gift

by Ralph E. Shaffer

"One hundred thousand, eight hundred sixty-three dollars and fifty-two cents! Is that all?"

Madge I. Young - she always insisted on using her middle initial - scowled as she read the numbers on her bank statement. She hadn't looked at one in weeks. There was really no need to. Her husband, Mr. James Dillingham Young, Esquire, Ph. D., LL. B., C.P.A., a bright and promising young executive at one of New York City's most prestigious firms, received a huge bonus after every successful closure of a project - and nearly every one he directed ended successfully.

Madge I.'s checking account received a \$20,000 monthly allowance from James. By avoiding avaricious spending and pinching pennies left and right, she had accumulated what she considered a rather modest bank balance, but Christmas was approaching, and she worried that the \$100,863.52 might not be enough for the presents she wanted to give James.

It was their first Christmas as a married couple, and she wanted so much to give him a gift that would make him remember this Christmas forever. Yes, she wanted that very much, but she just couldn't decide which possible gift to give him. The Corvette would have been nice, but she had given him one on his thirtieth birthday two weeks ago. Then there was the sailboat, but they already had a yacht, and while they could tow the little boat behind when they sailed off to Tahiti again or to Bermuda once more, that wouldn't do for a Christmas gift. What could she give her James.?

In a quandary, Madge I. lay down on the couch she had picked out from W and J Sloane and prepared for a long cry, brought on by her desperation regarding the Christmas gift for James.

"To Hell with crying," Madge

I. said aloud, with conviction. "I'm going out to buy myself that stylish dress," the special one with that flair, the look that her James would love because it brightened her eyes, and which she had always thought was too pretentious.

"Too pretentious?" she said to herself. "How could anything be too pretentious for James' wife?" And off she went to Bergdorf's on Fifth Avenue.

The dress she had in mind is too upscale to describe here, dear reader. Just imagine the most beautiful, alluring and a smidge short of seductive outfit that the wife of one of the city's up and coming young execs would wear. That was the dress Madge I. had seen one day last week when she ventured into Bergdorf's to browse. All the Bergdorf salesladies knew her, even though she had never purchased a single item on any of those forays. It wasn't because they thought she was out of her element at Bergdorf's, she was always dressed as stylishly with clothing that might have come from Bergdorf's and one day, they knew, she'd buy an expensive outfit there. Was this the day?

Madge I. tried on the dress, paraded in front of the store's mirrors to the whispered ohs and ahs of the sales corps. She had no doubts about purchasing the dress, but one hitch did develop when she reached the cash register. She had forgotten her checkbook and her credit cards were maxed out, even with the additional \$20,000 credit Visa had given her.

Somewhat embarrassed, she turned to the saleslady: "I don't have my checkbook with me, and there's no credit left on my cards."

With great disappointment, clearly evident to the sales staff, she graciously but with embarrassment returned the dress to one of the associates and sadly left the store. She did not return before Christmas.

On Christmas eve, James and Madge I. opened the gifts under their tree. There was a high end Rolex watch for James and a Tiffany necklace for Madge I. On the second round, James opened the latest, most expensive iPhone on the market. Madge I. received the latest model lap top. Usually at Christmastime they had only two rounds of gift opening. But this year there was a third present for James. He was dazzled when he unwrapped a key to a top of the line Range Rover.

A genuinely impressed James crawled on his knees to his wife, and with an enormous smile embraced, hugged and kissed her repeatedly. "I would never have bought this for myself, and I never imagined that you would buy it for me."

"If this were an O. Henry short story, there would be a twist along about now. But I don't see one," Madge I. said, almost wishing for the surprise ending that she knew ought to be coming but wouldn't.

"But there isn't any twist," James replied. "We aren't poor so you didn't have to cut your hair to pay for the Range Rover, and I didn't have to sell the yacht to buy the necklace."

"Oh," he continued, almost as an afterthought, "I do have something for you. I almost forgot." With that he went to his closet and brought out a very large package marked "For the Madge I."

"Here, darling, this is for you." Eagerly, she removed the expensive wrapping paper... and saw a box from Bergdorf's. She instantly knew what was inside. She didn't have to open it.

"The Bergdorf people called me when you had to put the dress back," James said. "They knew how badly you wanted it and correctly guessed I'd buy it for you. Merry Christmas, darling. O. Henry had it all wrong. In this case, it's really "a gift for the Madge I."

