



# San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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# Resident Cleaning Basement Finds Box of Dynamite in Glendora Home



The L.A. County Sheriff's Special Enforcement Bureau assisted the Glendora Police Department in disposing of old dynamite found in a resident's basement.

By George Ogden

**GLENDORA** - On Saturday afternoon, Jan. 30th Glendora police was contacted around 1:30 p.m., by a resident that he found what looked like several sticks of dynamite in a box while cleaning out a relative's basement. First responders responded to the 200 block East Bennett. The home was across the street from Glendora United Methodist

Church's children's playground. It appeared that the dynamite may have been in the basement for at least 70-80 years. No one knew that it was there until they uncovered it.

The Glendora Police and Fire Department responded. Once they realize that it was in fact dynamite, the entire block was evacuated and the street closed off. The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's

Bomb Squad responded at the request of the Glendora First Responders and they went to work to remove and neutralize the unstable dynamite. The set up in the back yard with their equipment for the extraction of the dynamite. First, the dynamite sticks were stabilized in-



Photos courtesy of the L.A. County Sheriff Dept.

A box of old dynamite found in a resident's basement.

side the residence, and then brought outside into the backyard where they were burned in a controlled setting. According to reports, they poured diesel fuel onto the dynamite and let it soak for about two hours, a process called desensitizing. The fuel penetrates the nitroglycerine in the dynamite to make it stable enough to move to the ditch where the controlled burn took place.

The Glendora Police Department appreciated all of the residents that were affected by the call on Bennett Ave., and for

their patience as they were displaced from their homes. Glendora police, at the time, asked that the residents in the immediate area stay away for a little longer due to a strong smell of burnt fuel, but the area was safe.

The Red Cross, the city's Recreation and Public Works Departments also was there with their assistance. The Glendora Home Depot also donated supplies needed to get the job done. "This was truly a team effort!" stated the Glendora Police Department.

## City Of Irwindale Receives Gold Energy Award



Councilmember Mark A. Breceda, Councilmember Manuel R. Garcia, Public Works Services Manager Elizabeth Rodriguez, Mayor H. Manuel Ortiz, Mayor Pro Tem Larry G. Burrola and Councilmember Albert F. Ambriz.

**IRWINDALE** - During the January 27, 2021 public meeting, the City Council was presented with a Gold Level Energy Award by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG). The Gold Level is the highest tier of three levels in the recognition program.

In partnership with the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCAIREN) and SoCalGas, the SGVCOG recognizes San Gabriel Valley agencies' efforts for increasing

energy efficiency in municipal facilities and communities through the San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards. Agencies must engage in specific energy efficiency actions in order to receive recognition in the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Tiers.

Alexander Fung of SGVCOG who dialed in to present the award said "We really want to take this time to applaud the City Council's commitments to lead our region by example through addressing

energy efficiency first in their facilities. We also want to sincerely thank the city manager and his [public works services] staff for engaging with our partnership in the midst of the pandemic and leading the effort to implement these energy efficient actions."

Robert Cruz, representative of SoCalGas added, "We congratulate your efforts to be more energy efficient in these tough times. We value the partnership between the San Gabriel Valley Cog, SoCalGas and the City of Irwindale."

Mayor Manuel H. Ortiz noted Irwindale's commitment to its efforts in increasing energy efficiency in the community and the value of these partnerships.

**GLENDORA** - When Ronnese Glover completed her bachelor's degree a few years ago, her mother, Veronica Kirton, told her that she shouldn't stop there.

Ms. Kirton urged her daughter to get her master's degree. So, a deal was struck: if Ms. Glover started a master's degree program, Ms. Kirton would start at Citrus College.

A Monrovia resident, Ms. Kirton's lifelong dream was to go to college. In spring 2018, she embarked on her degree pursuit - at the age of 70.

Over the course of two years, through persistence and determination, Ms. Kirton fulfilled her dream and graduated from Citrus College in June 2020. At the age of 72, she earned an Associate of Arts for Transfer in Sociology.

"I found out that I could do more than I thought I could do," she said.

Ms. Kirton had always wanted to finish college. She started in the 1960s, but, when she began working, she wasn't able to go back and finish.

After the deal she made with her daughter, who received her master's degree from California State University, Los Angeles, in spring 2020, Ms. Kirton continued chipping away at her goal.

Ms. Kirton chose to study sociology since she is interested in learning about people and has a passion for children and elderly. At Citrus College, she said she found a great deal of encouragement and support, especially from her instructors, who she said always answered her questions and emails.

"Ms. Kirton's story of completing college later in life proves that it's never too late for someone to accomplish their goals," said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "While

## Graduating In Her Early 70s, Citrus Alumna Shows Anything Is Possible



In 2020, at the age of 72, Veronica Kirton earned an Associate of Arts for Transfer in Sociology from Citrus College.

Citrus College serves thousands of traditional-age students, this should serve as a reminder that students of all ages are welcome and encouraged to pursue their academic dreams."

Attending college later in life is not uncommon at Citrus College. Nearly 500 students over the age of 50 - or roughly 2% of the student body - attended Citrus College during the 2019-2020 academic year.

The dream for Ms. Kirton and Ms. Glover was to have a joint graduation party and attend each other's commencement ceremonies. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they couldn't take part in a traditional celebration this year.

Nevertheless, Ms. Glover said she and her mother celebrated by shopping for diploma frames together and replacing Class of 2020 gradua-

tion signs into Ms. Kirton's front yard.

"On behalf of the board, I commend Ms. Kirton for her incredible accomplishment," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "With hard work, determination and a vision, anything is possible. I hope others are inspired by her story to follow through on their dreams."

Reflecting on her experience at Citrus College, Ms. Kirton said she hopes her story will serve as encouragement for people mulling college later in life. She said it's important to get out of the "I can't do it" mindset.

Not surprisingly, Ms. Kirton's inspiration has continued beyond her own graduation - her daughter started applying to Ph.D. programs.

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# Governor Newsom Swears in Dr. Shirley Weber as California Secretary of State

Dr. Shirley Weber is the first African American Secretary of State in California history

Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office.



Governor Newsom swears in Secretary of State Dr. Weber

SACRAMENTO - Governor Gavin Newsom today swore in San Diego Assemblymember and Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus Dr. Shirley N. Weber as California Secretary of State. Dr. Weber is the first-ever African American to serve as Secretary of State in California history.

Confirmed by the Legislature this week, Dr. Weber was nominated by Governor Newsom earlier this month to fill the Secretary of State position vacated by U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, whom he appointed following the resignation of Vice President Kamala Harris from the U.S. Senate.

