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Since 1997 • Published in GLENDORA, California
A Weekly Adjudicated Publication Serving all of Los Angeles County

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 31

STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

July 30 - August 5, 2020

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Everyone Can Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19, Here's How

As businesses and services reopen nationwide, the death toll from COVID-19 continues to rise, and experts warn that Americans must continue taking precautions to help stop the spread of the virus.

"In states across the country, the spread of COVID-19 is staggering and concerning. We all have a role to play in stopping the spread and protecting ourselves, our family and our neighbors," says Susan R. Bailey, M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA). "The science is clear. We know what stops the spread of the virus – wearing cloth face masks, physical distancing and regularly washing hands -- and it is on all of us to practice these steps. Without a vaccine for this novel virus, the only way to turn the tide and recapture a sense of normal is by working together."

The AMA offers the following guidance and insights that can help keep you, your friends and your loved ones healthy and safe.

• Wear a cloth face mask: Take the simple steps that science has shown will help stop

the spread of the virus: wearing a cloth face mask, maintaining physical distancing and washing your hands. The simplest tried-and-true methods are still the most important.

• Keep up with doctor visits:

Before you decide to forgo routine care or screenings, talk to your doctor. Physicians are using telehealth services and have taken painstaking precautions to make their practices safe. Make sure you keep up with your vaccines, and don't let something that in normal circumstances could be handled with an early visit to your physician land you in the hospital.

• Be mindful that re-opening is not the same as a return to normal: When indoors, wear a mask, even in restaurants and stores that are open. Consider dining outdoors whenever possible. Stay connected with friends and family, but do so in a physically-distant and safe manner, including small outdoor gatherings where masks and hand sanitizer are used.

• Take time to clear your head and rest: With many people working from home or working under more stressful



Photo Source: (c) FamVeld / iStock via Getty Images Plus

conditions, it is important to take mental health breaks. Get up and move, take a walk outside, step away from the computer, and take days or hours

off from work. As the death toll from COVID-19 continues to rise, physicians, nurses, hospital and health system leaders, research-

ers and public health experts want Americans to know that it is within their power to help stop the spread of the virus. (StatePoint)

Are You Eligible for This COVID-19 Study?



Photo Source: (c) digitalkillet / iStock via Getty Images Plus

A new COVID-19 study is currently enrolling patients, and researchers believe it has the potential to change the course of the virus around the world.

The study is examining the effects of Colchicine, a widely available and inexpensive anti-inflammatory drug on one of the most common, and most debilitating side effects of SARS-CoV-2, 2-acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

ARDS is caused by an intense inflammatory response that results in what's called a cytokine storm. Cytokines are molecules that signal to inflammatory cells that there's a problem within the body that needs their attention. Any normal immune response involves cytokines. In a cytokine storm however, they're released in larger numbers than necessary, resulting in an immune response out of proportion to the threat at hand, whereby immune cells attack healthy tissues.

Cytokine storms in COVID-19 are common and potentially do more damage than the virus itself, causing some patients to develop pneumonia or ARDS, which are life-threatening lung conditions. Many such patients require admission to ICU wards to be provided with respiratory support via mechanical ventilation.

One research team believes they may have the solution, however. Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif, director of the Research Centre at Montreal Heart Institute, professor of medicine at the University

of Montreal, and primary investigator of the study, believes that these cytokine storms seen in COVID-19 patients are manufactured by a tiny inflammatory cell part, or organelle, called inflammasome. Colchicine, targets that one tiny organelle.

"More than 10 years ago, it was shown that the most closely related virus to SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, is Sars-CoV-1. That's the virus that caused SARS caused 15 years ago," says Dr. Tardif. "It's very close to SARS CoV-2 and it was shown in this very elegant paper that SARS CoV-1 directly activates inflammasome."

Dr. Tardif and his team are currently enrolling patients with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis for a Colchicine study. If his hypothesis is correct, it could change the way COVID-19 is treated globally. Colchicine is a widely available, inexpensive drug that has already been in use for years in the treatment of conditions like gout, familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) and viral pericarditis. The side effect profile is well-known and side effects are rare.

The groundbreaking study is called COLCORONA. Like most studies, patients are assigned either a course of the study medication or a placebo for 30 days. However, this study is unique as it is contact-less, helping protect health care workers and the population at-large from unnecessary risk of virus expo-

sure.

To enroll, patients can call the hotline to speak with a dedicated healthcare professional who will explain the study and verify their eligibility, as well as to receive and sign the informed consent document. The study medication is then delivered to the patient's door within four hours and the patient is remotely followed for 30 days.

To enroll or learn more, visit <https://en.colcorona.net> or call the 24-hour Hotline at 1(877) 536-6837, which is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

The COLCORONA trial is currently available in a number of countries as well as the New York Tri-State area, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, and Houston, with plans to open in Jacksonville, Gainesville as well as throughout Arizona, Mississippi, and Alabama. The team also plans on expanding the study into Georgia and the Carolinas. The trial is funded by the Government of Quebec (Canada), the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the US National Institutes of Health and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Sophie Desmarais, Montréal philanthropist, daughter of the late business mogul, Paul Desmarais Sr.

Interested patients should consult their health care providers for more information and to find out if study materials are available in their area. (StatePoint)

Covina Woman's Club Holds Meetings Via ZOOM



COVINA - The Covina Woman's Club has been at a stand-still since the outbreak of the virus. The Covina Woman's Club hopes all of you are staying safe in these difficult times. They

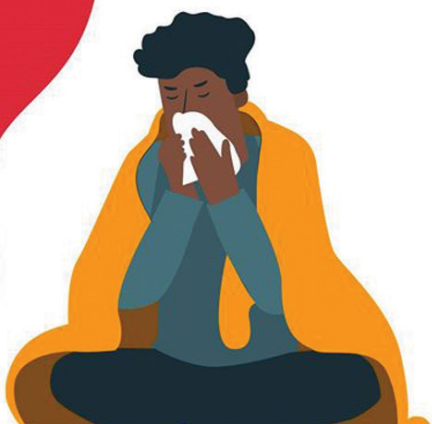
are continuing their Mission to dedicate to their community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. They now hold their board meetings through the Zoom app.

The board is planning their activities for the reopening of their Club.

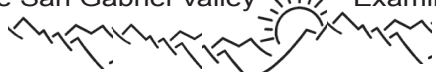
As you can see, they are enjoying this online adventure

Knowing the symptoms of COVID-19 can save your life.

- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough



covid19.lacounty.gov



Back-to-School Season Essentials for College Students



Photo Source: (c) dusanpetkovic / iStock via Getty Images Plus

The back-to-school season may look and feel different this year, but there are some essentials which can aid college students no matter how and where their learning takes place in the fall.

- **Caffeine fix:** Late to bed, early to rise -- most college students rely on coffee to fuel this grueling schedule. Seek out an easy to use, low-maintenance coffee maker that doesn't require a ton of space. When paired with an insulated to-go cup, quick caffeine fixes can help students not only when they're burning the midnight oil or getting out of bed, but also when they're heading out the door.

- **Musical tools:** Studies sug-

gest that learning to play music has the power to foster the personal growth needed for achieving self-fulfillment later in adulthood, making a Casio keyboard one great addition to any students' dorm room or bedroom. Portable and compact, they offer a range of features for musicians to learn, practice, record and perform.

- **Lighten the load:** With so many electronic versions of textbooks available these days, an e-reader can be a useful tool for students looking to lighten their load, as well as organize all their reading material in one place. Not only that, e-versions of books tend to be less expensive than their traditional counterparts, which can over time,

represent significant cost-savings.

- **Wearable tech:** With multiple alarms that can help students keep track of class schedules, a Casio Pro Trek Watch is not only helpful on-campus or when learning remotely, but is also a great outdoor companion. With GPS, location memory, water resistance and triple sensor technology, those looking to get outdoors after sitting in front of a computer for hours on end will find its features useful on the trail or lake.

With some preparation and the right tools, college students can look forward to a successful school year ahead. (StatePoint)

Supervisor Barger Asks State To Support Quality Learning For Youth In L.A. County

County votes to send letter to Governor Newsom and Superintendent Thurmond to provide resources that ensure equitable distance learning for all students

LOS ANGELES COUNTY — The Board of Supervisors approved a motion authored by Supervisor Kathryn Barger and co-authored by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to ask the State of California to provide additional support for students impacted by distance learning, with special consideration for those who are most vulnerable, including those who have special needs, are low-income, English learners, experiencing homelessness and foster youth.