Ralph E. Shaffer is professor emeritus of history at Cal Poly Pomona. reshaffer@cpp.edu

Eugene Moses will be Missed

I officially met Gene (Eugene) over twenty years ago. We were on the same committee with Forest Tennant in West Covina. He found out that I was with the Los Angeles News Media and wrote articles in the Tribune's Highlander. He asked me to come on board and to write for the Examiner as well. That was many, many years ago.

He was one of those type of guys you either liked or didn't like, or both. He was a guy you respected no matter how you felt about him. I found him interest-



George Ogden

That's just the way it is!

ing and had fun with him when he was doing well. His later years, he wasn't around much were I could interact with him because

of his health.

He did a lot for Azusa when he was in the political arena. Moses was elected mayor in 1982 and served until 1994, when he decided not to run for reelection in order to run for state senate, which he lost to Hilda Solis.

Moses ran and was the publisher of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner newspaper.

Condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed. He was just one of those kinds of guys.

"That's Just the Way It Is!"

Citrus College Provides Resources To Help Students Transfer

Students attend Citrus College for various reasons. It may be to earn a certificate to advance their technical careers, or earn an Associate's Degree, or just take a class to learn something new, like art, computers, or a language. But one of the major goals of Citrus College is to prepare students to transfer to local public and private universities and Citrus College provides major support in this area.

In 2018, some 1,031 Citrus students transferred to the UC or CSU system while many also transferred to in-state and out-of-state private universities. Transfer agreements with some of these institutions eases the way for students to do this. They meet with their counselor and know exactly the undergraduate classes they need to successfully transfer. Citrus has a partnership with Cal State Fullerton, UCLA, and other colleges that will guarantee students, who follow the proscribed plan, acceptance to the university with junior status.



Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, Member of Citrus College Board of Trustees

To help students prepare for transfer, Citrus College operates a Transfer Center where a variety of assistance is provided. Workshops on financial aid, tours of colleges and universities in the state, application assistance, and counseling appointments to ensure students meet the eligibility requirements are provided at no cost. Transfer Fairs are held where representatives from universities and colleges can meet with students and

talk to them personally about transferring to their college.

After students have been accepted, Citrus coordinates with the universities to provide "next step" workshops for students in person or on line to help students understand key deadlines and ensure a smooth transition.

At the Transfer Center, students have access to a Resource Library of brochures, catalogs and literature from universities from across the United States. And the Center is staffed with knowledgeable, helpful people to assist students in any way.

The Governing Board of each community college in the state must ensure the development and adoption of a plan to help students transfer. The statistics show that Citrus College is doing a terrific job.

Dr. Pat Rasmussen has been a member of the Citrus College Board of Trustees since 2007 and serves Area 4, Glendora and portions of San Dimas.

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How Economically Negative Are "Negative Interest Rates"?

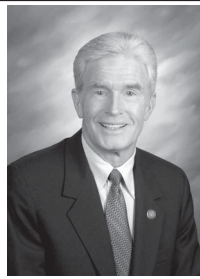
Economists and Wall Street analysts are having a tough time predicting the economic times we are currently in. Negative interest rates are one reason for today's lack of directional economic clarity. What is this thing called "negative interest rates"? Should we throw out all past econometrics, for they just don't work anymore? Adding to this, many Wall Street analysts that make important judgmental calls are too young to have lived through a "true" bear market. Yet, Negative Interest Rates are so abnormal that you feel like you have gone into some kind of distorted world. Whatever the impact of negative rates eventually turns out to be, it might bring historical change, because mankind has never been here before.

All of this is being caused and manipulated by the ECB plus the central banks of Switzerland and Japan. Please remember that none of these central banks are set up like the Fed, America's central bank. They have no independence; and, the people who run these other central banks work for and are directed by the governments that own them. However, their actions appear to be causing collateral damage for the rest of the nations in the world, maybe even serious collateral damage!

The truth is that European governments cannot afford their budgets (or the costs of their countries) without raising taxes, selling off assets, or lowering their contributions to their social programs. They are effectively politically "broke," but no one wants to admit it. No one wants to talk about it at all (and, consequently, most outsiders believe that things are just fine). Reality may become crystal clear when institutional investors recognize the downside of all this creation of debt.

