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Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio Secures Millions for Community Development in the San Gabriel Valley

COVINA - On Friday, August 13th, Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) announced that she helped secure \$6 million dollars in state funding to improve community structures, expand local programs, and enhance the quality of life for residents in the San Gabriel Valley. Assemblywoman Rubio was joined by Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) and local leaders to unveil this ground breaking moment in our district's history.

"I am proud that we secured \$6 million in state funding for the Cities of Azusa and Covina. This funding will cultivate safe learning spaces for our children, revitalize the performing arts, and prioritize wellness resources for families in our community," said Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio (D-Baldwin Park). "There is always a great need to improve our local programs and provide reliable services to our residents. It has been an honor to work alongside Senator Susan Rubio to deliver this investment to the San Gabriel Valley and partner with local leaders to bring state dollars back to our neighborhoods."

This funding is part of SB 129, the 2021-22 state budget agreement, which encompasses the biggest economic recovery package in California's history. Out of the \$6 million that was



Elected officials and City Administrators in photo: Senator Susan Rubio, City of Azusa Mayor Robert Gonzales, Azusa Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Avila, Azusa Councilmember Andrew N. Mendez, City of Covina Mayor Jorge Marquez, Covina Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Cortez, Covina Councilmember Victor Linares, and Covina Councilmember Walter Allen III, Assistant to the Covina City Manager Angel Carillo, Covina City Manager Chris Marcarello, Azusa City Manager Sergio Gonzalez, Community Development Director Brian Lee.

secured, \$500,000 will be allocated to kick start the Azusa Library Outdoor Classroom & Learning Center Project, \$2.5 million to help support the development of Covina's Recreation Village and \$3 million to conserve the historic preservation of the Covina Center for the Performing Arts.

"Advocating for the San

Gabriel Valley is why I became a State Senator. As a former councilmember, I understand how important it is to collaborate with local leaders on what our communities need," said Senator Susan Rubio. "That's why in the past few years, I have championed - and successfully delivered - funding for affordable housing, homelessness, law enforcement,

wildfire prevention, open space, and the arts. And I will continue to fight for our residents to deliver real solutions."

"The City's Recreation Village Project represents years of thoughtful planning and dialogue to re-envision the use of citrus packing houses that have been in Covina for over 5 decades," said Mayor of Covina, Jorge Marquez. "Over time, our community has grown and developed, but the packing houses remain as important symbols of our heritage. Now, with the support of the Assemblywoman and Senator, we'll be able to maintain these linkages from our past and repurpose them to serve future

generations as recreation space, library space and classroom space for community programs."

"Our Azusa City Library has long been a source of pride in the community. It is a place where Azusans of all ages are able to gather, learn, and take advantage of a rich variety of community programs and services" said Mayor of Azusa, Robert Gonzales. "As we continue to engage our residents and serve the evolving needs of the community, we are grateful and enthusiastic about the opportunity of expanding these services with an outdoor classroom and learning center."

Walnut Valley Unified School District Announces Administrative Team Appointments



WVUSD has appointed Dr. Ron Thibodeaux, Robby Jung, Dr. Robin Perez, and Jennifer Burns in new leadership positions.

WALNUT - The Walnut Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the following administrative appointments: Dr. Ron Thibodeaux - Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Secondary Education; Robby Jung - Principal, Chaparral Middle School; Dr. Robin Perez - Instructional Dean, Walnut High School; and Jennifer Burns - Instructional Dean, Diamond Bar High School.

With over 26 years in education, Dr. Ron Thibodeaux has been appointed director of Pupil Services and Secondary Education. He brings proven leadership experience to his new post after serving nearly two decades in Walnut Valley USD administrative roles while developing expansive working relationships with key members of the learning community. For the past 11 years, Dr. Thibodeaux led Chaparral Middle School as principal, receiving school recognitions at state, national, and local levels. Prior to that time, he worked as instructional dean and summer school principal at Diamond Bar High School. He began his career as a high school social studies teacher. Dr. Thibodeaux holds bachelor of arts degrees in history and political science,

master's degree in educational leadership from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and doctoral degree in educational leadership from American College of Education.

"I have been truly blessed for the experiences I have had at Diamond Bar High School and Chaparral Middle School," he said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to serve others within the Walnut Valley Unified School District in my new capacity and look forward to the journey ahead."

Robby Jung returns to Walnut Valley USD as the new principal at Chaparral Middle School. With 16 years in education, Jung has served as principal and assistant principal in the Alhambra Unified School District for the past seven years. Before that, he was an English teacher, EL coordinator, and coach at Diamond Bar High School. Jung holds a bachelor of arts degree in English and master's degree in education from University of California, Los Angeles.

"I am excited to return back home to the Walnut Valley Unified School District and be part of a team that is so committed to supporting their students is the honor of a lifetime! Jung shared. "Chaparral Middle School has my full commitment, enthusiasm,

and attention as our team works hard to support students in thriving in all areas!"

Walnut Valley USD also welcomes Dr. Robin Perez as instructional dean at Walnut High School. She brings 24 years of educational experience to her new position, most recently serving as interim dean of students at Glendora High School. Prior to that, Dr. Perez served as assistant principal, induction coordinator, and reading intervention coordinator in the Alhambra Unified School District. She has also been a high school English teacher, middle school language arts/journalism teacher, elementary teacher, and adult education instructor. Dr. Perez earned a bachelor's degree in English from Loyola Marymount University with master's degree in Educational Leadership and doctoral degree in educational leadership from Azusa Pacific University.

"With a grateful heart, I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to serve as Instructional Dean at WHS," she said. "It is the "Walnut Way" of serving kids, striving for excellence, and working as a team that draws me here. Each day that I can serve and contribute to the excellence of WVUSD is a great day."

Walnut Valley USD alumna Jennifer Burns brings 18 years of educational experience to her new position as Diamond Bar High School instructional dean. She has been a math teacher at the school for the past 15 years and served as interim instructional dean this past year. Burns has also held numerous positions including math and science division chair, CSF advisor, class advisor, cheer co-advisor, and Induction (BTSA) support provider. She served as SAT math teacher/coordinator at both Diamond Bar and Walnut High School and began her teaching career as a sixth-grade math teacher at Suzanne Middle School. Burns holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and master's degree in educational administration from California State University, Fullerton.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to work as an Instructional Dean at Diamond Bar High School," she said. "After going to school through the Walnut Valley School District and teaching in the district for the last 18 years, there is no place I would rather be. I am looking forward to working with an amazing team of educators and supporting our students!"

Citrus College Student Receives Prestigious Scholarship From National Foundation



Rachel Heinz is one of 207 community college students in the United States to have been selected as a 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholar. (Photo courtesy Citrus College.)

GLENDORA - Rachel Heinz, a business administration major at Citrus College, is one of 207 community college students in the United States to be named a 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholar by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholarship program is designed to aid new members of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the official honor society for the nation's nearly 1,300 community colleges. More than 900 students applied for the program's prestigious scholarships, which are meant to help defray educational expenses for those students enrolled in associate degree programs.

This year, the foundation

awarded a total of \$207,000 to a select group of two-year students based on their academic achievement, community service and leadership potential. Each honoree received \$1,000.

"Citrus College is thrilled that Rachel is one of the outstanding students to be recognized as a 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholar," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "It is impressive that she has received scholastic recognition at this stage in her educational journey. During the year that Rachel has spent at Citrus College, she has established herself as a productive and successful student who will undoubtedly reach new academic

Please turn to HEINZ / A7

Glendora Woman's Club Hold Installation of its Officers



2021-2022 Officers of the Glendora Woman's Club: L to R: Sue Chandler, Assistant Corresponding Secretary; Sue Falls, House Chair; Becky Rice, Membership; Connie Halbert, Treasurer; Gretchen Peterson, Program; Hellene Spear, Parliamentarian; Carolyn Cunningham, Co-Ways and Means; Sylvia Jimenez, Co-Ways and Means; Marti Mason-Edwards, Recording Secretary; Gloria Aparicio, Philanthropy; and Chris Ohrmund, President

GLENDORA - The Glendora Woman's Club held the installation of its officers for 2021-2022 in June. The Club is celebrating their 113th year of serving in the city. They are also the proud founders of the Library. President Chris Ohrmund installed the officers using the theme "Rosie the Riveter". Each officer's charge was information pertaining to the history from that era and the "can-do" attitude so displayed by all of the "Rosies".