"The fact that each citizen is a primary officeholder in a democracy is the lodestone tenet of our system of government. It is my

responsibility as Secretary of State to ensure that more Californians are able to exercise that power through the electoral process, and that our elections remain secure, accessible and fair even under the most adverse conditions," said Secretary of State Dr. Weber. "Dr. King teaches us that we are at our best when we stand up in service of others and I am humbled to be able to continue to stand up for Californians as Secretary of State. I thank the Governor for his nomination, the State Senators and Assemblymembers who confirmed my appointment, and the Californians who expressed their faith in my ability to assume this critical office. I look forward to lifting up and defending our democratic values of inclusivity and participation in this new

role."

First elected to the California State Assembly in 2012, Dr. Weber has been a voice of moral clarity in the Legislature, providing leadership on issues of social justice. She authored the California Act to Save Lives, landmark legislation signed by Governor Newsom in 2019 setting new, higher standards on the use of deadly force by police. Her ambitious legislative agenda has also included bills on education, civil rights, public safety, food insecurity, protections for persons with disabilities and voting rights. She previously served as President of the San Diego Board of Education and as an Africana Studies Department professor at San Diego State University for 40 years.

# Local Girl Places High in VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Contest



West Covina VFW Commander George Ogden makes a presentation to Isabel Nidhi Kumar

LA VERNE - The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of California, was honored to announce that one of the top three finishers in the Voice of Democracy Essay Contests was a local girl from La Verne, Isabel Nidhi Kumar. She was awarded with a cash scholarship and the recipient of an awards plaque.

The topic for the entries was, "Is this Country the Founders Envisioned?" Students from across the state and across the country participated in this essay contest. They competed for top honors and were hopeful to become one of the top finalists in the District and State.

Sadly, the finalist for the state were not able to have the recognition as other participants had in past years. Normally there would have been an awards banquet and ceremony where the finalist would be honored and presented with certificates and

awards with some receiving cash awards. With the State Government's restrictions on events like this from occurring, the VFW did what they could do and went online with a Zoom type meeting. They had the online ceremony and the Kumar family was present for their daughter.

Prior to the online event, packages were sent out to the top winners which included a little bit of everything including military field rations MRE (Military Ready-to-Eat) which are much like the old C-rations or K-rations. This was a little like a gag, however very usable. They also included a gift certificate from supporting restaurants. They also include the awards plaque and other items.

Isabel is 16 years-old and in the 11th grade. She attends Bonita High School in La Verne. Some of her hobbies are swimming, reading, writing, painting

and playing the piano and flute.

West Covina VFW Commander Ogden stated that he was impressed with the young lady and her family and was honored to join the family and make presentation of the cash award.

# COVID-19 Vaccines and Therapeutics

While all the countries are still grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic, we need to appreciate that the scientists have managed to introduce new vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2 virus in a very efficient manner. It's certainly gratifying to be able to save lives with the new Covid-19 antivirals and immunomodulators when everything else is going berserk and different fractions of people are still acting in a recklessly defiant way.

The speed of the vaccine and therapeutic development has caused concern in the minds of some people but, as Infectious Disease physicians we expected this debate especially with anti-vaxer groups remaining dominant in some western countries. We need to understand that scientists could fast-track licensing of these vaccines because of innovative technology and the readily accessible targets like spike protein trimers, compared to some other viruses that caused pandemics and epidemics before. Furthermore, they did not need more than a few months to complete clinical trials due to key groups like COVAX initiative by WHO, Operation Warp Speed and University of Oxford were rigorously involved in the crux of the work done by the scientists,



Dr Deepthi Jayasekara

providing much needed funds for them. Subsequently the pharma giants like Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson did their share by pitching in with their proprietary sponsorships.

Some of the platforms vaccine developers used with the frontline Covid-19 vaccines were very well-known to the scientists. Viral-vector platforms like Adeno virus (Johnson and Johnson vaccine and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine) have been deployed with previous vaccines such as Ebola (Ervebo vaccine) with a sound safety profile. The mRNA vaccine platforms (used in Pfizer-BioNTec and Moderna vaccines) which were previously used against Zika virus, can be adapted quickly when a new virus emerges; that is why mRNA vaccines where the first to be licensed and FDA-approved under EUA. Viral protein-based plat-

forms like Novavax and Sanofi-GSK vaccines use a proprietary adjuvant to boost the antigenic effect and they will be the next-generation vaccines to be approved by FDA and are currently completing phase 3 clinical trials. The safety profile of all these vaccines looks very promising but the efficacy against new mutations such as South African strain 1:351 and UK strain B.1.1.7 remains unclear to the scientists. It's encouraging to learn that the biopharma companies who developed these vaccines remain positive that there will be at least partial coverage against those mutations making them efficacious in preventing severe disease, hospitalizations and deaths due to Covid-19.

As bridging treatment, now we have access to monoclonal antibodies like Bamlanivimab in 1-hour IV infusions for high-risk individuals to prevent progression of Covid-19 infection and they are now available commercially for patients with mild-moderate infections before hospitalization.

Dr Deepthi Jayasekara is a Clinical Professor in Infectious Diseases, Chair Internal Medicine and Infection Control at Emanate Health and San Dimas Hospitals, California

# Azusa Man Arrested For Possession Of An Illegal Firearm, Drug Paraphernalia

AZUSA - On Saturday night, January 30th, an Azusa Police officer saw a car partially blocking a lane of traffic and stopped against a red curb. The officer contacted the adult driver, who had a minor-aged passenger in the car with him. While talking with the driver, the officer learned that an AR-15 rifle was stashed in the backseat. The rifle was found to be loaded, and after the officer's investigation, the driver, Silvestre Moreno (age 27, Azusa) was arrested for numerous charges, including possession of an illegal firearm, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of high-capacity magazines.



WEAPON OFFENSE - SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

Photo courtesy of the Azusa Police Dept.

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

**REMINDER FOR COVINA RESIDENTS**

On Monday, February 1st at 2am, the Covina Police Department will resume overnight parking enforcement.

If you need to purchase an overnight parking permit, please visit [covinaca.gov/police](http://covinaca.gov/police) and select "get a permit" or at the self kiosk in front of the Covina PD station. If you have any questions, please call (626)384-5676.



## Holden Introduces Legislation to Increase Transportation Contracts for Disadvantaged Communities

**SACRAMENTO**—Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced AB 349 which requires that half of one percent of SB 1 dollars be used to conduct outreach efforts to small business and disadvantaged business enterprises. The bill aims to bolster efforts to include minority owned and women owned business in a post COVID-19 economic recovery to meet contract procurement goals established by the California Department of Transportation.

“This bill is about ensuring equity and a just COVID-19 recovery,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden. “We know communities of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 with higher rates of unemployment, reduced access to healthcare, and ultimately higher death rates. This bill will bring economic

opportunities to these communities who are also hit hardest by taxes on gas and transportation.”

As of October 2018, the California Department of Transportation had a goal of awarding 17.6% of contract dollars to disadvantaged business enterprises. In 2018, only 12.1% of dollars went to disadvantaged business enterprises. AB 349 will provide the department the resources necessary to meet their goal.