The total debt to GDP ratio for the United States is 330%, for the EU it is 450% and Japan comes in at over 600%. Yet, no one is paying attention to these heavy debt loads, and no one is discussing it, and no one seems

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

to care about it. Money "from nothing" and no end in sight. And it is, in my estimation, distorting both the equity and debt markets. Few people apparently believe that anything will happen as a consequence.

Negative interest rates especially make no sense to me. There are now close to \$15 Trillion of global negative yielding bonds. Forty percent of Europe's investment grade Corporate debt also now yields less than Zero. With no yield to be found, money is pushing its way into the equity markets in America; and now, for the first time, the valuation of U.S. equities is 1.5 times our GDP. At the same time corporate America has increased its debt load by about 60% in the last 10 years, which now totals approximately \$16 trillion, which is also an all-time high. Coincidentally, corporate equity buybacks are projected to exceed \$1 trillion this year (pumping even more money into many countries).

Pay attention to the monetary flows. Money is coming out of the bond markets of Europe and into the American bond markets because our yields are so much better than their yields. Retail bond market money in the United States is flowing out of fixed-income and into the equity markets because senior and retirees' incomes are being impaired (and they are hoping for an off-set from appreciation as they can't find any other real yield). Institutional money in the United States is flowing out of the public bond markets and into private placements, private equity and Real Estate because insurance companies, Wall Street, the banks and other financial institu-

tions can no longer afford (or generate revenues from) the low yields in public debt. It is a mess.

I often wonder, can the central banks print "Pixie Dust" money forever, or is there a point, some point, where there is a price to pay for its continuing creation. We have never been here before so it is hard to predict an outcome with any accuracy. What I can say is that I find our current economic environment extremely troubling; and, I worry about where we might be heading, especially if the current free enterprise, capitalistic political structure changes in 2020.

One mediating factor could be that we can't invest in their foreign banking system, so our choices are limited. Most of the German and Danish and Swedish banks are now charging people for their deposits, and so even money in banks is now a negative. What happens if American yields follow European yields down this "rabbit hole"? Many people and institutions could be caught in the downdraft with profits and lifestyles eroding in serious ways. Political and economic havoc could ensue.

Once upon a time nations needed taxes to pay for things. Now they have learned that they can print money from nothing and pay for things. There is a lesson here, a risk here, and an eventual conclusion here. At some point there will likely be a price to be paid!

However, assuming America's generally business friendly environment continues, that "some point" might be postponed (at least here) for some (financially significant) time. Future voters likely will decide if America follows Europe into its current economic uncertainty. Hopefully USA voters will continue to support the free enterprise system which has made the USA the most prosperous nation ever.

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

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

Your Money - Ask Julia

To spend less money on Christmas gifts, I took advantage of Black Friday sales and Cyber Monday sales, but I had to put everything on credit cards because I didn't save up last year. How do I get out of debt and start saving?

Since you decided to spend, it's good that you utilized the sales. It is even better that you recognize your debt, want to get it paid off, and want to save up for next year. Transfer your balances to a credit card with the lowest, or zero, interest rate. Then, budget and do without, focusing on paying off that credit card as quickly as possible. If you get a year-end bonus, or a pay raise, use all those new funds to pay down that credit card. If your debt is huge, you might need to get a second job. This is a good time of year to get 'seasonal' work. Once your debt is paid off, start banking that credit card payment into a savings account.

Is there a way for me to legally increase my taxable deductions for 2019?

If you are a homeowner, make your January mortgage payment in December so that you get that extra amount of interest deduction. If you are close to reaching the limit for the medical-expenses deduction, and were putting off a medical procedure until 2020, reschedule for 2019. Making a contribution to an individual retirement account (IRA) might help, too. If you are a business owner or independent contractor, you could buy items in 2019 (see IRS Schedule C) for use in 2020. It would be best talk with a CPA.

Is it possible to take some money from my retirement account at work and move it into



Julia Yoder
an IRA?

This type of move is called an "in-service distribution." Check with H.R., or see if your retirement plan document indicates whether or not your employer-sponsored retirement plan permits you to roll over some of these funds into an Individual Retirement Arrangement while you are still working for that employer. If allowable, and if done correctly, it should not cause a taxable event, and there should be no early (pre-age 59 ½) withdrawal IRS penalty of 10%. Reasons for moving some of your retirement money are: freedom to participate in a wider range of allocation choices, better guarantees (like a guarantee that you cannot lose your principal), better protection in case the company goes bankrupt, and more control over distribution to beneficiaries.

How does a beneficiary make a claim on an annuity? Is it like life insurance?