Club members have really stepped up in this difficult time of Covid restrictions and have continued to keep the club involved in projects and have become stronger. Chris has chosen as the theme for the new Club year "We Are Stronger Together".

Currently members are putting the finishing touches on

their September 21st Fashion Show, "Sunflowers, Sunshine, and Styles". The community is invited to attend, and tickets are available.

For more information on the Fashion Show or the Glendora Woman's Club, call 909-598-0554.

Foothill Gold Line Project Reaches Major Milestone in August

Design of the Nine-Mile, Four-Station Foothill Gold Line from Glendora to Pomona is Now Substantially Complete

MONROVIA—The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority (Construction Authority) announced that the 9.1-mile, four-station Foothill Gold Line light rail project segment from Glendora to Pomona reached a major milestone. As of August, the design for the \$1.5 billion light rail project reached substantial completion. The design-build project was awarded to Kiewit-Parsons, a Joint Venture (KPJV) in October 2019, and the first year of the contract was spent focused on completing enough design to start major construction. Major construction began in July 2020; and as of this month, the project is now 36 percent complete overall.

"In addition to reaching substantial completion on the design for this important project this month, the project is now more than one-third complete overall - an extraordinary achievement accomplished during extraordinary times," stated Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority board chair, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. "More than 300 people have been working full time on the project, including dozens of engineers that have focused on completing the design for nearly two years. Altogether, their efforts have allowed the project to move forward at an impressive pace - even as Covid-19 presented unique and unprecedented challenges."

The project design is a significant element of this complicated design-build project. It is completed in packages, totaling tens of thousands of pages of engineering drawings that go through multiple reviews. Disciplines - like track, stations and systems - are completed in packages covering the entire 9.1-mile alignment; while civil design elements - like roadways, lighting, drainage and walls - are completed in segments, often relating to the corridor city in which those elements will be built. The 19 bridge structures being built on the project are each designed individually. And all design elements go through multiple levels of approval - 30%, 60%, 85%, 100% and then "Approved for Construction" or AFC - and are often reviewed by multiple agencies at each stage. Today's announcement means that all elements of the project have reached the final level of approval - Approved for Construction.

"It has taken an incredible effort by the Construction Authority team, the design-builder KPJV and our project partners at the corridor cities, Metro and others to reach this month's historic milestone," added Sandoval. "We thank them all for their hard work and dedication to completing this project that is creating jobs, economic development opportunities, and ultimately mobility options for our region and its residents."

Work on the Foothill Gold Line from Glendora to Pomona has been able to continue on schedule through 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The base project from Glendora to Pomona is currently six months ahead of the contractual substantial completion deadline of January 2025. The design-build contract does include an option to have the KPJV team complete the entire project from Glendora to Montclair if additional funding is secured by early October 2021. If that is achieved, the entire 12.3-mile, six-station project will be completed altogether in early 2026.

About the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority - The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority is an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1998 by the California State Legislature to plan, design and build the Metro Gold Line (currently referred to as the L Line) light rail system from Union Station to Montclair. The agency completed the first segment from Union Station to Pasadena in 2003 and the Pasadena to Azusa segment in 2015; both on time and under budget. The agency began work on the Glendora to Montclair segment in 2003. The Glendora to Montclair segment was environmentally cleared in March 2013 under CEQA and again in 2019 to allow the potential for phased construction. When completed, the extension will add new light rail stations in the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair. The project may be built in phases, due to funding constraints. Major construction on the project segment from Glendora to Pomona began in July 2020 and is anticipated to be completed in 2025. If additional funding is secured by October 2021, the entire segment from Glendora to Montclair will be completed altogether in 2026.

The portion of the project in Los Angeles County portion is funded mostly by Measure M, along with residual funds from Measure R not used to complete the Pasadena to Azusa segment. San Bernardino County is responsible to fund their portion of the project to Montclair (in San Bernardino County). The State of California has provided \$300 million in funding through a TIRCP grant awarded in 2018 to both counties.



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As Cases at Skilled Nursing Facilities Increase, Public Health Encourage Visitors to be Fully Vaccinated

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Throughout the pandemic, medically fragile residents at skilled nursing facilities have been at great risk for serious illness and death from COVID-19. With the high level of COVID-19 spread across L.A. County communities and the nation, cases among staff and residents at skilled nursing facilities have slightly increased. This is in part due to the highly transmissible Delta variant, small numbers of unvaccinated staff and residents and a slight increase in the number of post vaccination infections among those fully vaccinated. For the week ending August 1, 91 people tested positive for COVID-19: 28 new cases among residents, and 63 new cases among staff. In comparison, the week ending July 25, there were 69 new cases among staff and residents at skilled nursing facilities, and for

the previous weeks, an average of 20 new cases were reported. Currently, 86% of residents and staff at skilled nursing facilities are fully vaccinated.

Because unvaccinated healthcare workers, including workers at skilled nursing facilities, are at higher risk for being infected when community transmission is high and the close contact healthcare workers have with very vulnerable patients, Los Angeles County will issue a Health Officer Order that aligns with the State to mandate vaccinations for healthcare workers by September 30. Currently, all unvaccinated staff at skilled nursing facilities, acute care hospitals, and intermediate care facilities are required to test twice weekly.

The State also requires visitors to healthcare facilities, including visiting staff, to show proof of full vaccination or a negative test in the prior 72 hours upon visitation. The Order also mandates masking regardless of vaccination status and recommends a medical-grade mask or double masking be used.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) encourages anyone planning to visit someone in a healthcare facility to do so safely. As a reminder, you must wear a mask for all visitations, and visits should occur outdoors whenever possible. Additional restrictions may apply, so visitors should consult with the facility in advance for further instructions.

Health Officer Order for Healthcare Worker Vaccinations

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) issued a Health Officer Order on August 12 requiring that healthcare workers working in L.A. County be fully vaccinated by September 30 of this year.

This Order aligns with the State Order and applies to volunteers, contractors, and students, in addition to part and full-time employees and health care facilities. The County Order also includes emergen-

cy medical technicians and paramedics, dental office workers, and home health workers. Exemptions to this requirement will be allowed only for qualifying medical or religious reasons, and exempt workers must be tested one to two times a week depending on the type of facility in which they work. Additionally, exempt workers must wear respiratory protection at all times. This can be in the form of medical grade masks or respirators such as N95s.

COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Third Dose Approved for Certain Immunocompromised Residents

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Following the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approval of an additional dose of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for immunocompromised people, Los Angeles County will begin administering third doses to those who qualify tomorrow. The FDA has amended the Emergency Use Authorization for these vaccines to allow for a third dose which can be administered at least 28 days following the second dose of the vaccine.

Ideally individuals should be vaccinated with the same vaccine they received for the first and second dose, but if that is not possible, receiving a third dose with another mRNA vaccine is acceptable.

Although the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines work very well in the majority of individuals, there is evidence that individuals who are severely immunocompromised are not fully protected after receiving two doses and this small, vulnerable group may benefit from a third dose. Certain medical conditions or the treat-

ments used for specific conditions may prevent the immune system from responding adequately to two doses of the vaccine and therefore require an additional dose to provide adequate protection from COVID-19. Individuals who qualify for a third dose include organ transplant recipients, people undergoing cancer treatment, people with advanced or untreated HIV and those on certain immunosuppressive medications.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) encourages individuals who qualify for a third dose to speak to their healthcare provider to confirm their eligibility and get vaccinated. Third doses of the vaccines will be accessible through vaccination sites that currently offer Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Eligible individuals will be able to provide a self-attestation that they have a qualifying medical condition at these sites.