A disadvantaged business

enterprise is a small business that is at least 51% owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged including people that identify as Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian Pacific Islander, Native Americans, or women.

“Equitable distribution of public contracts to help businesses that have been historically marginalized has always been the goal, but now, it is more important than ever to make it a reality,” said Holden.

## West Covina Property Values Increase

**WEST COVINA** - For the 2020/21 tax roll, the City of West Covina experienced a net taxable value increase of 3.4%. This was somewhat less than the increase experienced countywide at 6.0%. The assessed value increase between 2019/20 and 2020/21 was \$429 million. The change attributed to the 2% Proposition 13 inflation adjustment was \$218 million, which accounted for 51% of all growth experienced in the city.

The largest assessed value increase was reported on an institutional parcel owned by KRE Renew Tiger Cubs Regency Grand LLC (150 S. Grand Avenue). The parcel recently sold and was increased by \$18.7 million. An increase of \$13.4 million was caused by a change of ownership on an institutional parcel owned by NHI Reit Of Next House LLC (3601 E. Holt Avenue). A transfer of ownership on a commercial parcel owned by GREF Eastland Center LP (2753 E. Eastland Center Drive) added \$11.5 million.

The largest assessed value decline was reported on a commercial parcel owned by Azusa Rowland LLC (301 N. Azusa Avenue). The parcel was reassessed in error last year. The correction of the error resulted in a \$24.9 mil-

lion decline in value. An institutional parcel owned by Faith (1211 E. Badillo Street) did not have its exemption applied by the close of the roll last year. The properly applied exemption caused a \$17.7 million decline this year.

Parcel subdivision and new construction activity contributed to growth in assessed values this year. 9 parcels were dropped from the roll and 72 were added, resulting in a net assessed value gain of over \$5.6 million.

Growth in the number of home sales slowed and, even declined by mid-2019. Fewer properties were on the market compared with 2018 despite declining mortgage rates. In 2019, economists forecasted a weaker housing market in 2020, even for cities who had achieved pre-recession peak values. In 2020, sale prices have risen as the number of sales declined significantly due to the COVID-19 stay at home orders. Prices have continued to rise in response to lower inventory and lower interest rates. The median sale price of a detached single-family residential home in West Covina from January through November 2020 was \$617,500. This represents a \$37,500 (6.5%) increase in median sale price from 2019.

## Public Health Confirms Second Case of U.K. Coronavirus Variant in L.A. County; Identifies Four Additional Cases of MIS-C

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**—The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed the second case of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7, the same variant discovered in the United Kingdom (U.K.). The specimen, submitted by a clinical facility, was sequenced as part of routine surveillance by the Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory. Public Health announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7 on January 16.

Public Health believes the B.1.1.7 and other variants are already spreading in the county, and Public Health is continuing to test samples.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic. Cur-

rently, there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death.

Presence of the B.1.1.7 variant in Los Angeles County means virus transmission can happen more easily, and residents and businesses must more diligently implement and follow all of the personal protective actions and safety measures put in place to prevent additional cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. This includes wearing a face covering properly over your nose and mouth, physically distancing, and not gathering with people from outside your household. With community transmission still at a very high level, staying home as much as possible is the best protection. These strategies will only be effective in slowing the spread of any variant strain of COVID-19 if they are used by everyone all of the time.

Four additional cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) are also being reported by Public Health. This brings the total cases of

MIS-C in L.A. County to 66 children including one child death. All 66 children with MIS-C in L.A. County were hospitalized and 44% of the children were treated in the ICU. Of the children with MIS-C, 32% were under the age of 5 years old, 38% were between the ages of 5 and 11 years old, and 30% were between the ages of 12 and 20 years old. Latino/Latinx children account for nearly 74% of the reported cases.

MIS-C is an inflammatory condition associated with COVID-19, and symptoms include fever that does not go away and inflamed body parts, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. If you believe your child is displaying MIS-C symptoms, contact your primary care or an urgent care provider. Seek emergency care for critical or life-threatening conditions. If you do not have a primary care provider, dial 2-1-1 and L.A. County will help connect you to one.

## Azusa Police Department Partnering With Hi-Tech Company to Combat Crime

**AZUSA** - The Azusa Police Department recently partnered with Flock Safety, a company that provides the most advanced and affordable security for neighborhoods, small businesses, and law enforcement. Azusa Police Department has had Flock Safety license plate readers installed at strategic areas throughout the city, adding to our efforts in combatting and reducing crime.

Being an agency committed to community policing, the Azusa Police Department wanted to bring to the community a more modern and cost-effective tool to aid in combating crime. Flock Safety, an Atlanta-based technology company started in 2017, strives to provide solutions that

help combat crime by providing technology that helps gather useful information to police departments, which includes vehicle descriptions and license plates that are of essential value during criminal investigations.

Flock Safety built the first LPR camera specifically for neighborhoods, with privacy-first policies. The footage is securely stored in the cloud and automatically deletes every 30 days on a rolling basis. The cameras are not used for traffic enforcement, immigration enforcement, and contain no facial recognition technology.

The cameras operate by capturing a vehicle's license plate. When a stolen or wanted vehicle

is captured by one of these cameras, Azusa dispatchers and officers receive an instant notification and a vehicle description, usually within seconds.

Since the Flock cameras went live last month, the Azusa Police Department has been able to safely recover sixteen (16) stolen vehicles and one (1) felony (murder) vehicle. In nearly all instances, the suspects were involved in some other form of crime, or wanted for another crime. Additionally, three handguns have been recovered and multiple felons have been arrested.

For more information on Flock Safety and their cameras, visit [www.flocksafety.com](http://www.flocksafety.com).

## County and City Small Business Grant Program Receives 2021 Audrey Nelson Award

*LACDA/City Small Business Grant Program Receives National Recognition from NCD*

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**—The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA)—in partnership with the Cities of Azusa, Commerce, Duarte, La Cañada Flintridge, Malibu, and Maywood—is proud to announce that the National Community Development Association (NCD) has selected the LACDA/City Small Business Grant (SBG) Program as a winner of the 2021 Audrey Nelson Achievement Awards. The award recognizes outstanding community development projects and programs across the country and was created 34 years ago in honor of NCD's first Deputy Executive Secretary, Audrey Nelson.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the LACDA responded rapidly to the needs of the County's small business community by collaborating with these six partner cities to launch the SBG Program. Combining the re-

sources of the County and Cities, the program awarded grants up to \$15,650 to 66 small businesses. The SBG Program helped local businesses create and retain more than 40 jobs, and provide goods and services to over 179,000 residents, of which 54% residents are low- and moderate-income.