Making a claim on an annuity incorrectly can result in a considerable loss of funds. How you file the claim and receive that payout depends on that specific annuity policy's rules, whether or not it's within a trust, or if the owner set up any other payout

guidelines. For right now, do nothing until you thoroughly review the annuity policy. Contact the annuity company (contact information can be found on the policy), the owner's life insurance agent (also on the policy, or ask the annuity company), and/or your own life insurance agent.

Is it better to get an annuity, or get life insurance with a cash account?

It depends on your specific situation and needs, and what you want that investment to do for you. Each product has its own advantages. The life insurance you mentioned can offer you a higher payout for your beneficiaries if you were to pass sooner than later, and some of the money you pay is used to cover the premium. Life insurance with a cash account offers you the death benefit, plus the tax-advantaged potential pot of money to access while you are alive. Annuities can be a way to save for retirement, with company-backed guarantees that you cannot lose your money. There are long-term annuities, and there are immediate annuities with scheduled monthly or annual payouts. If you don't qualify for life insurance, simply go with an annuity.

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

Is it a Good Idea to Give Pets as a Gift for the Holidays?

Holiday season is in full effect and many are in search of the perfect present for their loved ones. Gifting friends or family members with an adorable new puppy or kitten is popular but not recommended for several reasons. Pets require a lifetime commitment, which includes time and financial demands. Unprepared new pet parents might regret the gift, and even re-gift the pet (sometimes to our overwhelmed animal care centers!).

Before surprising someone with a pet as a gift, here are some things to consider:

- Determine the level of interest in owning a pet.
- Will they be a responsible pet owner?
- If the recipient is a child, will the parents assume care for the animal? Have the parents agreed to bringing a new pet into their home?
- Will they have enough free

time to tend to the pet's needs?

- Are they able and willing to accept the ongoing financial responsibilities of pet ownership?

- Is this a surprise? We recommend that the recipient is able to pick out their own pet and have the opportunity to bond with the animal before bringing it home. A home-made gift certificate can be presented to the gift recipient. Gift givers can create and print out a personal gift certificate on their own personal computer to give to the recipient.

Once you contemplate the answers to the points above and decide to give a gift of a precious pet, please remember the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control has hundreds of wonderful animals in its seven animal care centers. Find your nearest animal care center here on our website.

Also, if you determine a pet

may not be the best gift this holiday season and have a close friend or relative that loves animals, there are other ways to recognize their love for animals. A donation in their name to the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation is a wonderful way to support our work on behalf of animals in need.

Also, you may share with them some amazing opportunities DACC has to foster a loving animal and/or participate in our volunteer program. Find information on how to become a foster parent. Learn more about the volunteer opportunities.

Pets are the gifts that keep on giving with their unconditional love. Let's make sure they are a welcome addition to the family so they and their new pet parents can enjoy a lifetime of devotion to each other. Happy holidays to you and your loved ones!

Holiday Snow Village Brings Winter Fun and Festivities to Barnes Park

MONTEREY PARK - Monterey Park's 7th Annual Holiday Snow Village event will feature snow play and sled runs, holiday music, and pictures with Santa - all at the Barnes Park Amphitheater.

On Friday, December 6 at 6 p.m., the city will welcome Santa with carols and help him light the amphitheater and city displays. Following the tree lighting, attendees will be entertained by holiday music, snow play with

two sled runs and a 900 square foot play area.

The event will also have refreshments, an opportunity to take photos with Santa and a Christmas tree raffle. In addition to Santa, look for a special appearance by The Grinch and live performances by Rice Elementary, Garvey Intermediate, Mark Keppel High and Schurr High schools and the Barnes Park Tiny Tots. Drop off your letters to Santa at the Holiday Snow Vil-

lage! All children are invited to send a letter to Santa Claus at the North Pole in care of the Holiday Snow Village event. If you include a return address, Santa has promised to answer all the letters received.

Barnes Park Amphitheater is located at 440 S. McPherrin Avenue, Monterey Park. For more information, contact the Recreation and Community Services Department at 626-307-1388 or recreation@montereypark.ca.gov.

The Sound of Silence

The job of a muffler is to keep your vehicle quiet. There is a lot involved for a piece of equipment that doesn't look too intricate. It silences the noise of your car in these ways:

- Changes the pressure pulses
- Dampens the pressure pulses
- Absorbs the pressure pulses

The noise is measured in decibels and the muffler dissipates the level of sound.