A follow-up dose is not currently recommended for those who have received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vac-

cine. The FDA is still evaluating data on the effectiveness of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in immunocompromised individuals. COVID-19 vaccine booster doses are also not recommended for the general public at this time.

"We are thinking of every family member and friend grieving the loss of a loved one. We wish you healing and peace," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "Studies have shown immunocompromised people are more likely to have post vaccination infection and become severely ill from COVID-19. An additional vaccine dose for some people with weakened immune systems could help prevent serious illness and death. If you have a qualifying condition, we encourage you to speak to your healthcare provider about getting a third dose. We also encourage those who are close contacts of immunocompromised people to get vaccinated as soon as possible in order to protect their family members and friends who are at higher risk."

Board of Supervisors Approves Motion to Waive Citizenship Requirements for LA County Employment

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - In a historic decision, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approves a Motion by Supervisors Solis and Kuehl to end an employee citizenship requirement for providing critical public services to LA County residents and businesses.

On August 10, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a historic and progressive motion to eliminate the County of Los Angeles' long-standing citizenship requirement for its Department Heads while also giving each Department Head the authority to waive such requirements for positions within their respective departments, including Deputy Public Defenders. Throughout 107 years of indigent defense within the County of Los Angeles, the Public Defender has been prevented from hiring attorneys because of citizenship and voting-registration requirements, even though immigrant communities comprise one-third of the County's population. With a forward-thinking Board, Public Defender Ricardo Garcia has advo-

ated for waiving citizenship and voting-registration requirements as a condition of employment with Los Angeles County. "It is time to rethink prior restrictions that do not reflect the identity of our County. Supervisor Solis and Supervisor Kuehl heard our calls and this motion is a historic milestone that will benefit our communities" Mr. Garcia indicated.

The County of Los Angeles was first in the nation to incorporate an indigent defense department. The duties of the Los Angeles Public Defender have since been expanded considerably by Sec. 27706 of the Government Code, which in 1965 changed the charter of the department to ensure that a Public Defender defend all persons who are not financially able to employ counsel and who are charged, in the Superior Court, with the commission of any contempt, misdemeanor, felony or other offense. In the past five decades, the role of the Public Defender has continued to expand exponentially to include advocating in the arenas

of Mental Health, Immigration, Diversion and Reentry, post-conviction and re-entry, homeless outreach, and many other forms of holistic representation.

The critical public service and justice role the Public Defender plays in the lives of LA County's indigent defendants makes it essential that the hiring process allows for onboarding the best and most diverse candidates. Non-citizen attorneys with diverse backgrounds, specialized training, and a license to practice law from the California State Bar are currently removed from the pool of eligible candidates, even though moral character determinations are made by the State Bar. This historic shift, made possible by the Board, enables the Public Defender to expand their potential hiring pool, increasing the number of talented and diverse applicants to select from, which will not only enhance our legal representation services, but will accurately reflect the County's values of inclusivity and diversity.

LA County Supervisors Eliminate Late Fines from County Libraries

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a proposal authored by Supervisor Janice Hahn to immediately eliminate late fines from LA County Libraries.

Hahn's motion instructs LA County Librarian Skye Patrick to waive all fines and fees for overdue books and other library materials, effective immediately. It also instructs the County Librarian to work with the County's Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, and Treasurer-Tax Collector to waive all existing fees

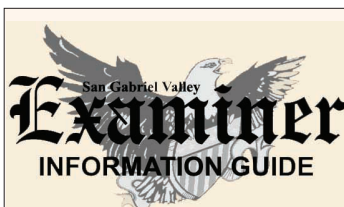
for library patrons as well as write off the Library's Accounts Receivable.

"This important initiative will help us do our everyday work of fostering learning experiences, sparking curiosity, making connections, and building skills for all LA County residents" said County Librarian Skye Patrick.

Collecting fines for overdue library materials was originally implemented as a source of revenue for the LA County Library system - but, presently, these fines make up less than 1% of library revenue. Additionally, the

staffing cost associated with the collection of late fees has exceeded the amount of fees collected in the past two fiscal years.

In recent years, large urban systems across the country - including the LA City Public Library, San Diego Public Library, San Francisco Public Library, Chicago Public Library, Denver Public Library and Columbus Metropolitan Library systems - have adopted a fine-free model, with research showing that such policies have resulted in a 200 percent increase in returned library books and other materials.



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College: The One-Size-Fits-All Answer

There are days when I feel really old, some days when I feel very wise and then days when I read about our changing education systems and feel totally befuddled.

As K-12 education parents around the country are fighting to eliminate Critical Race Theory and California's sex education framework beginning in pre-kindergarten from required courses, our university and state college systems are way ahead of those parents and have already established themselves in both these areas. These higher education systems are now drawing in more of our students by establishing equity education programs. Not equal opportunities, but equity meaning access based on ethnic, racial, gender and socioeconomic diversity.

The small, private, liberal arts Bentley University in Massachusetts has course offerings right now students can take graduating with a Bachelor of Science or Arts degrees in DEI or Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This private institution believes this is a future job marketplace.

The focus of the BS degree is on organizational strategy and the BA focus is on critical and theoretical approaches to social justice. Both are supplemented with various other courses, such as Managing Diversity in the Workplace, Gender and the Law, Cross-Cultural Communication and Race and Racism in U.S. History. Annual tuition: \$55,000 a year.

San Jose University is creating what is currently dubbed (Un) Honors College targeting the BIPOC communities or Black, Indigenous, People of Color. The idea behind this program is to attract (as they put it) the "marginalized populations" supplementing student enrollment of the high scoring Advance Placement students. This approach sounds



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

more like beefing up the budget rather than opening up future career opportunities.

Vincent J. Del Casino, Jr., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for San Jose State University wrote, "But instead of traditional honors programs, push past historical conversations about honors education and toward a dialogue about how we create radical, new learning spaces responsive to and inspired by the complex and intersectional diversity of our local communities and our students. Maybe what we end up with doesn't have the word 'honors' in it at all."

The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board in May a year ago said, "[The] decision by the University of California regents to eliminate the SAT and ACT in admissions is an historic blow to excellence in higher education." Many California high schools were relieved to see those tests be eliminated just as they were with CAHSEE, the California High School Exit Exam, testing high school students in math and English proficiency at the 8th grade level. Discontinuance of those testing programs has made it much easier to stay higher up on the News and World Report rankings each year.

And, more debate continues with what to use as criteria for

accepting or rejecting a student into a college or university here in California and avoid any liability with charges of discrimination. It seems to me there are several questions and areas needing further discussion about our children's education and pathway into a productive, successful life in the real world of employment and financial stability.

Once upon a time ago, the discussion in the school counselor's office use to be something like ... What do you want to be when you graduate? Do you want to go to college? What options do you want to explore? Those discussions don't seem to be happening any more. The conversation is which college do you want to go to? Grades? Not a problem. We have make-up courses or summer school and you don't need SAT or ACT testing or an entrance exam.

What I don't hear is confirmation you can be successful without going to college if you are determined and seriously focused on your career objective. What I don't see is a serious proactive occupational training program instituted and fully supported and funded by our legislators and California Board of Education that should provide opportunities for those who don't have the grades or the desire to go to college. One-size-fits-all doesn't work for kids today.

We all come to the table with different capabilities and game plans and to mask those up with an obligatory college education for future success doesn't seem to me to be in the best interest of our students.

Perhaps the elected and appointed officials in California have become more politically focused on set agendas rather than students dependent on receiving the best education or career training for them personally as possible.

Climate Change is Here, There, and Everywhere

For years now, I have traveled to the desert region east of San Bernardino to bask in its relative calm and escape the cacophony of everyday life in the city. Part of the desert's appeal, as Edward Abbey explained in his 1968 classic *Desert Solitaire*, is its audacious simplicity and clarity captured in its expansive landscapes. Its diverse ecosystem evokes a palpable air of mystery that hints at, as Abbey sensed, "something unknown, unknowable, about to be revealed."

This March, I made my first visit to the Mojave National Preserve. Located in the Mojave Desert of San Bernardino County, it is almost twice the size of but far less trafficked than its more well-known desert neighbor, Joshua Tree National Park, which saw almost 3 million visitors in 2019.