The Supervisors are pursuing consistent and equitable educational requirements; access to computer equipment, tablets and Wi-Fi; community resource centers for children and youth who need a safe place to learn; establishing appropriate plans for students whose distance learning can be compromised; and resources to keep childcare centers operating.

"The closure of schools in L.A. County has severely impacted families and students and has further exacerbated the digital divide in our communities," Supervisor Kathryn Barger said. "The communities experiencing increases in COVID-19 cases and unemployment due to extended closures are the same communities that are negatively impacted by distance learning."

According to Barger, by implementing programs at local parks and libraries and ensuring the state government addresses these issues, L.A. County can help bridge the digital divide. She emphasized extra support for stu-

dents with special needs, those who need access to mental health care and English language learners.

"We must help children return to a sense of normalcy and equip them with the tools they need to learn and socialize even under the constraints of the pandemic," Supervisor Barger said.

The motion also directs the Chief Executive Officer to partner with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, the Superintendent of Schools of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the Director of Mental Health and youth-focused community-based organizations. These partners will engage parents about available resources, including programs that allow students to participate in distance learning from safe locations other than their homes and access mental health services to support youth who are

feeling the impacts of isolation and depression. In addition, the motion asks for consideration of alternatives to site-based learning to bring support into the home, such as in-home childcare, tutoring, associate teaching and expanded home visiting.

"We know that learning is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor, so we must be attentive to the gaps in resources to serve the social, emotional, and intellectual needs of every child," Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas said. "This motion seeks to address the barriers families and children face in this critical moment. We are directing the County Chief Information Officer and various County departments to identify how to best establish expanded access to cellular and Wi-Fi in County unincorporated property to help minimize the digital divide that disproportionately affects communities of color."



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Guest Commentary: Former West Covina Environmental Services Director Opposes BKK Project

My name is Michael Miller, Resident. I worked for the City of West Covina for 24 years. I was hired as the Planning Director. My first assignment on my first day, October 15, 1973, was to familiarize myself with the three small files that were the approved land use permits for the BKK Landfill. They allowed the disposal of household wastes in the front of the site. Later in the week I receive the proposed revised permit. It would go to the Planning Commission at their first meeting in November. The Planning Commission recommended denial to the City Council. The City Council denied the revision. I was assigned to write a new revision. I did and the BKK Landfill permit became my major assignment for 24 years ending as Environmental Services Director on December 18, 1997.

I emphatically [Vote NO on any extension of consideration for the Singpoli Hotel.](#)

This is not the right location for a 400-room hotel and meeting facilities or any development. The location of the hotel on the conceptual plan is on the North Saddle and the summit and the north side of the summit. The reports from several geologists indicate the top is very deep, fractured, uncemented sandstone that is very porous.

When it rains the water runs through the fractures to edge of residential areas on Hidden Valley Street (North) and Miranda Street (South) and the spring in Galster Wilderness Park.

The soil is very unstable, particularly it summit is graded to create to pads for the buildings and parking for the facilities.

The western terminus of the San Jose Fault and four new faults systems underscores this instability. This is caused by the constant pressure from the Walnut Creek (South" and San

Jose and San Gabriel Faults (North).

There is contaminated groundwater on the North Saddle that came from the landfill. It has been detected outside the BKK Landfill Hazardous Waste Disposal permitted boundary.

These conditions were a major reason to the City plan for a golf course with minimal grading. Any commercial or offices would be placed on the pad adjacent to Azusa Avenue. We also noted the 242-room Pacific Palms Hotel is on solid ground with main parking over the closed dump.

The property is better left alone in total as a buffer for the residents and continuation to the natural ridgeline in West Covina from Grand Avenue to Azusa Avenue. Over the years there have been surprises at the BKK Landfill. This buffer provides the residents a little more security.

Tips to Help Erase Bullying This Back-to-School Season

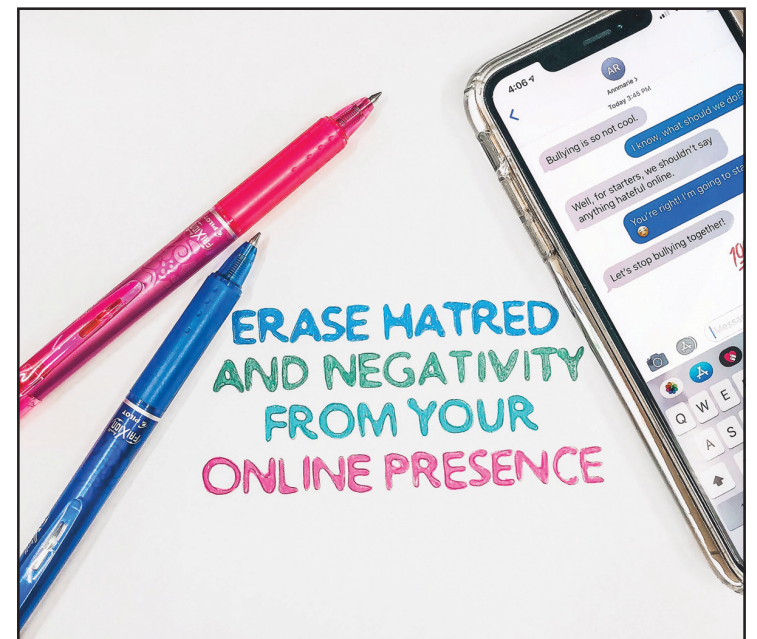
This back-to-school season may look a little different, but no matter what learning environment kids find themselves in this fall, bullying is a real cause for concern.

One in five kids aged 12 to 18 has encountered bullying, according to StopBullying.gov. It can happen in person, online or even by text. In an effort to combat the problem, Pilot Pen launched the Erase Bullying for Good campaign in 2015 to help support bullying prevention programs in schools nationwide. For a smooth start to the school year, they are offering parents these back-to-school tips for facing the issue:

- Sometimes kids hesitate to share negative situations they're encountering. That doesn't mean they aren't showing signs that something is wrong. Pay attention to sudden changes in mood, sleep patterns, study habits or other signs of stress. Let kids know that if they're bullied or witness bullying, it's okay to come to you or another trusted adult, like a teacher, counselor or coach. A strong trust network helps kids feel safe and empowered.

- If your child is being bullied, reassure them that they're not alone and have done nothing wrong. Let them know you'll work through this together. Follow up with school officials to ensure the negative behavior is being addressed, especially if your child is being physically bullied or feels like they're in danger.

- The presence of digital devices and broad reach of social media means more avenues for bullies to reach their targets.



Maintain an open dialogue with your child regarding online activity, and don't be shy about keeping an eye on profiles and posts.

- Being the target of bullying can feel isolating and overwhelming. If your child witnesses bullying, encourage them to be an "upstander," not just a bystander. This involves being an ally who stands up to bullies, and it can be as simple as seeking help from an adult, or as ambitious as starting an anti-bullying program at school.

- It can be disheartening to learn that your own child has engaged in bullying. Remember, bullying is a behavior, and behaviors can be changed. Help your child identify underlying feelings that may be causing them to act out in this way and encourage them to find positive outlets such as sports, art or journaling.

- It's important for kids to understand that the goal of bullying is to make the victim feel scared or powerless. Parents

can equip children with the knowledge, resources and confidence they need to feel empowered in the face of bullying, as well as with tools that align with this cause. By the end of 2020, the Erase Bullying for Good campaign, through purchases of Pilot's FriXion Erasable pens, will have contributed more than \$450,000 to organizations committed to bringing bullying prevention and education programs to US schools. FriXion's unique, thermo-sensitive erasable ink writes smoothly and erases cleanly, so students, teachers and parents can write, create and express themselves fearlessly without the stress of written mistakes, empowering them to be upstanders through the written word. To learn more, visit HelpEraseBullying.com.