A recipient of the SBG Program and owner of Galaxy Enterprises, Inc., Henry Talei, said, “We have been in Commerce for over 30 years. We employ many of the locals and service many of the locals. We are now fighting for survival due to this pandemic-caused economic recession. Having money now to pay our costs and keep us and our employees alive is a big win, not only for all of us, but for the City of Commerce.”

In a time of unprecedented uncertainty, keeping businesses open brought a sense of normal-

cy, safety, and comfort to the overall community. This inter-governmental approach provided a total of \$690,000 to small businesses across Los Angeles County. A ripple effect brought broad benefit to local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and sustained the solvency of the businesses and the livelihood of their families, their employees, and the residents they serve.

“It's an honor to be recognized by the NCD for our collective efforts in supporting small businesses. The SBG Program is a great example of what we can achieve when we collaborate with our local cities and businesses and adapt,” said LACDA Executive Director Emilio Salas.

NCD recognized recipients of the 2021 Audrey Nelson Award at the virtual Community Development Best Practices Session on January 29, 2021.

## Man Murdered in Monrovia

**MONROVIA** - The Monrovia Police responded to calls Friday evening, Jan 29th, to the 100 block of East Los Angeles Ave. Police found a man down in front of a home who had been shot several times.

Officers rendered first aid until paramedics arrived. The paramedics pronounced the

man dead from his gunshot wounds.

Residents and witnesses stated that they saw three men walk up to the victim and shoot him a number of times. After the shooting, they ran back to a car and drove away.

The police did not immediately identify the man. Assisting with the investigation is the

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. They believe that this shooting is gang related.

The investigators are looking for others that may add information to what happened and looking for any surveillance cameras that recorded something that my help to identify the shooters.

**San Gabriel Valley Examiner**  
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# Box 13 Scandalizes Alice, Texas

One truth in politics, history, in all forms and instances, has a habit of repeating itself. I had a call from a knowledgeable political friend who asked me if I had ever heard of the Box 13 election in Texas in 1947. I hadn't but became curious.

Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) elected to the House of Representatives in 1937, decided to run for the U.S. Senate seat in 1941. He lost that election by 0.23% or 1,311 votes. A 1998 Texas Monthly article by Pamela Colloff, reported, "[Johnson] had instructed his key districts to report back their results promptly on primary day, but that alerted [LBJ's opponent] Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel's men to precisely how many votes they needed to "discover" in unreported districts to guarantee a win." Three days later, O'Daniel became the victor. LBJ did not contest the election, but became much wiser.

In 1948, Johnson ran again for that U.S. Senate seat against the former well-known Governor, Coke Stevenson. Three days after the election, as ballots continued to trickle in, it looked like Lyndon Johnson had once again lost the election. And, three days after that, officials discovered that on election day in Jim Wells County, City of Alice, Johnson was reported to have 765 votes. But a second look showed the precinct sheet recorded 965 votes for Johnson. It was later revealed one of the Johnson supporters had taken the 7 in 765 and rounded the tip of the 7 to make it a 9 as in 965. That 200 additional votes gave LBJ 87 more votes than Stevenson.

A tin ballot box in the 13th precinct in Alice, Texas, was all of the sudden found with undiscovered votes for LBJ. One report says the ballots in that box were



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

handwritten, all in the same handwriting, signed in different colored ink and all cast in alphabetical order. Reports say some of the newly discovered voters claim they never voted.

When Stevenson and a Texas Ranger friend who led the ambush against Bonnie & Clyde, went to Alice to investigate and prove the election was fraudulent, they were allowed to look at that tally sheet. But when they started copying down names, it was taken away from them.

Coke Stevenson contested the election, but the local grand jury handed down no indictments, and the Supreme Court and Justice, Hugo Black, ruled the federal government was not allowed to get involved with a state election. Pulitzer Prize winning author, Robert A. Caro, covered the Ballot Box 13 scandal in his 500-page book, *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: Means of Ascent*. About a quarter of this book is devoted to the 1948 Texas Senatorial election.

And, of course, Box 13 is no where to be found. A private investigation by Harry Lee Adams found many signs of voter fraud but the investigation centered around whether or not Johnson had George Parr, a member of the

Democratic party in Texas, help him falsify ballots. The Box 13 scandal 50 years ago is still talked about today in Alice, Texas, but only in whispers, it is said.

Duly noted in all reports and commentaries on Ballot Box 13, everyone agrees had Lyndon Johnson not won that 1947 election, that would have been the end of his political career. He would never have been considered a candidate for President any time, and would never have been chosen a Vice-Presidential candidate and running mate with John F. Kennedy.

On November 22, 1963, JFK was assassinated in Dallas, Texas and Lyndon Johnson became President. The investigation of Kennedy's death determined Lee Harvey Oswald had killed President Kennedy. The investigation further determined Jack Ruby then shot Oswald two days later. Ruby died in 1967 from a pulmonary embolism from lung cancer while awaiting a new trial date.

The Heritage Foundation states they are "An organization whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense." Today date, they have 1,311 proven instances of voter fraud, 1,130 criminal convictions, 48 civil penalties, and 20 judicial findings.

Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi and the two political parties can come to the table and investigate the 2020 election and put all the accusations to bed, or spend 50 years listening to the talk ... and this election won't be talked about in whispers.

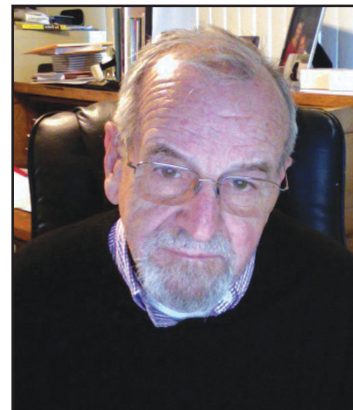
# Praying For The Ex President

Each week I receive a slew of responses to recent columns. From time to time I hear from a very articulate honest chap who suggests that I may not really be a Christian because I do not subscribe to certain supernatural doctrines he holds. After the invasion of the nation's capitol, he asked if I were praying for the soon to be impeached president. So I look another look at this important religious discipline and how it impacts the question my responder raised.

What do we mean by prayer, and what might praying for the President really imply? Is prayer pleading to God, hoping that divine intent and action might be altered, and that God would be persuaded to do what the pray-er suggests? We do not pray TO the subject about whom we are pleading, but on his/her behalf, asking God for mercy. I find it is often an exercise of arrogance to believe that God's action will be altered by our pleading. But is that really what Christian prayer implies?

Or is it a hope not that God's action might be changed, but that we may understand what God's will is, and be brought into harmony with it. So prayer does not change the divine intention but may fundamentally be a discovery of what God wills, and be brought into harmony with it? So it is not that God might be changed, but that we might be.