I saw cascading golden sand dunes coexisting with lush pinyon-juniper forests, desert grasslands, enticing rock formations, high-elevation mountain ranges, and the world's largest concentration of Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*). I relished the quiet of my campsite off Cima Road and the vistas of towering boulders, Joshua trees, and glowing greenish-yellow Cholla cactus. At night, the unrelenting winds roared.

To my shock and dismay, I had also stepped into the aftermath of a wildfire. There I stood between life and death, between a postcard scene of massive Joshua trees with furry, green branches and a scorched sea of trees and cacti skeletons sprouting from the blackened earth like spent matchsticks. Near my camp, these remains were often separated from living trees by a thin line drawn perhaps by a chance shift in wind direction.

Given its dry and rugged nature, one might assume that desert lands would be more favorably suited for the extreme



Farrah Hassen

conditions of drought and climate change. Yet in August of last year, the Dome wildfire destroyed over 43,000 acres of dense Joshua tree forests around Cima Dome in the Mojave National Preserve. Although sparked by lightning, James Cornett, a desert ecologist, told the *Desert Sun*, "no doubt the fire spread was assisted by the unusually dry vegetation resulting from a warming climate and frequent drought." It took several days for firefighters (already stretched by multiple fires across the state) to put out the blaze. The devastation was immense. Some 1.3 million Joshua trees along with bushes, shrubs, grasses, and cacti had been killed.

In truth, the desert is more fragile than many realize. And wildfire is only one of the threats now facing the Mojave. Climate change, drought, runaway development, and the exploitation of natural resources are all conspiring to destroy one of Southern California's most iconic regions. In the case of the Joshua tree, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, although their direct killing by developers is the most visible threat, climate change and fires like the one at Cima Dome are also pushing the species to extinction. A 2019 study published in the journal *Ecosphere* found that only .02% of its habitat in Joshua Tree Na-

tional Park would remain viable if global warming continues unabated. Other studies confirm that hotter, drier conditions are killing Joshua trees and few younger trees are becoming established.

The August 9 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change only validates what I had witnessed firsthand in the Mojave Desert: human-induced climate change is reaching every area of the globe and contributing to more heat, drought, and fire.

Among its key findings, the IPCC noted that observed increases in greenhouse gas concentrations since 1750 are "unequivocally caused by human activities." Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide were higher in 2019 than at any time in at least the last 2 million years and each of the last four decades has been successively warmer than the previous since 1850. The report concludes that unless we deeply reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the coming decades, then limiting warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C during the twenty-first century will become unreachable.

Thinking that the worst of climate change will happen elsewhere and that the U.S. can ride it out relatively unscathed is wrongheaded at best. As our California deserts inform us, even those places seemingly most resistant to its impacts remain at risk. Yet despite its bleak findings, the latest IPCC report reminds us that we still have a chance to determine our planet's future course.

It's time we listen to the desert and what it reveals.

Farrah Hassen, J.D., is a writer, policy analyst, and adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science at Cal Poly Pomona.
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Human Right Issues Need Immediate Attention as American Political System Becoming More Decayed

by Chi Chiang
Senior Reporter of Asian Community

Since May, the discovery of many hundreds of unmarked graves and children remains on the grounds of former schools in Canada shocked the world. It started with the remains of 215 children been found at a boarding school in British Columbia. Weeks later, The Cowessess First Nation - an indigenous nation said it found 751 unmarked graves at the similar residential school in Saskatchewan. As Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, it was "a shameful reminder of the systemic racism, discrimination, and injustice that Indigenous peoples have faced."

The brutal truth about the race-based "cultural genocide" is not exclusive to Canada. The so-called Anglosphere which includes United States, Canada and several other English-speaking nations that share common cultural and historical ties to the United Kingdom, shared similar history of suppression and elimination of indigenous and minority group in lands that were not their own.

Last month marks the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa attack, where a mob of white nationalists claimed up to 300 black lives, burnt down hundreds of homes and injured more than 800 people in Oklahoma. Being the first US president to visit the site in the past 100 years, President Joe Biden admitted it "was a massacre, and among the worst in our history. But not the only one." The two-day violence in Tulsa 100 years ago was a tragedy, but what happened in the years after it was more brutal. Truth was erased from official documents and records, facts were ignored in history books, and human rights of the minority groups never secured.

African Americans are not alone in the long history of genocide and segregation. In the nearly 100 years since the founding of the United States, the Indians were expelled and killed in the Westward Expansion on a large scale. By the beginning of the 20th century, the American Indian population had plummeted from 5 million in 1492 to 250,000. Today, the Indians population accounts for only 2% of the total population of the country.

In fact, white supremacy is the mainstream culture of the US and was formed by history, deeply ingrained in the social, economic, and political systems of the country.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the US is reporting the greatest total death numbers world-wide. The US death toll, according to the New York Times, reached 606,000 this month. In the big influenza pandemic of 1918, approximately 675,000 Americans died. It is astonishing to see that 100 years later, with the most advanced medical system and technology, the American people suffered same number of lost lives - way more than other undeveloped countries. With today's medical conditions in the United States, allowing this tragedy to repeat itself means the government's current capabilities are worse than in 1918. What happened in the country today is more a man-made disaster caused by governance incompetence rather than a natural disaster.

During the pandemic, many low-income Americans have lost their jobs and could not afford medical care, widening the gap between rich and poor. According to CDC data as of June 28, 2021, 60 percent of US population who have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

are white, 9% are black and 15% are Hispanic, comparing with the fact that 61% of the country's total population are white, 12% are black and 17% are Hispanic. Racial disparities are obvious in the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, not to mention the fact that infection rate among colored people is much higher than that of the white people.

Another group hugely affected by the pandemic are the tens of thousands of migrants and asylum seekers in the immigration detention facilities. Reports show that more than 8,000 of them were infected and deaths in the immigration detention spiked to a 15-year high.

Protecting the human rights of citizens is an obligation of governments of all countries. Although the US government always presents itself as a model for human rights, the truth is that American political system is the soil that breeds serious humanitarian and human rights issues.

In recent years, the domestic economic and social contradictions in the United States have intensified, resulting in social division and political party polarization. The American political system is becoming more and more decayed as the tradition of separation of powers becoming more and more rigid. The political parties have sharp differences, and the decentralization system is increasingly incapable of representing the interests of the majority of people. The Democrats and Republicans do not want to cut off the financial supports from elite groups, and elite groups also hope that they can buy off political influence. The result is that the elite groups have an excessive right to speak, while the will of the general public cannot be reflected, and the human rights of citizens cannot be guaranteed.

Is Our Government Destroying Us?

With the present government creating restrictions on the people of California and across the U.S., we see that their actions are now affecting other countries around the world.

With the President's orders with the "announcements" to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan has backfired and it has slapped our military veterans who served there in the face.

Worse... Biden and the government has really kicked the veterans families in the teeth that lost loved ones in the Afghan war(s) by removing all the troops from that county and basically leaving them naked and allowing the Taliban Terrorist to take over the country.

We have troops stationed around the world. Basically, the U.S. troops that was stationed in Afghanistan were not acting in a



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

high capacity of being "combat" troops as they had been in the past. They were peace keepers of the region to assist that country.

Once the present administration said they would pull all U.S. troops out of the region, against the advice of our military generals and advisors that this would be an open invitation for the Taliban to attack and take over the country.

So, how did that work out?

Everything that we fought for is for nothing. All those lives lost over the years because of the present administration's actions, or lack of actions, has gone to waste. Not only that, we have left the country with enough military equipment to be one of the largest military powers in the area... NICE!

I have to ask, who advises this president??? Not only did we lose all those lives, but we lost a country that was basically one of our allies. Now it is all gone and opened up the region for these terrorist to expand around the world and to wreak havoc on innocent people around the world.

I want to thank this administration for all they have done... What are they thinking?

Be ready, more is yet to come... good luck.

"That's Just the Way It Is!"