Bullying is all too common. However, parents can play an active role in helping put a stop to it this back-to-school season and beyond. (StatePoint)

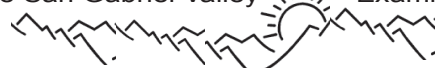
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L.A. County CARES Act Spending Plan Provides \$1.22 Billion to Fund Broad Range of COVID-19 Services and Support for Residents and Businesses

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The Board of Supervisors has approved a \$1.22 billion spending package to fund a broad range of essential services and relief measures to assist people and businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

The plan covers spending in four main areas:

- \$656 million for public health measures including testing and contact tracing
- \$200 million for financial support for residents in the form of assistance for rent relief, food and child care
- \$160 million in grants to support small businesses
- \$150 million to support the County workforce's response to the emergency, including disaster services workers and personal protective equipment for employees

The plan also includes near-

ly \$55 million to cover contingencies including potential health care system surges and other urgent needs that may emerge as the pandemic continues.

The comprehensive spending proposal allocates funding across a wide range of services. Major allocations include \$226 million for community-based COVID-19 diagnostic testing and \$100 million for rent relief to assist residents countywide.

Funds were also allocated to programs to assist vulnerable people during the crisis, including \$148 million for Project Roomkey, which provides temporary housing to medically at-risk people experiencing homelessness.

Other allocations include \$10 million allocated to the

L.A. Regional Food Bank for food distribution events; \$60 million to support other nutritional programs; \$15 million for the Great Plates delivery program for seniors and medically at-risk adults; and \$15 million for child care vouchers for low-income families and essential workers.

“This funding comes at a critical time for Los Angeles County,” said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. “This plan addresses our ability to provide essential services, expand testing, contract tracing and meet tangible needs for working families and small businesses who are struggling and increasing bearing the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

COVID-19 on Track to Become the 2nd Leading Cause of Death in County

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) reports COVID-19 has killed more than 3,400 people in the first six months of this year, making it on track to be the second leading cause of death in L.A. County.

From January to June of last year, coronary heart disease was the top cause of death, with nearly 6,000 deaths attributed to it. It appears that COVID-19, with over 3,400 deaths during the same time period, is on track to claim more lives in Los Angeles County than any disease except coronary heart disease -killing more people than Alzheimer's Disease, other kinds of heart disease, stroke and COPD.

For additional comparison, influenza killed 1,521 people during the 2019 flu season from October to May.

Ninety-two percent of people who died had underlying health conditions. Of those who died, information about race and ethnicity is available for 3,927 people (99 percent of the cases reported by Public Health); 47% of deaths occurred among Latino/Latinx

residents, 26% among White residents, 15% among Asian residents, 11% among African American/Black residents, less than 1% among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents and 1% among residents identifying with other races. Upon further investigation, 69 cases and five deaths reported earlier were not LA County residents.

Data continues to expose disproportionality in health outcomes by race, ethnicity and income level data. African American/Black and Latino/Latinx residents are still twice as likely to die from COVID-19 when compared to White residents. Communities with high levels of poverty are still four times as likely to die of COVID-19 compared to residents with the highest income.

Public Health has a dedicated call line for confirmed cases of COVID-19. If you are positive for COVID-19 and have not yet connected with a public health specialist or need more information on services, call toll-free at 1-833-540-0473. Residents who do not have COVID-19 should continue to call 211 for resources or more information.

Baldwin Park Shooting Leaves 2 Dead, 1 Injured

By George Ogden

BALDWIN PARK - A shooting inside a Baldwin Park home on Thursday, July 23rd left two people dead and a third person injured, according to police

The 9-1-1 Police Dispatch received a call about a disturbance at a home in the 3300 block of Athol Street near Fairgrove Avenue about 2:05 p.m. This is about a block from Elwin Elementary School.

When officers arrived, they were able to enter the home. Once inside they found a man and a woman who had been shot at least once. While officers continued to search the home, they found a third vic-

tim. This person was also shot. Once the home was cleared, the paramedics were allowed in to render aid. The first two victims found were pronounced dead at the scene. The third was still alive and was transported to the hospital.

Because of the sensitive nature of the crime, many details and identifications of those involved are being withheld. However, the police and sheriff's investigators are looking for a female suspect.

Anyone that may have information on this incident are being requested to contact the Baldwin Park Police or Sheriff's Homicide division.

Senator Chang Calls for a State Audit of Public Health Agency Oversight of Nursing Homes

Nearly half of all California COVID-19 deaths were Nursing Home Related

SACRAMENTO - Senator Chang (R-Diamond Bar) announced she has submitted an official state audit request that would determine if key state departments have fulfilled their roles and responsibilities for the safe operation of Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), as well as what changes or support the state might need to fulfill the safe operation of SNFs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Nursing homes have become ground zero for the COVID-19 pandemic," said Senator Chang. "It is difficult to identify a population more vulner-

able than those under the care of SNFs. This is a significant problem that cannot continue, especially when we have the ability to identify the problems and demand change. We must do everything possible to mitigate this crisis."

According to a background paper prepared by the Senate Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response, as of June 6, "at least 43.5% of those who have died from COVID-19 in California were residents or health care workers at SNFs." In addition, 3 out of 4 California nursing home

workers say staff have had coronavirus and the state recently seized control of two troubled nursing homes

The first serious outbreak to hit the United States took place in a nursing home in Kirkland, Washington where at the time 27 of 108 residents and 25 of 180 staff demonstrated symptoms. Since then, COVID-19 positive tests and deaths have climbed across a handful of states.

Senator Chang's audit request is currently under review by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Public Health Unveils Compliance Plan to Enforce Health Officer Orders

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - As health inspectors continue to conduct visits to ensure infection control measures are in place in businesses across the County, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has created a tiered compliance and enforcement plan that will include citations and fines for businesses that continue to violate Health Officer Orders.

Since March, Public Health received a total of 17,808 Health Officer Order complaints and investigated more than 17,000 restaurants, more than 3,500 grocery stores, more than 600 pools, and more than 3,000 other businesses.

Twenty-six restaurants, one grocery store, one pool and 67 other businesses were shut down for Health Officer Order violations. Most of the businesses under investigation either came into compliance or were working to come into compliance and that's why they were not closed.

Compliance with the Health Officer Orders is paramount for the long-term reopening of many economic sectors while ensuring the public health and safety of residents, which includes consumers and those who make up the workforce of these sectors.

Beginning at the end of August, fines will be issued to businesses that are non-compliant that can range from \$100 for the first offense to \$500 and a 30 day permit suspension for multiple offenses. This includes businesses licensed and permitted by the

department and those that are not.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with families experiencing the grief of losing a loved one to COVID-19," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "I'm pleased that we're seeing great compliance in some areas and we want to continue to see that. But we need to plan for the long-term reopening of our economic sectors while ensuring the public health and safety of our residents and our workforce. We want to be reasonable and work with business owners, but we also know that time is of the essence to slow the spread of this virus and protect the health of workers, customers, and their families."

Health Officer Orders are in place to prevent more cases, more serious illnesses, increased hospitalizations and more deaths. Current Orders require business owners to close indoor operations at many businesses and take immediate action to implement strategies that protect workers and customers.

Because this virus is easily transmitted among people in contact with each other, business owners and residents must do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19. Public Health urges everyone to avoid the Three C's: Crowded places, Confined spaces and Close contact with others not in your household. Everyone should always wear a face covering securely over your nose and mouth and keep six feet apart from others not in your house-

hold when out in public. Public Health reminds everyone that you remain safer at home.

It is important if someone thinks they could be positive for COVID-19 and are awaiting testing results, to stay at home and act as if they are positive. This means self-isolating for 10 days and 24 hours after symptoms and fever subside. If a person has a positive lab result for COVID-19, expect a public health specialist from LA County Public Health to contact them by phone to interview about possible exposures and to identify others who may have also been exposed to the infection. The information is protected and cannot be shared with others except in emergency situations. A public health specialist will never ask for a social security number, payment or documented status.

Public Health has a dedicated call line for confirmed cases of COVID-19. If you are positive for COVID-19 and have not yet connected with a public health specialist or need more information on services, call toll-free at 1-833-540-0473. Residents who do not have COVID-19 should continue to call 211 for resources or more information.

The Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Supervisor Barger Opposes Efforts To Authorize Ballot Initiative

Barger votes against motion that proposes a charter amendment that would permanently restrict funding deliberations and negatively impact services to the community

LOS ANGELES COUNTY — Supervisor Kathryn Barger voted against a motion authored by Supervisors Shelia Kuehl and Hilda Solis to place a charter amendment on the November ballot that would permanently designate minimum funding levels for social services and alternatives to incarceration by shifting money away from critical public safety needs.