We are driven back to Jesus' prayer when he committed him-



Charles H. Bayer

self to carrying out the divine intention: "THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

So the task of the pray-er is to be aligned in the here and now with the divine purpose. The question then becomes focused on our commitment to replicate on earth what is God's heavenly rule. And that is what Jesus spent the rest of his life doing

When we take on this task we seek to discover how the most mundane earthly matters respond to God's divine intent. This is not rocket science, but common ordinary day by day action. So how are things on earth to be altered if they replicate God's intention?

In God's reign:

*Swords will become plowshares and spears pruning hooks. War and all forms of violence will cease.*

*Every person is loved, and no one is left out.*

*The poor hear good news. Captives are released.*

*Everyone receives health care. (sight to the blind)*

*Liberty comes to the oppressed.*

*No one is hungry'*

*Women, children, outcasts, foreigners, the disabled are cared for.*

*There is an equitable sharing of the earth's resources.*

*The natural world is sacred and is preserved.*

*Justice implies social equality.*

These are just a few examples of what constitutes God's hope for this world.

Prayer is not seeking to change God's will, but to be aligned with it.

This notion of prayer takes shape in the here and now employing what tools we have been given including government, science, education, economics, international relations, immigration rules, environmental policies, religion and much more. Human lives invested in prayer seek that kind of divinely ordered world.

So I pray that I may be aware of God's will, and seek to actualized it beginning in me, and in my world

Perhaps praying for the ex-president may be wanting to soften my heart in relationship to him.

Prayer is an action. Brothers and sisters, pray without ceasing!

Contact Charles Bayer at [candwbayer@verizon.net](mailto:candwbayer@verizon.net)

# A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand

**My Opinion: By D. B. Shimmel**

These prophetic words were spoken by President Abraham Lincoln many years ago. Those words just as true today as they were then. Like it or not, what we are witnessing is a nation embroiled in the struggle of a new Civil War. No, open warfare is not yet upon us, but we are engaged in an ideological civil war of Socialism versus freedom.

One might ask 'why do I so often refer back to the words of long dead patriots'. The answer is; those patriots struggled with their times and events just as we do today. There is an almost unending list of patriots who created this Great American Experiment. Patriots, who nurtured and molded this nation and guided it through trying times. They found the answer by creating a new nation (yes with some flaws) dedicated to the, never successfully tried before, principal that 'We the People' are our own rulers.

President Biden called for unity and healing at his inauguration address. The echoes of these words had not died down before those on the radical left called for censure and investigations into some members of the House of Representatives. Representatives, who voted not to certify the Electoral College results must be censured.

With a blatantly un-constitutional vote to impeach President Trump, by the Leftists that control the House, this partisan vote has further divided the nation. Many pundits and politicians on the Left have called for re-indoctrination camps for conservatives. One House member said 'we must call in child protective services to take the children away from their conservative parents'. The current leader of the Senate, Chuck Schumer said that 'convicting Trump of high crimes and

misdemeanors will unify the nation'. Really?

Will any of these actions bring unity? Will demonizing true patriots create an atmosphere of healing for our Republic? Will de-platforming conservative voices while ignoring radicals calling for the end of the United States, bring unification? Will 'white shaming' bring equality for minorities? Of course, none of these divisive tactics, will heal the wounds - real or imagined - that are being inflicted on this country. The radicals on the left do not want unity. They want surrender to their political views. 'Let us compromise'; 'do what we want and say - or else' is the not so hidden message from the Left. Are the actions of those in the Progressive Socialist Democrat Party that different than those of the dictators that destroyed the countries they managed to get control of?

Back to Abraham Lincoln: Are the conditions that prevailed before and during the Civil War, of the 1850's and 1860's, that different than those of today? Let us make a comparison.

Lincoln, like Donald Trump, was elected even though neither won the popular vote. Then the country was deeply divided over slavery. Today, we are divided by ideological policies of Globalism/Socialism versus patriotism/freedom.

The Lincoln Presidency was widely criticized by the press and his political opponents. Trump has had to endure the same, or perhaps more, criticism by his foes. Trump, has been besieged by the corrupt Russia Collusion hoax and two unconstitutional impeachments at the hands of a politically and morally corrupt House of Representatives.

Lincoln was removed from

office by an assigns bullet. Trump, by (questionable) voter fraud and voter manipulation by the MSM.

Lincoln was replaced by a totally incompetent and allegedly corrupt president. I will venture no further into that comparison, history and this nation's future will decide. I will wait to see this administration's accomplishments, good or bad.

In the face of great adversity and criticism both Lincoln and Trump accomplished great things for this nation. The legacy of their accomplishments will endure in spite of the criticism heaped upon them. Today, the name and legacy of Abraham Lincoln is under attack here in California. Left wing city councils are renaming schools named after Lincoln 'because he was not actually against slavery'.

One parting thought. Our American way of life is under attack. What you might ask is the American way of life? Simply put, it is a life of equal opportunity, not equal outcome. A life of freedom for all people of all races, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation. One group of people cannot receive preferential treatment over another without denying equal treatment for everyone. Socialism is not the answer - equal, quality education and equal opportunity are the answers.

Thomas Jefferson said: "The tree of freedom must be nourished, from time to time, by the blood of tyrants and patriots alike". Will this conflict become a shooting war? I hope not!

Today, the American people are harvesting the fruit of the poisonous tree they planted last November.

Bad government is what good people get when they become complacent. Aristotle.

# MY TURN: It Only Takes Three Colors To Make A Rainbow

When Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs hung a rainbow flag signifying gay pride on the balcony of the historic state capitol building, she entered the fray experienced in so many places. The question was debated. Are the rainbow colors detracting from the original colors of red, white, and blue? In my mind it only takes three colors to make a rainbow.

George Washington marched into Yorktown to receive the surrender of Lord Cornwallis in 1781, just four years after the flag he carried was invented. It was invented by a nation that itself was just invented. That particular flag flew over Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, when no one thought it would last. A song that we sing to this day was inspired by its survival. Our early Navy flew that flag on its vessels when they confronted pirates and would be invaders. That flag was raised in dangerous, remote frontier outposts and went to battle in Chapultepec, Cerro Gordo and other places more poetically referred to as the "Halls of Montezuma." It was at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Shiloh, and other fields too bloody to even contemplate. It was raised against troops who once flew that flag themselves until they made a decision to replace it with another. That flag was at another surrender at Appomattox and later saw action in Cuba and the Philippines. It was soaked in mustard gas in the forests of France and then returned there 25 years later to fight another war in Europe. That flag went down on the U.S.S. Arizona, but was raised again at Iwo Jima. It was in Korea and Vietnam even while many thought it should not have



Charles Lopresto

been. And it has been in the Middle East for many years.

That flag has been draped over dead bodies of soldiers, some not even known. 364,511 in the Civil War, 116,516 in World War I, 405,399 in World War II, 54,246 in Korea, and 90,220 in Vietnam, among other conflicts. And it has been in the Middle East to this day.

It has been draped over the coffins of Law Enforcement, Firefighters and Presidents. It flies over schools, public buildings and more places than anyone can count.