San Gabriel Valley

Examiner

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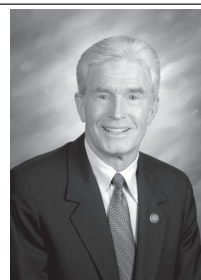
The August 6th employment report was huge! July nonfarm payrolls rose 943k (beating the consensus 870k estimate handily)! May's gain was revised up 31k to 614k, while June was revised up 88k to 938k, for a net two-month revision of 119k and a net payroll gain of 1.062 million! The unemployment rate tumbled 5 tenths to 5.4%, as big job gains outside of those eligible for standard unemployment insurance were not counted in the payroll survey.

Wall Street expected a big jobs report in July and was not disappointed. As Fed Chair Jay Powell predicted months ago, the looming end of federal unemployment programs would lead to millions again seeking work. It took longer than he expected for the re-employment process to get here, but the big drop in benefit recipients foreshadowed this jobs gain. August and September numbers should also be up as there are still millions who need to find work before benefits end.

From a policy standpoint, as a colleague of mine stated after this update Friday morning, this puts tapering back on the table. For some time, Wall Street has expected more progress toward tapering. The path to rate hikes is more complicated however. Several months of rapid job growth is likely to pull the timeline closer in people's minds, including the minds of fed officials. However, slower job growth once the transition to normal jobless claims is behind us may push the timeline back out again. By fall, however, the Quantitative Easing taper should be well underway. Once started, it is not likely to stop.

At the most recent FOMC meeting the FOMC left monetary policy unchanged and offered no clarity on the timeline

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

for tapering asset purchases. In the press conference, Chair Powell acknowledged the committee has begun discussing the potential timing and pace of tapering, but emphasized that while progress has been made towards the Fed's goals, "substantial further progress" will take more time.

Economic data in July has pointed to a sustained recovery, though strong demand mixed with persistent supply chain issues present a risk to the outlook. Inflation continued to be pushed higher as parts of the economy, such as transportation, lodging and airfare, struggle to adjust capacity. Chair Powell suggested it will take more time for employment to recover as it is "not so much about people going back to their old jobs; it's about finding a new job."

For the economy to grow, clearly "the show must go on," regardless of Covid. The momentum for vaccine mandates has been building, with Joe Biden starting last week off with a new requirement that all federal employees and on-site contractors be vaccinated or submit to regular testing and mitigation requirements.

To date the notion of returning to lockdowns and shut-ins is off the table, as the Biden administration's position is that vaccines work. According to Reu-

ters, during the latest week, the U.S. averaged 610,020 doses administered per day. At that rate, it will take 108 days to administer enough doses to reach another 10% of the population. This raises more uncertainty about slowing down the raging highly contagious delta variant!

A colleague of mine stated the other day that President Joe Biden had mentioned in a live CNN town hall on Wednesday, July 21, that his proposed multi-trillion-dollar spending packages will "reduce inflation". He was referring to a very controversial \$3.5 trillion spending package, and perhaps also to the \$1.5 trillion infrastructure spending. How could this proposed \$5 trillion be "anti-inflationary spending"? President Biden was repeating what he had said on Monday, July 19, when he also said that more government spending "will be a force for achieving lower prices for Americans".

On what planet is the President living when \$5 trillion in money creation is considered to be anti-inflationary? My colleagues believe that "Government spending doesn't stimulate the economy as much as it destabilizes the economy and causes inflation. One thing we learned from Milton Friedman is government spending doesn't stimulate anything except government. We should be aggressively cutting government spending now, not raising it. If unlimited money printing policies worked, Argentina, Mexico, and Zimbabwe would be the richest countries in the world.

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

When Covid hit, I decided to retire 4 years earlier than planned. Now I'm worried. How can I make sure that I don't outlive my retirement savings?

Consider coming out of retirement and returning to the workforce. Figure out if working parttime, or even in a different line of work, will reduce or delay use of your retirement savings. About half of the people who are retired will live beyond the average life expectancy. It's not uncommon for a couple, age 65, for one or both of them to live well into their 90's. That means that retirement income must last 25 or more years! There are investment vehicles in place that guarantee you will not lose any principal or interest, that allow you to convert your 401(k) into a lifetime income stream, and that defer taxes until you withdraw funds. Note that Required Minimum Distributions (government mandated withdrawal of funds from tax-deferred retirement funds) are not "required" until age 72.

Why is information about types of mortgage loans different online than it is with my bank mortgage guy and my credit union mortgage lady?

There are very important differences between your local bank, an independent mortgage professional, and what you see online. Banks and credit unions are only able to offer limited loan products that they have in-house. They usually take a long time to process and complete a loan, and their rates and fees are often



Julia Yoder

higher. What you see online often has fine print and disclaimers resulting in a case of "what you see is not necessarily what you get." I suggest you go online to FindAMortgageBroker.com to locate a licensed independent mortgage professional. These Brokers, partnered with several lenders, offer multiple loan products, and typically get things done faster.

Close to 1/3 of my debt is student loans, another 1/3 is credit card debt, leaving me 1/3 of my income to live on. It's not enough, so I keep racking up more credit card debt! How can I possibly save for a house? Retirement? Emergencies?

Seems hopeless, but it's not. Start with a budget. Ask what you need vs. what you want. Get a second job. Sell items you are not using. Check into refinancing your student loans into one, lower interest loan, and move your credit card debt to a zero-interest card and pay it off during that zero-interest period of time.

How can I reduce the estate tax obligations for my heirs?

Life insurance is well known among wise investors to cover final expenses and inheritance / estate taxes. Proceeds paid to beneficiaries from a life insurance policy are income tax free. Life insurance policies are typically settled quickly (unless there are suspicious circumstances surrounding the insured's death, of course.)

What is meant by the "annual reset" on an annuity?

Each year (on the purchase-date anniversary) the amount (principal plus interest earned that year) in the fixed or fixed-indexed annuity contract is locked in. That amount becomes the new contract balance that you are guaranteed you cannot lose. Even if the index goes down, your annuity's contract balance does not go down. The worst-case scenario is that your balance stays the same. Conversely, if the market goes up, you'll only get part of the increase. This limit is called a "cap." With annual reset, your money does not have to make up for losses, yet can participate in gains.

Ask Julia by email:
juliayoder@yahoo.com

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City of Hope Mentors San Gabriel Valley Teens

Before starting their virtual internships at City of Hope this summer, none of the San Gabriel Valley teenagers who had signed up were quite sure what bioscience research really was. "Now 80% of the interns plan to continue towards the biotech/healthcare trajectory," says Amy Foell, Consultant for Workforce Development at the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership. Foell coordinates a project which connects City of Hope to local high schools to bolster local students' professional skills, while giving them a glimpse of the world of scientific research.

City of Hope - a world-class treatment and research center for cancer and diabetes headquartered in Duarte - joined forces with the K12 Foothill Consortium, which arranges training experiences for students in northeastern Los Angeles County, and the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (SGVEP), an economic development group aimed at improving the business culture and quality of life across the San Gabriel Valley.

The program included mentoring in professional skills and explaining bioscience research. It culminated in intern teams producing Public Service Announcements about a variety of crucial topics: Gestational Diabetes, COVID-19 Facts, and Stem Cell Research. This tested not only their knowledge and soft skills, but their organizational and technical

abilities as well.

Students were mentored by Ph.D. students from the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at City of Hope through its graduate student outreach committee. The graduate students were eager to pay forward what they had received from their own mentors.

"Participating in these events is very important to me as a first-generation Mexican-American in STEM," said Diana Esparza, a City of Hope Ph.D. candidate studying early diagnostic tools for type 2 diabetes. "Programs like this one helps grow confidence and awareness in the next generation of scientists, letting them know that they CAN make it. Therefore, it was a tremendous pleasure to share my cultural experiences and the plethora of resources that were provided to me by my own compassionate mentors."

Her fellow mentor Alicia Davis, a City of Hope Ph.D. candidate studying novel therapeutics for COVID-19 and lung cancer, agrees. "Having enthusiastic and supportive role models during such a pivotal time such as high school is essential," she said. Particularly in a year when high school students were bereft of regular interactions, the support received from enthusiastic mentors made quite a difference.