"The Board of Supervisors is tasked with great responsibility in carefully budgeting and allocating resources to meet the needs of the residents and local communities in Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Barger. "This motion proposes a charter amendment which would permanently tie the County's hands on any budget decisions in the future, regardless of the fiscal and policy issues that may be present at that time – this is especially concerning now as we have had to act quickly and nimbly to serve

our 10 million residents facing the COVID-19 pandemic. This motion threatens the County's ability to provide ample protections and continue to fund crucial programs and services should the County face another catastrophic event in the short or long term," said Supervisor Barger.

Currently, the majority of County funds are already designated toward health and social service programs which provide for vulnerable and at-risk residents throughout the entire region. In addition, the County allocates millions of dollars each year to many of the very programs that this charter amendment seeks to fund, such as services for individuals at risk of entering the justice system, youth programs, and affordable housing. The County has also been able to allocate critical funds for important community projects such as the Vermont Corridor and the LAC+USC Recupera-

tive Care Village.

Through careful planning, the Board of Supervisors has set aside funding to allow for the continuation of public services when they are most needed – even in the face of the greatest public health crisis we have ever battled with COVID-19.

"The charter amendment process that is proposed will nullify any meaningful dialogue or policy deliberations for years to come and prevent the ability for these policy matters to be addressed during meetings of the Board of Supervisors in full view of the public and with greater intentionality and accountability," Supervisor Barger continued. "On a topic of this import, robust discussion and community engagement, along with ample analysis is imperative to ensure thoughtful policy decision making. Unfortunately, that was not the case in this instance."



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San Gabriel Valley Examiner, published weekly by Eumo Enterprises, has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles, California in Court Case No. KS 005341.

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

BART The BLOCKHOUND

There is not that many things that elude me as much as trying to understand why you don't know you're so wrong....

Barger Votes No On Rush To Ballot

On Tuesday, July 21st, at the request of L.A. County 3rd District Supervisor Shelia Kuehl and 1st District Supervisor Hilda Solis, a supplemental Board agenda, created and presented on Friday, July 17th, barely within the 72-hour legal notification window, proposed to amend the Los Angeles County Charter and lock in mandatory budget requirements usurping future flexibility for adjustments. The vote was 4-1 with 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger voting against the agenda item. Those supporting the measure agreed to put the measure on the November 3rd ballot for simple majority voter approval.



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

- Increase life-affirming community-based counseling and mental health and wellness services;
- Reduce the Sheriff's Department budget and re-directs funding to programs and services in underserved communities.

Supervisor Barger explained her position saying, "This motion proposes a charter amendment which would permanently tie the County's hands on any budget decisions in the future, regardless of the fiscal and policy issues that may be present at that time - this is especially concerning now as we have had to act quickly and nimbly to serve our 10 million residents facing the COVID-19 pandemic."

The agenda item calling for the November 3rd ballot initiative, "Reimagining L.A. County: Shifting Budget Priorities to Revitalize Under-resourced and Low-Income Communities" proposes to reallocate law enforcement and legal system dollars to a series of programs to serve minority, low-income neighborhoods providing:

- Community-based youth development programs;
- Job training and jobs to low-income residents focusing on "Alternatives to Incarceration," especially construction jobs for the expansion of affordable and supportive housing and a decentralized system of care.
- Capital for small minority-owned businesses with focus on black-owned businesses;
- Rental assistance, housing vouchers and supportive services for those at-risk of losing housing;
- Capital funding for affordable housing, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.

As Gov. Newsom continues to release criminal offenders from prison estimated now to be approximately 10,000 by the end of August, and, L.A. County Sheriff Villanueva projecting release of 5,000 to 7,000 low-level offenders during the same time frame, the County is proposing an Alternatives to Incarceration Program with little explanation and few guidelines within the reallocation of these budget dollars. The new focus in law enforcement proposes to:

- Increase funding for community-based restorative justice programs;
- Increase support for pre-trial, non-custody services and treatment;

Costs" (NCC) and totals \$8.8 billion.

- Supervisors allocated 42% or \$3.7 billion of NCC for law enforcement and legal systems costs.

Other than budget numbers provided by Sheriff Villanueva, none are available right now on other agencies being defunded.

The four members of the Board of Supervisors supporting "Reimagining L.A. County: Shifting Budget Priorities to Revitalize Under-resourced and Low-Income Communities" instructed the County Counsel to draft the necessary reports and paperwork to place the County Charter Amendment on the November 3rd ballot. That direction included requesting a simple majority vote that would approve shifting local taxpayer unrestricted dollars to community support programs beginning in 2021 and fully implemented by 2024.

Additional instructions in the memo included the ordinance, containing the proposed charter amendment, should be clear that the use of any of these earmarked NCC funds for "... carceral systems and any law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, L.A. County District Attorney's Office, L.A. County Superior Courts, or L.A. County Probation Department, including redistribution of funds through these agencies, is strictly forbidden."

The amount of NCC money in the original presentation was suggested to be 10%. Another document surfaced outlining the Kuehl / Solis proposal but had stamped across the front - Confidential / Do not distribute -- and says, "... permanently allocate at least 20% of existing locally controlled revenues for direct community investment and alternatives to incarceration." The time frame for enacting the measure remains the same if approved by the voters.

Supervisor 2nd District, Mark Ridley Thomas and Supervisor 4th District Janice Hahn asked the L.A. County CEO and County Council provide a review and analysis of the Proposed Amendment including a summary of the County's current unrestricted revenue allocation in order to clarify the proportion of funds that are currently being dedicated to programs and services consistent with the vision outlined in the Proposed Amendment.

The agenda has been posted for the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday July 28th with three items:

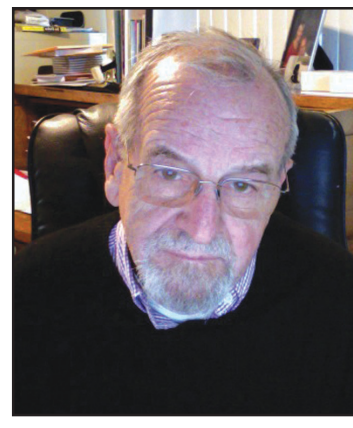
- Process and Procedure to place a County Charter Amendment on the ballot.
- Documents legally calling for a special election to amend the County Charter.
- Resolution calling for the special election on November 3rd.

Trump Grows Increasingly Frantic

The more the polls—and the national mood—reflect trouble for Donald Trump, and his Republican cohorts, the more frantic he becomes. And when a person in a powerful role becomes frantic, everyone is threatened. The accusation that Obama committed "the worst crime in American history"—is just one more indication that the President is increasingly dangerous. And that coupled with his totally unsubstantiated set of accusations beginning with the birther falsehood is a further indication that a rational screw has come loose.

His denial of having been informed weeks ago of the New York Times report that the Russians paid Afghans a bounty to kill American military personnel is frightening. If he was informed but had just forgotten or chose to ignore it, that's a problem. If he never got the briefing, that too is a problem. If he was only perpetuating his pattern of producing false statements—read lies—who should be surprised? All that on top of suggesting that a way to fight off the virus involves injecting Lysol, or taking unproven drugs, must be another mark of mental instability.

Given that he might refuse to accept the results of the election if he should lose, what might he do? Assuming he would simply accept defeat and return to his golf course empire seems out of character. It has been suggested that he might resign before his term is over and turn the nation



Charles H. Bayer

over to Mike Pence. Greater possibilities see him interfering with the election results by somehow crippling America's postal service or declaring that mail-in ballots are illegitimate, or as a wartime President, declaring martial law, or attempting to postpone the election. No telling what he could do. To the extent that his disorientation continues to escalate, America is in increasing trouble.

I will be taking my usual August break, but first there is another matter about which I first need to comment.

A move by the Democratic Party to a more liberal agenda is certainly in order, with comprehensive health insurance as a guiding principle. However, the accusation that it has given itself over to a group of anarchists who now control the Party is dangerous and must be summarily rejected. And yet, the repeated demonstrations following the murder of George Floyd have unleashed enough evidence to

make the accusation plausible. The violence marked with looting and burnings has not been in the name of the Party, but neither has the Party clearly condemned it. The occupation of the Capitol Hill neighborhood in Seattle might certainly be defined as anarchy. While reforming and in some cases reorganizing police departments is justified, calling for disbanding the police makes little sense, and "defunding" sends the wrong message.