There are two types of mufflers; direct-fit or universal. A direct-fit muffler doesn't require

modifications. A repair shop just has to line it up and bolt it on. They are, however, not readily available for all vehicles.

A universal muffler is easy to find and usually requires some modifications. This is done by lengthening or shortening pipes or even replacing them. New hangers are a must to keep the new equipment from rattling. Thankfully these modifications are not difficult or expensive; they just take more time. If you are replacing a direct-fit muffler with a universal muffler, don't expect

it to muffle the noise as well as the direct-fit. It will be acceptable, but different.

It is hard to imagine the noise level if we didn't have mufflers on our vehicles! If yours needs replacing, just give us a call. The sound of silence can be golden.

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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San Gabriel's City Clerk Visits Hong Kong and Reports on Protests

By George Ogden
SAN GABRIEL - Julie Nguyen, who is the elected City Clerk for the City of San Gabriel, went overseas and visited Vietnam and also went to Hong Kong. Not only was it a visit, but also to see what was going on in the way of protests in Hong Kong.

One area of protests is at Poly University, but they also have many protests throughout Hong Kong as well. Many students have escaped the university, but some are still trapped inside. They use various ways to escape and some even made zip-lines and slid down from

the university with motorcycles waiting to rescue. When the police learned that, they pretended to be the rescuers and trapped the students and arrested them.

Nguyen, speaking with the residents, has been told that many people have sacrificed their lives during these protests and many more have been injured. They said police are under extreme stress and would throw random tear gas bombs at the protestors.

She said she witnessed an 8-year-old boy, not joining the protest, but helping put up barricades against the police.

Many people were buying him candies to thank him.

She reported the streets are pretty dead and the night markets have less than 30 people when normally there are hundreds. "We arrived on the day the election was won, so they said they are taking a break and will resume in a few days. So, the protest we witnessed wasn't as extreme," she stated.

Due to the protest, they barricaded all the entrances to the airport and you have to show your boarding pass and ID just to get into the airport.

This is very sad for all of Hong Kong.



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

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 pro-

vided 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

Christmas Holiday Lights Cruise in Newport Beach

Spend a relaxing evening under the stars cruising Newport Bay aboard a fully decorated parade ship on Thursday, **December 6** from 2:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Experience all of the holiday activities and décor centering around the boat parade in this 75 minute tour. With all of the holiday décor, music, activities and amazing light displays, you don't want to miss out on this! Walking distance from the Balboa Pier with many restaurants and quick food stops in the area. Limited tickets! Tickets are \$30 for Baldwin Park Resident Seniors, \$35 for Non-Resident Seniors, \$40 for Non-Seniors. For more information, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323

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.

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, senior nutrition sites and many other locations within the four cities. The service operates seven days a week and membership is free. To Register: (909) 621-9900. To Schedule a ride: (909) 596-5964. For more information, contact Abby Nuyda at 909.621.9900, Extension 228.

MONROVIA

Senior Blood Pressure Screenings

The Department of Community Services invites active adults and seniors, 50 years and older,

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

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

Caring Crafters

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

Senior Stretch & Exercise Class

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

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

SAN DIMAS

San Dimas

Toastmasters Club

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

WEST COVINA

Woman's Club

Christmas meeting

The Woman's Club of West Covina will hold its Christmas meeting at South Hills Country Club, 2655 South Citrus Street, West Covina on Friday, **December 6**. The Show Choir from West Covina under the direction of Tyler Wigglesworth will perform at approximately 12:30. Guests are welcome. For reservations, please call (626) 918-0721.

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 626-384-0502 (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.

Arcadia Kicks Off Holiday Season With Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

ARCADIA - The City of Arcadia celebrates the start of the holiday season with the fifth annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration on Thursday, **December 5** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event takes place at the Arcadia Transit Plaza on the corner of Santa Clara Street and North First Avenue, and will feature the lighting of the official Christmas Tree in Arcadia by the Mayor, City Council, and Santa Claus.

Santa will arrive on an Arcadia Fire Truck and help the Mayor "flip the switch," bring-

ing the festive tree to life with lights and decorations. The celebration includes free cocoa and cookies, strolling carolers, a kids' craft table where youngsters can decorate their own ornaments, face painting, and holiday photos. One of the highlights of this event is the holiday craft market featuring a variety of local, handcrafted items, gifts, and foods.