Megan Orellana (Charter Oak High School, Class of 2022) for example, was thrilled to connect personally with her mentor, Heather Zook, at a personal level. "I have had several meetings with Heather outside of the internship," Orellana says, "and we have discussed more about college and different careers. Her background is very similar to mine in a way that makes it very comforting to chat with her. I'd

say my perspective on not only the medical field but also the people in the medical field has definitely grown and changed in a positive way."

Locally-trained bioscience researchers are keenly needed for the continued health of the San Gabriel Valley economy. The region is home to a growing technology corridor hosting numerous companies working in photonics, biotechnology, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing. The significant growth potential for these industries is limited only by the lack of a suitably qualified workforce in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

"Supporting and encouraging our San Gabriel Valley high school interns is a true passion of mine," attests Robin Clayton, Director of Talent Acquisition at City of Hope. "We must start encouraging and exposing students at a young age about the diverse careers in health care. Our hope is that once the interns complete their education, they consider returning to City of Hope to begin their professional journey and continue remembering the importance of our mission and values."

The hard work of the mentors, interns, and supporting institutions appears to be taking root. "I have always assumed research was boring, but in reality it's so fascinating," enthuses Sonia Pena, Gladstone High School (Class of 2022). "The things you discover are amazing. You really never know about something until you dive deep into it."

Hopefully in the near future, these high schoolers will all dive deep into their chosen fields and pay forward the knowledge gained from City of Hope to the generation after them.



Car Talk by THE CAR DOC

What You "AUTO" Know

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

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.

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State Board of Equalization Holds Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing

Taxpayers and Stakeholders are Invited to Join and Participate

SACRAMENTO - The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) will hold its annual Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing virtually via teleconference on August 24, 2021. Taxpayers and stakeholders are invited to provide comments on items described in the BOE's Taxpayers' Rights Advocate's Annual Report, and share suggestions, comments or concerns on California's property tax system. Taxpayers and stakeholders can also present any ideas or changes to the Alcoholic Beverage Tax Law or present their experiences or issues regarding BOE services.

"The BOE is responsible

for the oversight of the assessment practices of the nearly \$7 trillion in property values throughout California and the \$369 million Alcoholic Beverage Tax Program," said BOE Chairman Antonio Vazquez. "This is an important opportunity for all taxpayers and stakeholders to directly provide input to their elected representatives and share any improvements needed or challenges they may have had during the past year."

The virtual 2021 Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing will be livestreamed on the BOE website. Taxpayers and stakeholders can submit comments in ad-

vance to MeetingInfo@boe.ca.gov or dial toll-free to 1-877-226-8189, access code 4898770# on the day of to present during the hearing.

The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing is held in accordance with the Morgan Property Taxpayers' Bill of Rights and the California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights related to the Alcoholic Beverage Tax Law.

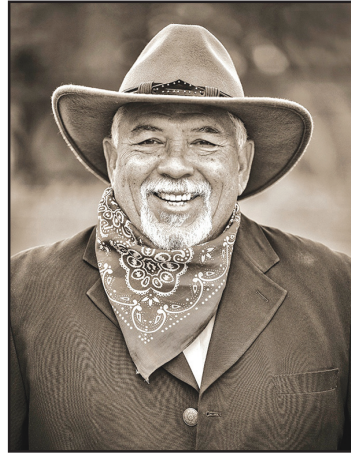
Additional information can be found on the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate's webpage and by viewing the public service announcement featuring Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Lisa Thompson.



Around the Valley & Senior News

"Time Jockey" - Dodgers VS Giants 1962

Repeat... Nearly 60 years ago, the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants engaged in one of the most memorable pennant races in Major League Baseball history. Four years earlier, both teams had moved from New York to the West Coast becoming the first major league teams to settle at a site west of the Rockies. Both teams were loaded with stars who would become the best in baseball. The Giants had Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Juan Marichal, Gaylord Perry, Felipe Alou, Orlando Cepeda, Jack Sanford, Don Larsen and a young Manny Mota on its team. The Dodgers countered with Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Tommy Davis, Maury Wills, Frank Howard, Willie Davis, Johnny Podres and Jim Gilliam. Both teams started hot from the beginning of the season and took turns leading the National League. The Giants won 51 of their first 80 games and were still going strong in early September. The Dodgers started even faster when they reeled off 13 straight wins in late May. On July 8th, they moved into first place where they would stay until the last game of the season. 1962 marked the first season Dodger Stadium opened and the team was flying high to meet the expectations of its fans. The stadium was the first privately financed sports stadium and included terraced parking lots in its design. It boasted the largest scoreboard in baseball and even provided dugout level seats for a higher price. It was also the larg-



Joe Castillo

est 50,000 seat baseball stadium in the country. On April 10, the Dodgers opened the season in front of 52,364 fans. The San Francisco Giants were playing in only their third season at their new park, Candlestick. In their first year, the Giants asked Vice President Richard Nixon to throw out the first pitch, which the future president from California welcomed the invitation. By August 9, the Giants trailed the Dodgers by 5 1/2 games but the Dodgers were about to start feeling the effects of a long season when Sandy Koufax would suffer an arm injury. The team still led by four games with 7 to play and even led by 2 games with 3 to play but the Giants never quit playing to catch-up and when the Dodgers lost 6 of their last 7 games the Giants would come roaring back. When the Dodgers were shutout in their final two games, the Giants were there to win their two games and tie the Dodgers for first forcing a 3-game playoff. In Game 1, the Giants won

easily by a score of 8-0, and the series returned to Los Angeles. The Dodgers had now been shut-out in their last 3 games and in playoff game 2 it took 6 more innings before the Dodgers scored a run. Eventually they pushed across 8 runs to win the second game 8-7 forcing a final third game. In the third game, the Dodgers led by a score of 4-2 with 1 out in the ninth when the Giants rallied for 4 runs to win the series and the National League Pennant to go to the World Series to play the New York Yankees. The playoff brought the eyes of the baseball world to the West Coast and intensified the rivalry between these two historic franchises. The entire season appeared to be the Dodgers special season with a new stadium and a team for the ages. Maury Wills would be the 1962 MVP, Don Drysdale would win the Cy Young Award, Tommy Davis the batting crown and the Dodgers would draw over 2 million fans in setting a record for attendance. The Dodgers-Giants rivalry has always been intense but 1962 has a number of similarities with 2021, and in the last month and a half, we just may see history repeat itself in the drive to be the champion of baseball.... *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 joeacastillo@aol.com.*

What Should People With Diabetes Know About The COVID-19 Vaccine?

With the three new COVID-19 vaccines widely available, millions of Americans have been encouraged to get vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that, as of July 2021, 47% of the total U.S. population is now fully vaccinated and over 182 million Americans have received at least one dose. This effort has helped reduce the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. But people with diabetes may have questions about COVID-19 vaccines, including whether they should get vaccinated and whether the vaccines are safe. If you have diabetes, here is what you need to know:

- People with diabetes should get vaccinated. About 40% of people who died from COVID-19 from February to April 2020—before COVID-19 vaccines were publicly available—had diabetes. People with type 1 or type 2 diabetes often have complications including heart disease and obesity, which means people with either type of diabetes are at a much higher risk of developing severe illness if they were to get COVID-19. One of the best ways to avoid becoming seriously sick with COVID-19 is to get vaccinated.
- The three COVID-19 vac-

cines are safe for people with diabetes. The available vaccines are not made from SARS-COV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, so there is no risk of getting sick with COVID-19 just from getting the vaccine. People with diabetes were included in COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials across the United States and other countries, and none of the trials reported significant safety issues among study participants.

- Continue monitoring your blood glucose regularly after being vaccinated. In some individuals, the vaccine may cause possible side effects that can be similar to feeling sick, such as chills, fever, and nausea. People with diabetes should speak with their health care professional about this and how to monitor their blood glucose levels following COVID-19 vaccination.
- Caregivers should get vaccinated too. People with diabetes might have a family member or caregiver who assists them with their daily living, health care, or other needs. These family members and caregivers also need to get vaccinated so they can stay healthy, avoid exposing family members with diabetes to COVID-19 and continue being a source of support.