The elimination from public spaces of monuments celebrating Confederates who fought against their country is long overdue. However, their destruction at the hands of unauthorized gangs is hardly in the American spirit. And destroying any symbol or statue of America's founders because they owned slaves is unreasonable. Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis might have been traitors, but not George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Joe Biden, backed by the Democratic Party, must make it clear that anarchy is certainly not consistent with Democratic policies, let alone the American experience. Biden and the Party can win without the support of these extremists, and disavowing them will certainly save votes. But the accusation that the Party celebrates anarchy needs to be immediately refuted.

See you in September.
Contact Charles Bayer at candwbayer@verizon.net

Taking a Knee During the National Anthem... Disrespectful???

Well, with opening of this so-called baseball season... we saw some teams and players take a knee during the playing of the National Anthem. Well, this certainly lit up the social media like a Roman Candle. Not only in this sport, but many others as well.

As Social Media lit up, they called these athletes disrespectful to our country as well as traitors to our country. There were all kinds of comments that have people saying they will no longer watch games and cancelling the sports channels. In fact, my veteran's organization decided to cancel the sports channels because of the athlete's subversive actions. Many feel that this is not the place to disrespect our Country, our flag and National Anthem.

Although, some players took a knee before the playing of the anthem, they stood when the music started, but not all of them. As a combat veteran for this country, I thank those that stood up. Some teams never took a knee. Again, I thank them for this honor that they expressed towards our country.

Many support social equality



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

as I do, however, most people do not approve or support this "taking a knee" due to its political connection and the show of disrespect towards flag, National Anthem and our Country by the way it is done at sporting events. This is not the place to do this. Politics needs to stay out of sporting events and personally I have to agree. Might be a little too late now as the damage has been done.

I believe in your constitutional right of free speech as long as it does not infringe on me or other people. Blocking streets so me and others cannot pass and causing us to be entrapped in our vehicles is illegal detention and infringing on the free right-of-way. To do a forced detainment is a form of kidnapping via illegal detention.

If you want to take a knee and protest against this country, take it to a park, or in front of city hall or some location where they would be receptive to your anti-American peaceful protests. This

way people can drive by and make a choice. They can ignore the event or if they choose to, they can park and support your event, your cause, or your anti-American demonstrations. Because of this, you can kiss the Rose Parade "good-bye". Because of the unrest that comes with these "so called peaceful demonstrations" that they feel will show up and disrupt the parade, it was cancelled. Some say it was cancelled because of the virus... GET REAL! We know the real reason. Nothing is sacred anymore.

The public display of "anti-American attitude" by these multi-million-dollar athletes has damaged their sports even further. That is sad. They appear to support the urban-terrorists of this country who are destroying this country.

In my opinion, if athletes want to take a knee "to honor and remember those in the past that had to work through segregation and racial issues," to take a moment of silence, then go for it. However, when the flag and the National Anthem is presented, then stand up out of respect to those veterans that have served and those that gave their life for this country.

Have some balls and show a little respect! This country made you "Rich" as multi-million-dollar athletes.

"That's Just the Way It Is!"

"TIME JOCKEY" - Fact or Fiction

BY JOE CASTILLO
Searching for Joaquin... California's greatest folklore legend centers around Joaquin Murrieta. There are those who say he was a real person, a Mexican miner who was discriminated and beaten, turned to crime and became the first criminal in the State of California. There are those that say he was a combination of multiple men, all named Joaquin, who were in so many places that he could not just be one person. But let's start searching for the facts around this enigmatic figure.

In the Gold Rush country of the Sierra foothills, there are an abundance of numerous gold rush era towns, settlements, claims and remnants which still remain in the Gold Rush foothills. Each has a story to tell, many have stories related to Murrieta. The stories start in Coarsegold, an old mining town named for the type of gold which was discovered there.

When the owner of a nearby mining claim named Texas Flats decided to sell his non-profitable

operation he spiced it up a bit saying there was still profits to be unearthed. Ever since a \$15,000 nugget was discovered, gold fever swirled around Texas Flats. Four new owners were persuaded to buy the old claim but it didn't look like a very good deal on their end until the group dug just a little further and a whole lot of success was achieved. The claim became very profitable and each owner earned more than they ever thought they would. Eventually they sold the claim and went on to other opportunities. One of the owners was William "Bill" Henderson who would eventually resurface as one of the California Rangers who tracked down Joaquin in the Central Valley ending the trail of the suspected outlaw.

In another town called "Hornitos" are remains of what was once Murrieta's favorite hangout. The town was one of the most lawless and wildest of the Gold Rush towns and was inhabited by Mexicans who had been asked to

leave towns which they had lived in for years. Hornitos was the Spanish word for "little ovens" which was based on the oven shaped above-ground tombs which populated the town's cemetery. Joaquin was said to frequent the fandango in the center of town and even had a tunnel built to escape in case he was surprised by the law. But of course, the counter story was that the tunnel was built to roll barrels of beer from the storeroom to the dancehall. However, Murrieta could still have used it for one of his escapes.

In the Central Mother Lode country, the small and historical town of Murphy's remains in with a number of gold rush era establishments including a museum which houses the grave marker of Murrieta's wife. It seems that Joaquin was working a nearby mining claim when his wife was attacked and killed, and was the reason that Murrieta turned to a life of crime. Just up the road was another small mining

site named Calaveritas, which had a dance hall, bar and fandango that supposedly Murrieta spent some time visiting. And finally, in the nearby area, is a gold rush town which is still as well preserved as any in the foothills and is named Mokelumne Hill. Known for its criminal activity and wild patrons, Mokelumne had its own hanging tree in the middle of town. The town was so untamed that for 17 straight weeks there was a killing each day. Joaquin Murrieta used the town to meet with his men and plan their next attack or was it just to have a good time. These are only a few examples of Joaquin Murrieta in the foothills of the Mother Lode country but whether they are fact or fiction is something we may never know....

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

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What Might We Expect In The Coming Months?

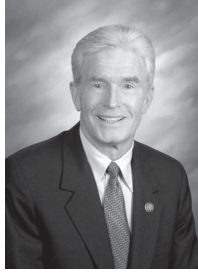
Optimism among investors historically grows after the 4th of July holiday. The last two weeks of July are typically positive for stock markets, normally driven by positive earnings announcements. The Street has already observed that the analyst community was too pessimistic about second quarter results, so expect lots of beneficial surprises. Even more important than the second quarter results may be the third quarter guidance. Many companies are issuing more positive guidance as they learn to cope with the coronavirus.

The stock market often meanders higher in August during Presidential election years as the candidates try to impress voters, boosting consumer as well as investor confidence. Investors should begin to see higher trading volume, especially after Labor Day. Higher trading volume tends to amplify recent market trends, so if August is lackluster, then September could be a tough month.

The decision to reopen schools is already being debated amidst the coronavirus, and this debate will likely persist in school districts across the country. The quicker daily life gets back to normal, the more optimistic investors will be. Distractions, such as whether or not schools will reopen, can hamper investor confidence. However, mid-September quarter-end window dressing typically boosts fundamentally superior stocks, especially as institutional investors strive to make their portfolios more attractive for their quarterly reviews.

The Presidential debates should be in full swing by October. All election candidates should be trying to impress voters, which is usually good for both consumer and investor confidence. We should not be too

In A Nutshell What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

distracted by the polls, since they were wrong four years ago. By mid-October, third quarter earnings reporting will be in full swing. Companies are expected to announce improving sales and earnings as businesses adapt to coronavirus ongoing distractions. Furthermore, one or more Covid-19 vaccines could be approved, with availability at least predicted soon. Such an amazingly rapid vaccine development announcement should help to boost business, voter and consumer confidence.

Obviously, November will be highlighted by the Presidential election. Let's hope for a decisive outcome, otherwise 2020 election results may be endlessly contested. Investors do not like uncertainty, so hopefully there will be clear winners in all key races. An uncontested election will allow the path for the U.S. economy to be much more certain. November is also historically a seasonally strong market month, when an early "January effect" commences just before Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is normally a happy time of year as we gather to meet with friends and family for food, libations and (hopefully) football. When people are happy, investors are happy and more confident, which is why November is historically a seasonally strong month.