One flag and one flag only symbolizes what we have built, what we have sacrificed and what we have bled over. One flag that has always been there. It is not a rainbow flag or another flag invented in the emotional fervor of a current cause.

This flag defended all those other causes, carried by people no different than you or I. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things, and most of the time scared to death when they did them. But they did them anyway.

I have been ridiculed for not taking the rainbow flag more seriously. But all I can remember is the flag with the stars and the stripes that was always there when these other symbols were not there. So, for all of those seeking "inclusion," respect and acceptance and the belief that these icons provide it, remember the flag that was there first and has always been there. It is red, white, and blue...all the colors you will ever need.

It only takes three colors to make a rainbow.

San Gabriel Valley

## Examiner

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# Has The 100 Day Honeymoon Begun?

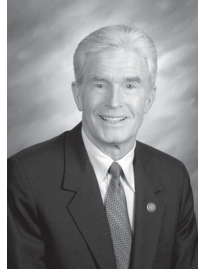
Traditionally new Presidents get a 100-day "honeymoon" through April (although Trump never got such a media break). I remember the shocking news of Donald Trump's unexpected victory on Tuesday night, November 8, 2016. The shocked national elites immediately expected the worst, on many fronts. First there was silence, then tears, then anger, then a conspiracy to impeach President Trump.

Looking back at what I believe to be an unforgettable four years, just how did the capital markets turnout? The Dow Jones Industrials were up 28.5% in 2017, the best first year after election ever! Even after COVID-19 struck in early 2020 the market eventually recovered nicely. Major indexes rose between 55% (Dow) and 139% (NASDAQ) during Trump's four years! Gold and silver also gained a respectable 63% during Trump's four years in office.

Donald Trump's personal fortunes, however, plummeted. The latest Forbes 400 says that he lost \$600 million, from \$3.1 billion to \$2.5 billion (-20%) in net worth just last year, and he lost one-third of his net worth during his four-year term, all while taking no pay as our President. It looks like his nest egg may keep imploding as the PGA (Professional Golf Association) said they will not play their 2022 national tournament on his course, and other high-profile clients will likely boycott his golf courses and resorts after he was blamed for the tragic events at the Capital on January 6.

Directly after his inauguration the Biden administration released a list of executive actions, some of which are sure to create market headwinds. The repeal of the

**In A Nutshell**  
What's up in the Economy?



**KEN HERMAN**  
Economic Analyst  
& Former Glendora Mayor

Trump tax cuts and the imposition of a mandatory \$15 per hour wage minimum would likely have the broadest negative impact on investor sentiment. However, extensions on student loans and evictions, rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, the reversal on travel bans on certain Muslim countries, reinstating the Iran Nuclear deal, granting amnesty for 11 million immigrants and the expansion of the Affordable Healthcare Act, while not universally popular, may not impede the market much in the near term. However, collectively they raise serious questions about such directives and how to pay for all of the above.

It appears that this (Biden) administration wants to erase anything related to the name Donald Trump, including all of the very beneficial things he did as President. Hatred that runs this deep cannot be good for the USA, or for our economy or personal freedom over the next 4 years!

The Federal Open Market Committee opted to leave rates unchanged, as expected, at last week's meeting. They also left guidance on asset purchases unchanged, as expected. The Fed will continue to grow its holdings of Mortgage Back Securities by at least \$40bn a month and of Treasuries by at least \$80bn a month.

On balance, there are fewer changes in their statement than in any since the pandemic struck in late 2019. Nevertheless, the tone is darker. Since last spring, participants have, on occasion, worried about setbacks in the recovery, but this is the first time they have actually seen a significant slowdown in the recovery's pace. On top of that, after months of commentary with the theme, "Things are bad now, but soon we will have a vaccine," the theme this time is, "We have a vaccine but there are still significant risks."

The market cares deeply about tax policies as well as campaign promises that have a tendency to morph into different-looking policies when they are finally implemented. The national debt ended 2020 at \$27.75 trillion and is likely to top \$30 trillion shortly. Unfortunately, it looks like our nation's debt will keep rising at a rapid clip (considering proposed pandemic-related relief stimulus and spending on infrastructure, healthcare and education). If enacted, the Biden budget could elevate federal spending to 24% of GDP by 2030 (according to the Wharton study). That would exceed the crisis spending spikes during the 2008-09 financial crisis as well as the 2020 pandemic, adding another \$2 plus trillion in deficits to the spiraling national debt. I think it's safe to say that the dollar will trade lower and Treasury yields will rise further if our national debt-to-GDP ratio climbs to 130%.

**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

*I'm trying so hard to pay off all my credit card debt. Any ideas on how I can treat my Valentine well, yet not look like penny-pinching tightwad?*

It should mean more to your Valentine that you took the time to think about, and plan a fun, memorable, yet inexpensive way to show your love. Look for a community concert, take a hike, enjoy a romantic picnic, write a love letter, and read it out loud in a romantic location. (Remember to start saving a little each month for the next event.)

*We are going to have to pay taxes on our Social Security income because we earned too much interest and dividends on our investments. Is there a way to avoid this?*

You could legally minimize your reportable earned-income, (thereby distancing yourself from the Social Security income threshold), by moving your investment dollars to a tax-deferred product. Using a tax-deferred product, the compound interest helps your investment balance grow faster, too. There are even tax-deferred products that offer a bonus on money you move there. Perhaps that bonus would be a way for you to recoup some of the taxes you have to pay this year.

*I'm 53 years old, married, with 2 kids in high school, and 2 in college, and am the only employee in my own business. I pay myself well. Is there a retirement plan for me?*

What you might want to look at is a one-person defined benefit plan. There are pro's and con's to this type of plan. It allows the



**Julia Yoder**

individual to build a retirement account fast, and can be a tax deduction for the business. However, it is expensive to make any changes in the plan. This is a problem if there is a lack of funds due to a down year in business. Instead, you might consider buying a life insurance policy with living benefits. The cash account of this type of life insurance can be used by you for anything, and does not have the government RMD (required minimum distribution) rule that hits at age 72.

**What is the Secure Act?**  
Setting Every Community Up for Retirement This Act was passed in 2019, effective 1/1/2020.

Here are a few changes: The age for RMD (Required Minimum Distributions) is now age 72 (was 70 1/2). You can now contribute to an IRA past age 70 1/2. Employers are encouraged to include annuities in their retirement plans, offer a retirement plan to employees who work at least 500 hours for 3 years, and recognize lifetime income in retirement plans. Statements are to include estimated lifetime income based on amount you have

in that retirement account. The catch to these positive changes: more restrictions for Stretch-IRAs and tax-deferred retirement plan accounts. A person who inherits a tax-deferred retirement account must complete withdrawals within 10 years of the death of the plan participant. (There are exceptions, of course.) To avoid the 10-year limit, some of you might opt to convert your tax-deferred retirement account to a Roth IRA, paying all the taxes now.