- Even after getting vaccinated, people still need to follow safety precautions set by public health experts, such as the CDC. For instance, the CDC states that people who are vaccinated generally no longer need to wear masks or follow social distancing. However, they do need to continue following these precautions where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including in local businesses and workplaces.
- Consider enrolling in a clinical trial. Research is still underway to answer such questions as how long the vaccines help the immune system fight the virus. Learn more about COVID-19 clinical trials and how you can play a role by visiting the COVID-19 Prevention Network: www.coronavirusprevention-network.org.
- To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, visit the CDC website at cdc.gov and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' website: www.vaccines.gov/diseases/covid.
- For more information on managing diabetes, visit the NIDDK website at www.niddk.nih.gov. (NAPSI)

What to Know When Shopping in Stores This Back-to-School Season

Is your family returning to brick-and-mortar stores to prepare for the return of brick-and-mortar school? A new survey offers insights into what you can expect and how you can prepare for the experience. The survey, conducted in June by Sensormatic Solutions, finds consumer confidence reaching new highs, with 73% of back-to-school shoppers saying they were neutral or unconcerned about shopping in-store currently. This is a major leap from previous pandemic-era surveys. In spring 2021, only 50% of shoppers were neutral or unconcerned about shopping in-stores, and only 35% of shoppers felt that way in winter 2020. "The survey highlights a likely return to many pre-pandemic back-to-school shopping habits," says Kim Melvin, global leader of marketing, Sensormatic Solutions, a leading retail solutions provider. "Families now have an increased confidence about shopping in stores and they are going to be shopping earlier and spending more on apparel and school supplies." As part of its mission to solve complex retail challenges related to consumer confidence, health and safety, Sensormatic Solutions is providing its top three strategies to improve your back-to-school shopping experience.



Photo Source: (c) Seventyfour - stock.adobe.com

1. During the pandemic, retailers large and small implemented and perfected an array of shopping options in an effort to keep customers and staff healthy and safe. The good news? These options are not going away. While in-store shopping is the most popular way people plan to stock up on school essentials this year, according to survey results, options like buy online, pickup in stores (BOPIS), curbside pickup and online shopping allow you to leisurely comparison shop from the comfort of home. And, thanks to innovations in inventory tracking software, these options have become a highly reliable way to get what you need when you want it.
2. With the high demand in apparel and school supplies – 70% and 53%, respectively, say they plan to spend the most on

those categories this year – it may be a good idea to get a head start on preparing your children for in-person learning. Consider going to stores earlier than you may have in the past to beat the rush and get the products you and your children need.

3. Find out whether your state offers a tax-free shopping period. Timing your shopping to occur during this period can help you save substantially at checkout, especially if you're among the 12% of consumers planning to spend more this year compared to last.

For more back-to-school shopping insights and tips, visit sensormatic.com. (StatePoint) "Overall, you can expect this shopping season to look more like 2019 than 2020, a welcome change for both consumers and retailers," says Melvin.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD ACROSS

1. * mater
5. *Graduate degree, acr.
8. Opposite of stereo
12. Defense ditch
13. Fishing rod attachment
14. More sure
15. One's final notice
16. Dutch cheese
17. Golfer's traction aid
18. *Half-year terms
20. At the summit of
21. Water nymph
22. Actor ____ Mahershala
23. Be a busybody
26. Metrical foot in poetry
30. Earlier in time, archaic
31. Become bony
34. Shakespeare's tragic monarch
35. Labanotation founder
37. Theodor Geisel, ____ Dr. Seuss
38. Threshold
39. Relating to the ear
40. Weather advisories, e.g.
42. + or - atom
43. Widely esteemed
45. Most mature, as in fruit
47. Indian dish
48. Dashboard window
50. Female sheep, pl.
52. *"The Breakfast Club" punishment
56. Flower holders
57. Singles
58. High school breakout
59. Acoustic output
60. Overwhelming defeat
61. *Gym class test?
62. Catchall abbr.
63. *Geography class staple
64. Not talker?

- ### DOWN
1. ____ of cookie fame
 2. Stud site
 3. Cripple
 4. *Go to class
 5. Mythological princess of Colchis
 6. TV cooking show pioneer James ____
 7. Contributions to the poor
 8. *Kind of choice
 9. Black and white treat
 10. Less than average tide
 11. Table scrap
 13. Laces again
 14. Milan's La ____
 19. Manicurist's office
 22. Is it ____ wonder?
 23. Hard on outside, juicy on inside
 24. One of the Muses
 25. Payment option
 26. From a great distance
 27. Chill-inducing
 28. Type of palm tree, pl.
 29. Council of ____, city in Italy

THEME: BACK TO SCHOOL

CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
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	50	51					52				53	54	55
56							57			58			
59							60			61			
62							63			64			

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32. *Back-to-School retail event
33. WWII general who became President
36. *Faculty member
38. "Peace" with fingers
40. TV classic " ____ in the Family"
41. Superlative of true
44. Lowest male singing voice
46. Small bomb
48. Christopher Columbus' birthplace
49. Consumed (2 words)
50. Small ladies' handbag
51. What one does at the altar
52. *College freshman's new digs
53. International Civil Aviation Organization
54. Half as much as twice
55. ____ -do-well
56. Every American's uncle?

Drunk Driver Kills Caltrans Worker on Freeway

By George Ogden
AZUSA - A West Covina man, who is a suspected drunk driver, was arrested for DUI after he killed a Caltrans construction worker on the 10 Freeway in Ontario. It is expected additional charges will be filed against the unidentified suspect. Back on July 30, around 11:00 p.m. the 46-year-

old man who was driving drunk in his Toyota Camry was west-bound on the 10 Freeway west of Archibald Avenue. He entered a marked off construction area and ran down the worker. Medical teams responded and treated the man at the scene and transported him to the hospital where he

died from his massive injuries. He was not identified but information was put out that he was a 61-year-old man who was looking forward to retiring in the near future. The suspect is being held pending additional charges and court appearances. The investigation continues.

Citrus College Earns Award For Supporting Arts Education In K-12 Schools



For several years, students from the California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley have taken college-level courses at their high school campus, thanks to a dual enrollment partnership with Citrus College. Before the pandemic, a handful of high school students toured Citrus College to learn about its arts programs. (Photo courtesy Citrus College/CSArts-SGV)

DUARTE - Recognizing its longstanding support of arts education, Arts Schools Network (ASN) recently awarded Citrus College the 2021 Higher Education Award.

The annual honor is given to educational institutions or arts partnership programs that continually promote arts education in K-12 schools. Specifically, ASN highlighted Citrus College's partnership with the California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley (CSArts-SGV), a tuition-free, donation-dependent public charter school in Duarte that offers students a college-preparatory education and pre-professional arts conservatory training.

Specifically, ASN praised the partnership between both schools and how it led to CSArts-SGV being included in Citrus College's Early College program, which gives students from nine local high schools the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses taught on their respective campuses.

By taking the courses, students can earn both high school and college credit - free of charge. Programs range from a single class to a four-year program where students can earn up to 60 units.

"I'd like to thank the California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley for nominating

Citrus College for this prestigious award," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "Building and preserving a pathway between our local high schools and Citrus College is important, as our entire community benefits from expanded access to higher education."

The Early College program has proven to be a popular option for area high school students. In fall 2019 and spring 2020, there were nearly 630 total college-level course enrollments from CSArts-SGV students in the disciplines of art, dance, music and theater. Courses included beginning painting, beginning guitar and theater appreciation, among others.

"I am thrilled that Citrus College received this honor for championing the arts and making it easier for local high school students to earn college credit," said John Vaughan, dean of visual and performing arts at Citrus College. "California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley students who enroll in our courses are incredibly hard working and inspiring, making the courses all the more fun to teach."