Bring a little joy to the children in need in our community by donating a new, unwrapped toy. The City will deliver the donated toys to the Foothill

Unity Center in time for their annual toy distribution.

Don't forget to join us for our other fun holiday festivities. The merriment starts at the beginning of December with two holiday events. The always popular Breakfast with Santa is on Saturday, December 7 at the Community Center with two options for breakfast: 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. The Holiday Snow Festival is also on Saturday, December 7 at the Community Center from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Kick Off the Season at the Annual Family Holiday Tree Lighting & Fiesta

DUARTE - Join neighbors and friends on Sunday, **December 8**, 5:30 to 7:00 pm at City of Hope's Cooper Auditorium (1500 Duarte Road) for musical entertainment performed by the talented students of CSArts-SGV and Duarte Unified School District and a visit from Santa himself. Take a pic-

ture with jolly St. Nick and use the hashtag #deckthehallsduarte on social media! There will also be a Santa's Village featuring crafts, music, displays, and large inflatable holiday attractions. If you get hungry, purchase some traditional Mexican foods and beverages at one of our food trucks.

The night will conclude with the lighting of the City's official holiday tree! Please prepare for cooler temperature by wearing appropriate clothing and shoes.

For additional information, contact Duarte Parks and Recreation at (626) 357-7931 or visit www.accessduarte.com.

Hearst Castle At Christmastime

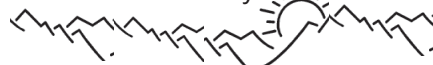
BALDWIN PARK - Special Christmastime tour of the castle! Multiple dates in December 2019 available to choose (12/6-12/7, 12/13-12/14, or 12/14-12/15) We're off again to historic Hearst Castle, where both the castle and Solvang are beautifully decorated for the holidays. Day 1 highlights will include 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





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Golden State Water Donates More Than 8,000 Thanksgiving Turkeys To Organizations That Serve Californians With Limited Resources



Golden State Water Foothill General Manager Ben Lewis, Golden State Water employee Chris Talamantes, Senator Susan Rubio, Golden State Water Senior Vice President of Regulated Utilities Denise Kruger and Golden State Water employees Martin Aceves and Joe Salcido, Jr. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at South El Monte Community Center.

SAN DIMAS – During the month of November, Golden State Water Company (Golden State Water) worked in partnership with elected officials and community leaders to distribute more than 8,000 turkeys to organizations that serve families and individuals with limited resources through its annual Operation Gobble outreach program.

“Golden State Water’s Operation Gobble program has made a big impact over the years, and we are proud that we were able to donate another 8,000 turkeys this year to provide holiday meals for members of the community who may otherwise go without,” said Denise Kruger, Senior Vice President of Regulated Utilities for Golden State Water. “We are

thankful for the hard work of our staff, as well as our partnerships with local elected officials and community organizations, to distribute these turkeys throughout the communities we serve and ensure they find their way to those who need them most.”

Operation Gobble is a philanthropic partnership between Golden State Water, the California Water Association and local and state elected officials. This year, Golden State Water employees distributed turkeys to local community-based organizations, including The Salvation Army, Lions Club, churches, food banks, senior centers and other nonprofits in the communities it serves.

Operation Gobble has been a Golden State Water tradition

since 1990. Over the last 29 years, Golden State Water has donated more than 240,500 turkeys through the program.

“Operation Gobble is an important holiday tradition for all of our employees,” said Ronald Moore, Golden State Water’s Operation Gobble project leader. “We take great pride in serving more than 80 communities in California, and that service extends far beyond the water we deliver to homes. It’s also about giving back.”

To learn more about Golden State Water’s community partnerships and philanthropic activities, customers are encouraged to visit gswater.com, or follow @GoldenStateH2O on Twitter and Facebook.

Baldwin Park Appoints New Chief of Police Steven McLean

Formally Takes Office at Baldwin Park’s City Council Meeting on December 4th

BALDWIN PARK - The Baldwin Park City Council has selected Steven McLean to serve as the City’s next Police Chief. His term will begin immediately after the Councilmembers approve his contract during the Wednesday December 4th, 2019 Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at 14403 E. Pacific Avenue, Baldwin Park, California 91706.

Chief McLean began as an officer who worked his way up through the ranks of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. In 2013, he was tapped to serve as Chief of Police in the City of Santa Paula, where he has diligently served until this month.