*My wife has told me that she will take care of me when I get old rather than sending me to a nursing home. But, I'm thinking, what happens if she dies before me?*

And, what if she needs care first, or is alive but unable to care for you? Talk to her about these concerns. It's a good idea to do some planning, just in case. Call around and find out the costs for Assisted Living and Nursing Homes. Learn the rules for Medicare, specifically with regard to assets. (Look for the "5-year-lookback Rule.") Also, get quotes on long-term-care insurance.

**Ask Julia by email:**  
juliayoder@yahoo.com

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## THE CAR GURU

WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

## How Much To Budget

AAA estimates maintenance costs at around 4 cents per mile driven, which means you should set aside \$50-60/month for this line item. Sadly, many put off service/maintenance and they end up having an expensive repair that could have been avoided. I then thought...maybe they don't realize how much it costs to maintain their vehicle annually. With that thought in mind I've decided to share with you something in print so you can fill in the blanks for yourself. Granted...this is just an overall average but hopefully you will find it very helpful!

If you have a new car expect to pay \$200 to \$350 each year on preventive maintenance until your vehicle is three years of age. After that, a good rule of thumb is to plan to pay \$600 to \$1200 annually and this includes tires. Preventive maintenance is the best way to keep your car from having to undergo repair. As it ages, certain parts will need to be replaced, of course.

Those old sayings, "prevention is the best medicine" and "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", have stood the test of time for a reason. They are true! Take a moment, if you will, and figure out the annual cost of vehicle ownership. You might be surprised at how it adds up!

- Annual vehicle payment
- Annual finance charge on loan
- Annual gasoline costs

- Annual car insurance
- Annual maintenance/repair
- Annual license fee and other fees
- Total Annually
- Total Divided by 12 Monthly

This is how much it costs you to drive each year/month. I just think knowing the facts helps you plan a little better.

Remember:

- Keeping current with oil and filter changes prevents the need for a new engine.
- Keeping current with tire rotations and alignments prevents buying new tires less often.
- Keeping current with brake fluid and/or brake pads prevents replacing brakes as often.
- Replacing filters and fluids keeps your vehicle going longer for less.
- Preventive maintenance reduces your expenses going forward.

I think this gives you the idea. Keep your vehicle healthy and it will be good to you and your bank account!

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## Significant Property Tax Law Change to Come Later this Month

**SACRAMENTO** – On November 3, 2020, California voters approved Proposition 19, The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act. Beginning on February 16, 2021, there will be significant property tax law changes, specifically for families transferring real property between parents and children, or between grandparents and grandchildren if the parents are deceased.

"We are about two weeks away

before the new law goes into effect," said California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman Antonio Vazquez. "Families who planned to leave property to their children should immediately evaluate their options and make a decision that's best for their own circumstances."

Once operative, Proposition 19 only allows for a parent's primary residence to be transferred without a property tax increase if their child keeps the home as their primary residence. In addition,

Proposition 19 caps the transferable amount equal to the home's taxable value at the time of transfer plus \$1 million. The \$1 million allowance will be adjusted annually beginning in 2023. Family farms can also be eligible but further clarification is expected from the State Legislature.

Taxpayers are strongly encouraged to visit the BOE website (<https://www.boe.ca.gov/>) for the latest information on Proposition 19.

## Christian Community Credit Union Reaches Over \$800 Million In Assets

Christian Community Credit Union has surpassed \$800 million in assets as of December 31, 2020. The Credit Union is the largest in asset size among Christian credit unions nationwide and ranks in the top 10% of all credit unions in the United States.

"The Credit Union has always stood by its mission of helping members and ministries become better stewards and achieve their financial goals, and I think that's a powerful message, especially in these times," said Blair Korschun, the Credit Union's CEO. "We're more than just a bank, as we have a God-honoring mission with great member service, excellent rates, and a Kingdom

mindset that make us a great choice for the banking needs of the Christian community."

Korschun also praised the Credit Union's staff. "Throughout 2020, despite some very difficult conditions, our staff continued to provide a superlative level of service to our members. Together, our staff and executive team have helped members and ministries to navigate these tough financial times, and to continue to grow the Credit Union. I'm proud of them and excited for what the future holds."

"For over 64 years, members have trusted us with their hard-earned money, and we appreciate

and honor their trust in us," said Chief Financial Officer Jason Thomas. "When our members deposit money with us, they have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that the Credit Union is strong and secure, and that their money will help build ministries, fund missions, and further advance God's Kingdom."

Christian Community Credit Union has over \$800 million in assets and over 30,000 members nationwide. For over 64 years, the Credit Union has served as a financial partner of Christian ministries, churches, and their members.

## Loan Program For Los Angeles County Businesses Now Available

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY** – The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) has launched the Small Business Stabilization Loan Program to provide eligible businesses with a competitive interest rate for loans ranging from \$50,000 to \$3 million. Businesses interested in applying for the Program must have been in operation for at least two years and seeking working capital, equipment purchases, real estate acquisition, or

financing of existing loans at higher interest rates.

The Small Business Stabilization Loan Program has started accepting applications and will remain open indefinitely. The Program offers technical assistance from partners who offer complementary online webinars, one-on-one financial consultations, application assistance, and an evaluation of a business' readiness to submit an LACDA loan application.

Technical assistance is available in various languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), and Korean. Since launching the webinar component of the related BizHelp Program on January 12, 2021, 88 businesses have benefited from these partnerships.

For more information on the requirements to apply for the Small Business Stabilization Loan Program, please visit [BizStabilization.lacda.org](http://BizStabilization.lacda.org).

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# Around the Valley & Senior News

## "TIME JOCKEY" - Under Attack

By Joe Castillo

**Ellwood Oil Fields...** Nearly 80 years ago, the mainland of the United States was attacked by a foreign entity for only the second time in its history. Not since the War of 1812 had the United States been attacked on its own homeland. The attack occurred only 69 days after Pearl Harbor was bombed by forces from Imperial Japan.

On February 24, 1942, at 7PM, a Japanese I-17 submarine fired 25 5-inch rounds at the Ellwood Oil Fields located in Goleta, just north of Santa Barbara. Even though the oil facility was hit, the shelling actually caused very little damage and no one was hurt. The threat to Americans living on the mainland of the United States became a reality, raising the level of fear. The Japanese overshoot its initial rounds, recalculated its range and finally hit their intended target with eleven rounds. Prior to the attack, several U.S. merchant ships were sunk just outside the 3-mile restriction zone along the Pacific Coast by at least nine different Japanese submarines roaming offshore. After the attack on Ellwood, the Japanese submarines attacked a number of other coastal sites located in Washington and Oregon. Several American were killed in these attacks and

shortly afterward the Japanese submarines retreated from the Pacific Coast for the rest of the war.