Looking to the future, the plan is to add more general education courses to CSArts-SGV curriculum in order to make it possible to offer completion pathways that

lead to associate degrees for transfer (ADTs). An ADT guarantees transfer students "junior" status within the California State University system.

"In today's competitive work environment, we should always strive to provide a successful pathway to high school students in their higher-education journey," said Stephen Cook, DMA, dean of arts at CSArts-SGV. "Dual enrollment classes deliver college level instruction in an environment that encourages student success and retention. The larger implication for students engaged in this program is to expose them to collegiate curriculum at the K-12 level so that they enter college not only with some units completed, but also with a deeper understanding of college-level work."

Citrus College will be honored at the 2021 ASN Annual Conference in Chicago in October in addition to being featured on ASN's website and social media accounts.

"On behalf of the board of trustees, I would like to congratulate everyone at Citrus College and our local high schools who have made the Early College program the success it is today," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "It is gratifying to see that so many students have taken advantage of this incredible opportunity to expand their knowledge, all while saving thousands in education costs."

Military Order of Purple Hearts Veterans Award Scholarship



Cmdr. George Ogden, West Covina Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado, Harmony Ramos, Purple Heart Chaplain and Purple Heart Commander Daniel Calderon.

By George Ogden
WEST COVINA - The Military Order of Purple Hearts Veterans awarded a scholarship to a student on August 7th, during a luncheon event at Guadalajara Grill in Baldwin Park. August 7th is coincidentally Purple Heart Recognition Day. The event had a number of

Purple Heart Recipients attending as well as West Covina Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado. The Purple Heart organization meets at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8620 in West Covina. They are very active within their organization as well as in the communities. The event was to recognize

Purple Heart veterans and at the same time recognize and to award a scholarship to student Harmony Ramos. Commander Daniel Calderon (Purple Hearts) and VFW Commander George Ogden as well as West Covina Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado spoke at the event and congratulated Ramos on her achievements.

Heinz

Continued from /A2

Scholarship From National Foundation

heights in the months and years ahead."

Ms. Heinz, a 19-year-old resident of Azusa, enrolled at Citrus College in June 2020. She quickly became involved in Beta Nu Eta, the college's PTK chapter. In fact, Ms. Heinz played an important role in the chapter's award-winning Honors in Action project and was recently elected to serve as its vice president of public relations.

"Last year was hard for almost everyone, but it has been particularly challenging for those students trying to stay involved in leadership positions throughout the campus closure. Rachel and the other chapter members put in extra effort during the pandemic, and it is rewarding to see Rachel being recognized for that," said Brian Waddington, honors transfer coordinator and co-advisor for Beta Nu Eta. "The scholarship will certainly be meaningful in helping Rachel as she pursues her academic goals while at Citrus College. I hope that the recognition will provide her with encouragement and validation for

her hard work."


Ms. Heinz says that her academic goals include graduating from Citrus College and then transferring to California State University, Fullerton, to study entertainment management.

"Receiving this scholarship brought me one step closer to furthering my education and pursuing my dreams of working in the music industry. It means a lot to have this extra financial support, especially during these difficult times," she said. "I want to encourage other students to apply for scholarships and, if possible, to become official members of Phi Theta Kappa. There are so many incredible opportunities available, and it is important to give yourself a chance."

Ms. Heinz is the latest in a long line of Citrus College students whose involvement in Phi Theta

Kappa has earned acclaim. In fact, Beta Nu Eta students received several special recognitions during PTK's regional and national conventions this spring.

"Rachel Heinz is an excellent example of the outstanding students who comprise Citrus College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Her selection as a 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholar is not only a testament to her personal success, it also reflects the support she has received from her advisors and peers," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "On behalf of the board of trustees, I congratulate Rachel on this incredible accomplishment. We are certain that she will continue to make many positive contributions to the college throughout her time here."



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California Requiring All School Staff To Either Show Proof Of Full Vaccination Or Be Tested

SACRAMENTO - In order to best protect students and staff as California starts the school year fully in-person, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a new public health order requiring all school staff to either show proof of full vaccination or be tested at least once per week.

"To give parents confidence that their children are safe as schools return to full, in-person learning, we are urging all school staff to get vaccinated. Vaccinations are how we will end this pandemic," said Governor Newsom. "As a father, I look forward to the start of the school year and seeing all California kids back in the classroom."

The new policy for school staff took effect August 12, 2021, and schools must be in full compliance by October 15, 2021. Robust and free testing resources are available to K-12 schools through the CA K-12 schools testing program.

"There's no substitute for in-person instruction, and California will continue to lead the nation in keeping students and staff safe while ensuring fully open classrooms," said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer. "Today's order will help the state's continued efforts to increase vaccinations, similar to the orders encouraging state and health care workers and businesses to get vaccinated."

In recent weeks, California has led the nation in implementing measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, including:

state workers. Requires all state workers to either show proof of full vaccination or be tested at least once per week, and encourages local governments and other employers to adopt a similar protocol. Following California's announcement, some of the largest California businesses and local governments followed suit, as did the federal government.

- Vaccinations for health care workers. Requires workers in health care settings to be fully vaccinated or receive their second dose by September 30, 2021.

- Universal masking in K-12 settings. Aligned with guidance from the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics, California was the first state to implement universal masking in school settings to keep students and staff safe while optimizing fully in-person instruction.

- Medi-Cal vaccination incentives. \$350 million in incentive payments to help close the vaccination gap between Medi-Cal beneficiaries and Californians as a whole, significantly stepping up outreach in underserved communities.

- Statewide mask recommendation. In response to the spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations and new CDC guidance calling for masking, the state recommended mask use for indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status.

Despite California leading the nation in vaccinations, the state is seeing increasing numbers of people who refused to get the vaccine being admitted to the ICU and dying. This increase is heavily due to the Delta variant.

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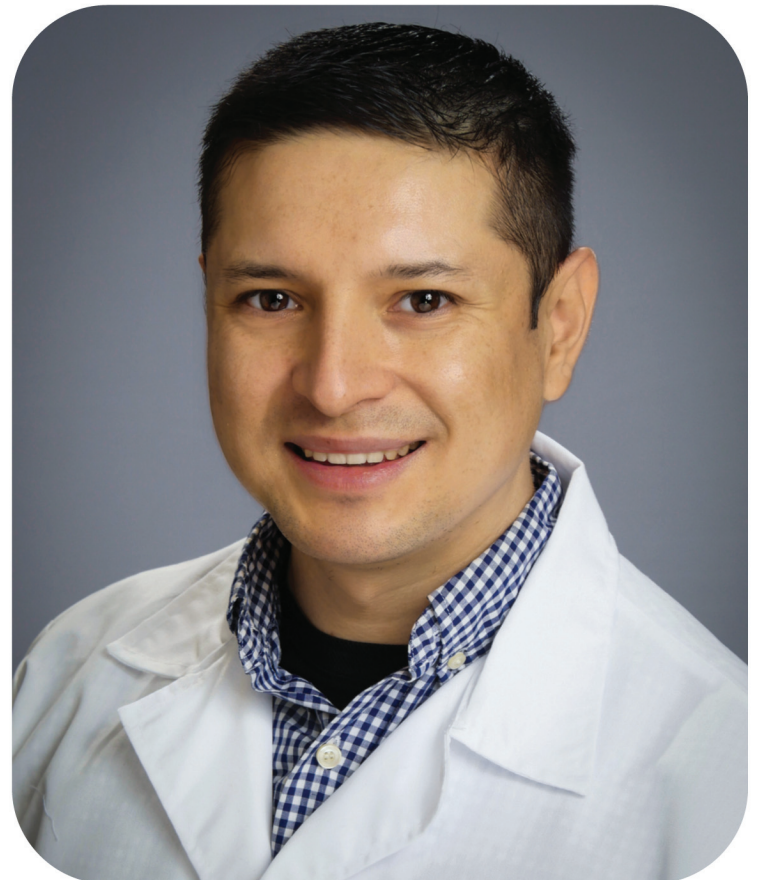
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