The seasonal religious holidays also usually bring happiness

and investors looking to invest. However, December can be characterized by tax selling as investors often realize losses to offset their gains (unless capital gain taxes are expected to rise in 2021). Depending on the election outcome, year-end tax as well as fear selling could be more robust than in previous years.

One thing the Coronavirus has taught Americans, as well as those around the world, is that it is against human nature to be locked up. As we finally get out and about more normally, the "velocity" of money naturally should accelerate, and prosperity almost certainly should rise! The eventual positives regarding the slowing of Covid-19 spread, a coming vaccine, and a decisive direction for in-person schooling would all be contributors to a positive national mood, setting the tone for a good fourth quarter and start for 2021. A dominant election win by President Trump should especially insure good markets.

However, the best defense for investors (against less than desired outcomes) remains a strong offense, owning fundamentally superior stocks. Our focus going forward should be on companies that can sustain strong sales and earnings, regardless of the ongoing negative news media. Owning fundamentally superior stocks should provide investors more control over their own destiny, regardless of seeming endless distractions! Less fake news, more real good news and more love for America could provide a Merry Christmas for (almost) all Americans!

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

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

Your Money - Ask Julia

We are thinking we should sell our house while prices are high, then buy a smaller place. The problem is that prices are so high, we're thinking it's a bad time for us to buy. Can you shed some light on this quandary?

Housing goes through cycles for sellers and buyers. Basically, it boils down to this: Sell high; buy high, OR Sell low; buy low. Being a buyer in this current market can be very frustrating. It can make you feel like you're in shark-infested waters during a feeding frenzy. Of course, that's great for sellers, because there are many ready buyers vying for your property. In the past, it has worked well for some folks to sell high, rent a smaller place for two to five years or so, and then buy when housing prices take a dip. The problem with waiting to buy is that interest rates will probably be higher. Right now, the inventory of homes for sale is low, so it is a great time to put your home up for sale. Be ready to move!

A collection company keeps calling me. I cannot afford to pay the \$2,200 balance. I feel bad, but what can I do?

Answer their call. Since your credit is already harmed, ask them if they can offer you a "settlement" amount instead of the whole \$2,200. When they tell you a dollar amount, hesitate, groan, and tell them it'll take you a couple of days to figure out if you can come up with that amount. Sometimes they'll come back with an even smaller settlement, and often they'll post-date the payment until the end of that



Julia Yoder

month, or freeze the account and let you make steady, small payments. If they refuse to negotiate, consider a balance transfer to another credit card with zero or low interest. Then review your budget and pay it off as quickly as possible. This will take discipline, but you can do it! I do not recommend debt consolidation as those companies rarely, if ever, guarantee what they say in their sales pitch.

We are thinking about cancelling our life insurance policies, for now, and buying some term insurance later?

My strong advice: Do not cancel your life insurance policies. Look at some alternatives. It's a lot easier to get a new, possibly less expensive policy when you are still insured. Think about this: What if you apply for life insurance 10 years from now, but your health is no longer good. You could be "rated" (required to pay a higher premium), or worse, "declined" insurance altogether.

I'm in my late 20's, and have a solid job. How much should I be saving for retirement?

Recent studies commonly conclude that you should be saving 10- to 12-percent of your annual income for retirement. If your employer provides a 3-percent match, then go ahead and save 10-percent so you'll be essentially saving 13-percent. If this exceeds the government limit for a 401(k), see if you can put \$5,000 annually into a Roth IRA. Also, purchase a Fixed-indexed Universal Life insurance policy which gives you life insurance and potential funds to use during your lifetime. It is equally important to plan on being debt-free when you retire. Pay off student loans, credit cards, auto loans, and mortgage. If you do not pay off your student loans, payments will be taken out of your Social Security check. IF you find yourself still owing on your mortgage when you are close to retirement: 1. consider working a few more years to pay off that mortgage, 2. sell and move to a more retirement-friendly state, or 3. lower your payments by refinancing into a 30-year loan just before retirement.

Ask Julia by email:
juliayoder@yahoo.com

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New Legislation to Require Diversity on Corporate Boards

SACRAMENTO-Assemblymember Chris Holden and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, with Eloise Gomez Reyes as principal co-author, introduced Assembly Bill 979, legislation that requires publicly held corporations headquartered in California to have at least one director from an underrepresented community by the close of 2021.

"Corporations have money, power, and influence," said Assemblymember Chris Holden. "If we are going to address racial injustice and inequity in our society, it's imperative that corporate boards reflect the diversity of our State. One great benefit of this action - corporations with ethnically diverse boards have shown to outperform those that lack diversity."

Soon after the social unrest following the killing of George Floyd, many corporations publicly stated their support for diversity and Black lives. Critics, however, have pointed out that this public support for social justice movements often does not lead to long-term structural change in hiring and retention policies of a diverse staff and leadership. The current statistics are quite stark. The Harvard Law School Missing Pieces Report: The 2018 Board Diversity Census of Women and Minorities on Fortune 500 Boards found that out of 1,222 new board members of Fortune 100 companies, 77% were white.

"The lack of diversity on California's boards and upper level corporate positions is a chal-

lenge we urged corporations to address on their own during our time in the Legislature. However, it is clear we can no longer wait for corporations to figure it out on their own. By ensuring diversity on their boards, we know the corporations are more likely to both create opportunities for people of color and give them the support to thrive within that corporation," said Assemblymember Cristina Garcia.

In addition to the 2021 benchmark, AB 979 also requires corporate boards to include two members from underrepresented communities for corporations with more than four members, while corporations with more than nine must have a minimum of three by 2022.

Irwindale Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Resigns

IRWINDALE - The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce announced today that Jonathan Rodriguez has resigned from his role as President and CEO, effective July 24, 2020.

Jonathan has been with the Irwindale Chamber for a year and a half and has been responsible for a marked increase in membership growth, as well as a significant increase in social media presence. He was instrumental in bringing together the Irwindale business community during the COVID-19 crisis.

Jonathan is leaving to pursue his long-time interest in real

estate investing.

The Chamber Board of Directors will commence a search for his replacement. Due to COVID-19, the Chamber offices are closed to the public, but staff is available via telephone to assist Chamber members. Please call 626-960-

6606.

The mission of the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce is to build solid relationships and provide quality services that support chamber members and businesses in order to drive the economic vitality of our community.



THE CAR GURU

WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

How Are Your Shocks/Struts?

Shocks and struts take a beating so we don't have to! They help us ease the pain of driving over less than perfect roads and stabilize us over bumps, when we stop quickly and when we go around corners. We pretty much take them for granted. Our owner's manuals tell us they need to be replaced every 30,000 to 90,000 miles, depending on our driving habits. That is a wide range!

We would like to recommend that you take some time when you are out driving around to notice a few things about your vehicle. If your car is bouncing a bit after

you hit a bump in the road, is nose diving after you brake or is swaying around corners you need to have your shocks replaced.

Struts basically perform the same function as shocks except they also are an integral part of your suspension system. When you are out and about in your car and notice the same symptoms as above and also notice noise while you go over those bumps or turn corners you might also have an alignment situation.

Shocks and struts also give you another symptom if they are ready to be replaced...they leak

fluid. They do a lot for us and we certainly take them for granted until we notice our ride is just not as enjoyable or comfortable as it could be. Bad shocks and struts also cause wear and tear on our tires and our suspension components.

Make sure your shocks and struts are ready for whatever condition the roads you drive on happen to be in. Whatever your car may need, at Certified Auto Specialists we want your vehicle to always be ready to go when you are!


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.

Hometown Service You Can Count On!

COVID-19 UPDATES

One-year extension for senior drivers with expiring licenses!

For updates on DMV's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the latest press releases and announcements about relief efforts, please visit dmv.ca.gov.





The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce office is currently under renovations to implement COVID-19 safety protocols.

Office will be open by appointment only!

To schedule an appointment please call us at 626-960-6606 or email amanda@irwindalechamber.org

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Around the Valley & Senior News

El Monte Union Adopts 100% Distance Learning Model for Fall 2020

EL MONTE – El Monte Union High School District will begin the 2020-21 school year on a 100% distance learning schedule, with the option of transitioning to a hybrid model later in fall semester should health conditions improve.