As Chief of Police, McLean will be responsible for administering and enhancing the department’s high level of policing services, overseeing public safety programs and providing public safety recommendations to members of the City Council and staff.

McLean was among the six-teen candidates who were vetted this summer via a national search to head the Baldwin Park Police Department. City staff reviewed the resumes and recommended viable candidates to the hiring committee. Chief McLean rose to the top of the pool with his impressive credentials and outlook on policing.

“The City Council and I are ecstatic in welcoming Chief McLean. Steven is a community-oriented Chief who recognizes the value of working with our residents to ensure that all laws are obeyed and administered.” Mayor Manuel Lozano said in a statement, “Chief



Steven McLean, Chief of Police in the City of Santa Paula will now be the Chief of Police for Baldwin Park.

McLean will continue to implement our current public safety and community programs including the Citizen’s Academy, National Night Out, Police Explorers and many others. Please join me in welcoming Chief McLean!”

Baldwin Park CEO Shannon Yauchzee commented, “Mr. McLean is the most qualified candidate of what was an excellent candidate cohort. He has the passion and dedication Baldwin Park deserves, and he will take law enforcement in this city to the next level. I am sure of that.”

“I always wanted to be police chief of a city,” said McLean. “I felt with my experience; I have much to offer the department and the community of Baldwin Park. I’m a high-energy police chief,” McLean noted, “and I’m a Police Chief seven days a week, 24 hours a day.”

His experiences as a child

shaped McLean’s philosophy as a police officer: “Although I came on at a time when it was an ‘us against them’ mentality, I always believed that effective policing is achieved through a citizen perspective.”

McLean said, “The key to being a successful Chief is the ability to be accessible and collaborate with the community, all the community,” The Chief looks forward to being hands-on.

Chief McLean has been married to his wife Kathy for 23 years and has two adult daughters: Kristen, 21 and Lisa 19.

McLean obtained an Associates of Science in Administration of Justice, Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Studies from California State University Long Beach, a Master of Science Degree in Homeland Security from Tiffin University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Holiday Craft Fair & Vintage Market Set for December 7 at Duarte Statue Plaza

DUARTE - Handcrafts, vintage items, antiques, local author book signings, entertainment, food and holiday fun will fill the day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 7 at the Andres Duarte Statue Plaza and adjacent Grace Fellowship Church, 1551 Huntington Drive in Duarte. Unique hand-crafted items make the perfect holiday gifts.

C.R. King will sell and sign several books that he has authored: The Last Deputy; A Fraternity of Gunslingers: True Stories of Wild West Gun Men, Vols. I and II; and Lies & Betrayal. He specializes in the history of the “Wild West.”

Marisela Adams, a Bradbury resident, will present her best seller trilogy Faith Betrayed as

well as her children’s books Kiki the Bear and Fly Away Hester, and her young adult book The Translator,

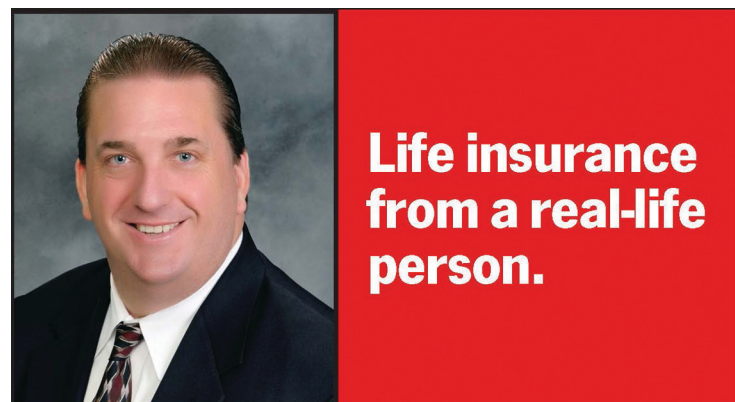
Elizabeth Pomeroy, of Pasadena, has authored many books on local history. Her latest is The Amazing Life of Glen Dawson. Other books include Lost & Found I and II, Pasadena A Natural History, and San Marino, a Centennial History.

Alan and Claudia Heller will promote their books: Life on Route 66, Duarte Chronicles, and Curiosities of the California Desert.

The Fair is sponsored by the Duarte Historical Society & Museum and co-sponsored by the City of Duarte and the Grace Fellowship Church.



Alan & Claudia Heller



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Community Articles Are Welcome

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



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