Under the District's Reopening of Schools Plan – approved by the Board of Trustees during its July 15 virtual board meeting – students will take three classes from Aug. 18 to Oct. 16 (Fall 1 term) and three classes from Oct. 19 to Dec. 17 (Fall 2 term).

While Fall 1 term will be completely online, Fall 2 term could see students return to school should conditions improve. The District will monitor local and state health data, reassess the schedule by Sept. 25 and make a recommendation to continue with a distance learning, hybrid or an in-person instructional model on Sept. 28.

son instructional model on Sept. 28.

“There is no perfect model that will beat in-person instruction, but under these fluid conditions, we need to rethink, reinvent and reimagine what learning and teaching look like while ensuring the health and well-being of our school community,” Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. “Working in collaboration with our teachers, staff, union partners and administrators, we have developed a rigorous distance learning plan that will allow students to continue their education from home and is adaptable to changing health conditions.”

Under Senate Bill 98, the District must engage in daily instruction, monitor student progress and maintain school connectedness. To guide its planning efforts, the District created a Reopening of Schools

Taskforce, which includes administrators, teachers, union representatives, classified staff, parents and students.

The District also solicited feedback from students, parents and staff through surveys. A second survey was released this week to gauge their preferences for instruction and comfort level with returning to school given the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County. The city of El Monte has the highest number of positive cases in the San Gabriel Valley.

“Right now, it is clear that is not safe to physically return to our campuses and we want to honor the concerns of our staff, families and students,” Zuniga said. “We will take an incremental approach to our decision-making and use our plan as a blueprint for how to safely move forward.”

Ask And You Shall Receive – Ask Any Question

By Hondo

1. QUESTION: Mobs of people demand that their cities Defund, Disarm, Dismantle, and generally abolish police departments... Have these people gone crazy?... ANSWER: Some yes, most simply are ignorant and easily manipulated, while the rest are outright criminals.

2. QUESTION: What is a Zero-Bail Policy?... ANSWER: governmental policy or law that mandates that unless someone commits a major crime, such as murder and rape, for example, once a person is arrested he/she shall be booked by police, then immediately released.

3. QUESTION: Many people are aware that misogyny generally refers to the hatred of women... What term refers to the hatred of men? ANSWER: That would be misandry... Some incorrectly believe the term is misanthropy, but this term refers to the hatred of “mankind” or humankind, overall.

4. QUESTION: Some politicians are referred to as being “feckless”... What does that mean? ANSWER: It means, of course, that they have no feck, and feck is something everyone needs to have in our modern world – seriously, it means that they expend little energy fulfilling their duties for the betterment of those they represent, that they are in office mostly for personal gain.

5. QUESTION: Once elected to office, what is the first thing most politicians plan to do?... ANSWER: A few will plan to fulfill campaign promises for the betterment of their constituents, but for most, the first course of action is to plan on how they can be re-elected!

6. QUESTION: If it is said that someone described someone else with a pejorative word, would the receiving person be happy about the descriptive term?... ANSWER: Not unless someone enjoys being belittled or being referred to with extremely vicious words because a pejorative word is best not used if one is intending to impress another person.

7. QUESTION: Would it be all right to date the divorced spouse of a good friend?... ANSWER: Hondo says Absolutely NOT, unless you don't mind losing a friend, or losing more than that

8. QUESTION: Some people have called me “Karen”, but they know my name is not Karen, it's Jezebel... Should I be concerned?... ANSWER: Depends on how you take criticism -- however light hearted the comment might be intended, in the age of social media the now slightly overused term refers to a not-so-young female of a particular color who is full of herself and feels overly important, and is seen as obnoxious.

9. QUESTION: I happen to like NFL quarterback Tom Brady and I was upset that someone on the radio called him “the goat”... Why would they show such disdain for someone who for many years has played pretty darn well?... ANSWER: Not-to-worry my friend – what the radio jocks were probably doing was

giving your Tom Brady a very high, superb compliment because GOAT in this case means that he is the Greatest Of All Time at his craft.

10. QUESTION: My friends eat a lot of Guacamole dip – some pronounce the dip as “goo wac a mole”... Others pronounce it as “wa ca mole” (the “wa” in the second pronunciation sounding like the “wa” in “wa wa”)... Of the two pronunciations, which would be the closest to being authentic?... ANSWER: Hondo says the closest to authenticity would be to pronounce guacamole as “wacamole”... But you can be certain that if you ask for “goo wac a mole” the server will bring you Guacamole, regardless!

Hondo's email address: honnoad@yahoo.com – please ask Hondo any question.

Monrovia Unified Webinars Provide Reopening Information

MONROVIA - Monrovia Unified School District held a series of webinars for parents and stakeholders regarding the District's school reopening plan. The webinar discussed

the possibility of having students attend school, but not in a traditional manner. Students will have days when distance learning is required with a rotating schedule with two co-

horts. Plans for transportation, food services and cleaning schedules are still being finalized. Monrovia Unified's first day of school is Wednesday, Aug. 19.

El Monte City School District Launches Mandarin Dual Language Program

EL MONTE - El Monte City School District will launch a Mandarin Dual Language (DLI) program at New Lexington School when the 2020-21

school year begins on Thursday, Aug. 20, offering students the opportunity to gain intercultural understanding and develop biliteracy in English and

Mandarin. The program will launch with an inaugural kindergarten class and build upon the success of El Monte City's Spanish DLI program.

Azusa Drive-In Movies At Northside Park

AZUSA - The City of Azusa's Community Resources Department will present a 2020 Drive-in Movie series beginning Thursday July 16 at Northside Park, 600 Block W. 11th Street beginning at sunset. NO RV'S or CAMPERS will be allowed entrance to the park.

Vehicle Check-In begins at 6:30 p.m. All vehicles must be in their spots by no later than

7:45 p.m. For more information, please contact the Recreation office at 626 812-5280 Register at: www.azusaca.gov Drive-In Movie Schedule 7/30 - Finding Nemo 8/6 - Pirates of the Caribbean 8/13 - Toy Story 4

8/20 - Trolls 8/27 - Abominable 9/3 - Do-little 9/10 - Little Mermaid 9/17 - Little Giants 9/24 - Sonic The Hedgehog 10/1 - Matilda 10/8 - The Goonies 10/15 - The Addams Family 10/22 - Halloween Town 10/29 - Hocus Pocus

Coronavirus: City Accepting Donations

ARCADIA - The City of Arcadia is accepting donations. As you know, we are still experiencing the Coronavirus pandemic with the number of positive cases increasing daily. Therefore, we still need donations. The higher demand items needed for our first responders are:

- N95 or K95 Face Masks
- Large or extra-large Nitrile Gloves

- Hand Sanitizer
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Disposable Isolations Gowns
- Monetary Donations

If you or someone you know would like to donate supplies please contact Sara Somogyi at ssomogyi@arcadiaca.gov. Any help would be much appreciated. If you have any questions, please call 626.821.4369.

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Healthcare providers are required by a recent L.A. County Health Officer Order to provide their patients with access to COVID testing.

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City Of West Covina Begins Pension Reform By Issuing Pension Obligation Bonds

WEST COVINA - The City of West Covina will be issuing \$204.1 million in taxable lease revenue bonds, which is part of the West Covina pension solution reform initiative. Standard & Poors assigned an "A+" rating on the bonds. This initiative was implemented after careful review and is a budget positive solution to revitalize the city's finances.

"This is an exciting day for the financial future of our City," said West Covina Mayor Tony Wu, speaking for the City Council. The issuance of the bonds drastically improves the financial trajectory and upholds the City's promises to the residents and retirees. "West Covina residents can rest easier today knowing that meaningful pension refinance is finally in place." "The City's all-in True Interest Cost for the issuance came in at 3.7%, which is significantly lower than what was initially anticipated. This represents significant cost savings because the City had been paying 7% to CalPERS."

The West Covina pension solution is a plan that recognizes the outstanding unfunded CalPERS pension system liability. After careful review, the pension reform was reviewed by West Covina Finance & Audit Committee and had the overwhelming support of the City Council for the issuance of the taxable lease revenue bonds.



From the Desk of West Covina City Manager David Carmany

"This plan received widespread support from the City Council, and now with the investor community," said Dave Carmany. It demonstrates investor confidence in this plan's impact on the City of West Covina's bottom line. The net present value savings is more than \$44 million dollars. California municipalities must plan without delay for post-pandemic fiscal realities." Economic downturn could

worsen the vulnerability of California's already challenged pension system. Statewide, California's unfunded pension liabilities total approximately \$93.1 billion between CalPERS and CalSTRS. This is a significant unfunded liability, which will continue to grow due to changing financial market presumptions. Municipal budgets will have to fill the financial gap caused by any market declines. The \$204.1 million issuance adds \$186.5 million in liquidity to the West Covina CalPERS municipal pension system. The liquidity upholds the more than \$13 million in annual pension payments and was critical to the future vitality of the City's pension system.

"I want to thank the City Council and all the stakeholders involved with getting the pension reform plan across the finish line," added Dave Carmany. "I want to congratulate the West Covina City Council. These reforms would not be in place without their leadership."

Duarte Street Parking Enforcement to Resume August 1

DUARTE - The City of Duarte stopped enforcing street sweeping restrictions on Friday, March 20, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On August 1, the City of Duarte and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department will resume enforcing "no 3 AM - 6 AM parking" and street sweeping parking restrictions. Written warnings will be issued in lieu of the \$60 fee until July 31.

Temporary permits are available for \$1 per day for up to 10 days and can be purchased on Huntington Drive in front of Duarte City Hall, or via on-line Waytopark app. There are no residency requirements for temporary permits. Temporary permits are also available if construction on the home or drive-



way obstructs parking space. City of Duarte website - Learn more about temporary parking permits by visiting the www.accessduarte.com/howdoi/pay/parking_permit.htm

LA County Parks Secures \$17 Million To Launch Unprecedented Initiative To Revitalize Playgrounds In High Need Communities

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - July is Parks Make Life Better month, which highlights local parks, recreation, trails, open space, and facilities as critical infrastructure for Californians impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of Parks Make Life Better month, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) is launching re:Play, an unprecedented initiative to invest nearly \$17,000,000 in the County's most historically underserved, highest-need communities, as designated by the Countywide Park Needs Assessment.

re:Play will revitalize more than 75 aging play areas in 30 parks across the County. The initiative will directly impact over 1,000,000 people living near a County park, including hundreds of thousands of people living in poverty. These improvements will transform play areas throughout several unincorporated communities including Lennox, Florence-Firestone, East Los Angeles, Littlerock, Rowland Heights, Willowbrook, and West Athens

Re:Play is made possible by the California voter's passage of the Proposition 68: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act in 2018 was an important step to correct decades of insufficient investments in parks, particularly in high-need vulnerable communities. The California Department of Parks and Recreation's Proposition 68 Per Capita Grant Program provides funding to local government agencies to support the rehabilitation, creation and improvement of local parks to address equitable access to quality parks and outdoor recreation.

"I am incredibly excited to announce re:Play, thanks to the support of California State Parks and the Proposition 68 grant program, as a way to renew, refresh, restore, replace, and revitalize play areas at County parks, specifically located in vulnerable

communities. This funding will allow LA County Parks to invest in play spaces for youth and will bring to life our mission to serve as stewards of parklands, build healthy and resilient communities and advance social equity and cohesion. As the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us, parks are vital to the emotional, social and physical wellness and vitality of our communities. There's never been a better time for LA County Parks' re:Play initiative to directly support our most vulnerable youth and neighbors," said Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Director Norma E. Garcia.

According to researchers, park renovations such as those planned with the re:Play program can dramatically increase population health outcomes and create safer, more welcoming places for people to engage in a healthy activity.

Community Articles Are Welcome

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

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Azusa Police Arrest Suspect with Gun at 7-Eleven Store

By George Ogden

AZUSA - Early Wednesday morning July 22 at about 3:00 AM, an Azusa patrol officer was patrolling in the 100 block N. Rockvale Ave. He was alerted about a suspicious and possibly armed subject near the 300 block N. Rockvale Ave.

The officer quickly began searching the area and at first could not find the subject. Working on a hunch, he went

to the convenient store at Fifth St. and Rockvale Ave. The officer saw a subject who matched the given description inside the 7-Eleven store. The suspect saw the police officer and quickly exited the store and was trying to leave the area, however, he was detained. The officer did a pat-down of the individual for his safety and the suspect was found to be in pos-

session of a loaded handgun with an extended 30 round magazine inserted into the weapon.

The suspect who was not identified, is a 19-year-old male resident of Azusa. He was arrested for various weapon related charges and jailed. It was a possibility that he was going to rob the store clerk when the officer showed up. The weapon will be tested to see if it has been involved in other crimes.



Suspect arrested at 7-Eleven Store with a 30-round magazine in pistol.

Great Ways to Beat Summer Brain Drain



Photo Source: (c) Kertez / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Summer brain drain is real, and this year's pandemic has only exacerbated the problem. To keep your kids from getting bored while helping them expand their world, incorporate these cool ideas into those long summer days:

- **At-home tourism:** Many museums and historical sites have ramped up their online exhibitions and interactive features, making a range of programming available to would-be visitors from the safety of their homes. And much of this content is geared toward school-age kids. This can be a great way to spend a rainy day learning something new.
- **Music-making:** New skills can provide kids with confidence at a time when activities like team sports and theater programs are not possible. Learning an instrument can also lay a foundation for academic success. Check out Casiotone

- keyboards, which can make learning to play even more fun. Its Dance Music Mode feature divides the keyboard into instrument sections like drums, bass and more. By playing different combinations of keys, kids can create and remix dance music using 50 built-in styles, as well as familiar effects like stutter and filter.
- **STEM exploration:** At-home science kits offer kids unplugged, hands-on learning experiences and the opportunity to imagine their room is a real laboratory. Be sure to also check out cool online resources that help kids strengthen their math skills. For example, Casio Cares, a remote learning site offering projects, educational videos, math lessons and self-paced webinars, can be a vital summer tool for students who want to start strong in STEM this fall.
- **Summer reading challenge:**

- Many local libraries and school districts host summer reading challenges. Check these out or create your very own. No matter how the challenge works, by participating, kids will likely discover that reading is its own reward.
- **Movie magic:** Using just a smartphone and some simple editing software, children can learn to shoot and edit their own films. Celebrate their accomplishments while taking advantage of summer evenings by screening the films in the backyard with a Casio Projector, which offers easy set-up and the ability to transition from daytime to nighttime viewing.
- Beating summer brain drain is possible. With a little creativity and the use of new tools, families can keep kids engaged during the dog days of summer for a stronger start to the school year. (StatePoint)

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CRIME: ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE
CASE #: 20-0491
DATE: Sunday, July 12, 2020 – at about 1:50 A.M.
LOCATION: Arco Gas Station, 110 Longden Avenue, Irwindale CA, 91706

SUSPECT INFORMATION:
Male, Hispanic, Adult, Mid-30's, 6-00, 275 lbs., Large Build, Black Hair and Black Mustache/Goatee, Wearing Black T-Shirt with a Marilyn Monroe Design on the Front, Black and White Checkered Shorts, Grey Tennis Shoes.

SUSPECT VEHICLE:
CA: 5VQL448, 2003 Honda Pilot, Gold/Tan, 4-door SUV **(VEHICLE HAS BEEN LOCATED)**

INCIDENT:
On Sunday, July 12, 2020 at about 1:50 A.M., an altercation took place in the parking lot of the Arco gas station located at 110 Longden Avenue between the victim, a 61 year-old male, and the listed suspect. The suspect suddenly and without apparent provocation struck the victim in the face, causing him to fall to the ground and hit his head on the concrete, rendering him unconscious and non-responsive. The suspect left the location in the listed vehicle (which has since been located and recovered). The victim was transported to a local trauma center with severe head injuries and brain trauma, where he remains in serious condition.

VIDEO AVAILABLE AT: <https://youtu.be/Aew6wHanFpE>

We are seeking witnesses and/or information on the identity of the described suspect. Anyone who may have seen this incident or who knows the suspect is asked to contact Detective D. Cornejo at (626) 430-2290 or by email at dcornejo@irwindaleca.gov.

You may also report tips anonymously via the Crime Stoppers website at www.lacrimestoppers.org or via the police department's mobile app (available in your phone's app store).

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