The Ellwood Oil Fields were a large oil production site consisting of a number of oil derricks and a high production refinery. Prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, foreign tankers would anchor off-shore of Goleta and receive huge supplies of crude oil. The foreign tankers included those from Japan and many times crews were allowed to come on-shore and obtain a meal at one of the restaurants located in the area. These off-shore visits allowed the Japanese to obtain information regarding the oil facilities around the Ellwood Oil Field sites. The attack caused widespread hysteria along the Pacific Coast which peaked when two days after the attack on Ellwood, the dark skies over Los Angeles were lit up with searchlights and 1,400 rounds of anti-aircraft rounds when a mysterious aircraft was spotted in the night sky. But the mysterious airplane was never seen and miraculously just disappeared.

After the Japanese I-17 submarine attacked the Ellwood Oil Fields, it returned and wasn't seen again until it was spotted off New Caledonia in 1943, and then in August of the same year it was

sunk by U.S. dive bombers ending the journey of the Ellwood attacker. In 1968, the City of Goleta and the Native Sons of the Golden West dedicated the attack with a historical marker placed at Timbers Restaurant located nearby. The dedication marked the 25th Anniversary of the bombing and was noted by one of the speakers that the marker was being placed so the event would forever be remembered. When the Timber's Restaurant was closed and eventually sold, the historical plaque was moved to Sandpiper Golf Course and re-dedicated on the 50th anniversary of the Ellwood attack. Past Grand President Jesse Garcia of the Native Sons of the Golden West presided over the event in front of 70 attendees. Today, nearly 30 years later, the bronze plaque still remains in a very recognizable location at the entry of one of California's most beautiful and scenic golf courses, the Sandpiper Golf Course, less than a quarter of a mile from the site of the Richfield-owned Ellwood Oil Fields .....

*Joe Castillo is a freelance historical writer who has been covering Southern California history for 13 years and has written 5 books on the topic. He can be reached at joeacastillo@aol.com.*

## Design Competition for new St. Francis Dam National Memorial

The U.S. Forest Service, working in conjunction with the Saint Francis Dam National Memorial Collaborative, is honored to announce a design competition for a new national memorial to recognize the hundreds of lives lost in the 1928 Saint Francis Dam Disaster.

One of California's greatest disasters, the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam, near Santa Clarita, CA, released over twelve billion gallons and a wall of water more than ten stories high. Roaring down the Santa Clara River valley, it reached the Pacific Ocean more than five hours later. In its wake it left 54 miles of wreckage and took more than 400 lives.

The Saint Francis Dam Disaster resulted in the second greatest loss of life in California his-

tory, after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and is one of America's most significant engineering disasters.

The design competition will be open for 90 days, February 1 to April 31. The selected concept or design will be announced by summer 2021.

The U.S. Forest Service vision is for the memorial to serve both a commemorative and an educational function. More than just a plaque, the memorial should help the public learn about this significant historical event, while placing the tragedy in its broader historical and national context.

The U.S. Forest Service seeks a memorial design with a uniqueness unto its own and ultimately designed to inspire site visitors. The national memorial should also be reflective and contempla-

tive in character, honoring those who perished, and the families and communities affected by this tragic event.

Memorial designs will be analyzed by a contest committee. The committee will consist of U.S. Forest Service employees, Saint Francis Dam National Memorial Collaborative members, family members of disaster victims, and major stakeholders, such as, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Southern California Edison.

Congress authorized the establishment of the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial in 2019. Administered by the U.S. Forest Service, within the Angeles National Forest, this will be the nation's first national memorial on U.S. Forest Service land.

## San Dimas Older American Nominations

**SAN DIMAS** - Every year the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the City of San Dimas proclaim May as Older American Recognition Month. Nominations for the San Dimas Older American Honoree are reviewed by the Senior Citizen Commission and the selected Honoree is recommended to the San Dimas City Council for final appointment.

The San Dimas Older American Honoree represents the City of San Dimas at the Los Angeles County Older American Recognition Day celebration.

The San Dimas Older American Honoree must meet the basic criteria with emphasis placed on service to the community of San Dimas Senior Citizen Programs. See the

nomination form for a sample description.

Nominations must be submitted to the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center, 201 East Bonita Avenue, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2021.

Please contact us at (909) 394-6290 if you have questions or need additional information.

## Virtual Senior February Presentations

**ARCADIA** - The Recreation and Community Services Department, Senior Services Division is offering three free informative virtual presentations in February. On **February 9** at 10am, AARP will show you how to spot and avoid fraud and scams so you can protect yourself and your family. On **February 19** at 10am, Alzheimer's LA will discuss how Alzheimer's disease may cause behaviors that are hard to understand. On **February 23** at 10am, Methodist Hospital's physical therapist, Larry Nakamura will discuss and demonstrate how to improve your balance and mobility.

If you are interested in learning about these programs but

do not have a computer there is a dial-in option. All individuals must pre-register by calling Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130 at least one day prior to the presentation. We

will be requesting you to provide an email address if you have one. For more information, please call the Senior Services Office at 626.574.5130.

## Be Mine Drive-In Bingo!

**ARCADIA** - Feeling cooped up in the house? Come out and join us as we safely play Drive-In Bingo at the Community Center in the parking lot - 365 Campus Drive. The cost is \$5 to play, and each participant will be given five (5) game cards for a chance to win gift card prizes. All participants must register prior to the event, be in the same household if they are sharing a vehicle, and

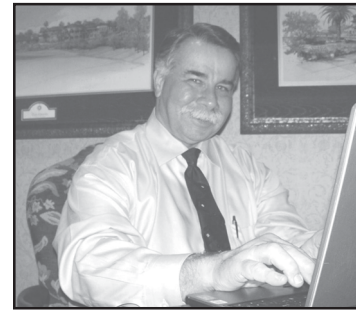
must wear face coverings. The 50+ Drive-In Bingo Event will be held on Friday, **February 5** from 10-11:30am, and you can register now! Spring into Bingo will take place on Friday, April 2 from 10-11:30am and you can register beginning February 4. Please register online at ArcadiaCA.gov/Recreation or contact the Community Center at 626.574.5130.

## People Acting Like Idiots At Council Meetings. It Is A Business Meeting!

It appears to me that people can't get it through their thick head that Council meetings are business meetings. This is not an open forum for anything like "Freedom of Speech". I'm going to use the West Covina City Council meeting as an example. Anything that is said during oral communications should be pertaining to the city of West Covina. This could include compliments and complaints about anything that is related to the city of West Covina. If you're not happy with something, this is the place and time that you could let the Council and staff know. If there is something that needs to be brought to the attention of the city so they could address that particular issue, once again this is where it is to be said.

This is not an open forum for any kind of platform. This is for the city and their residents to come and speak before the Council and the staff.

Somehow, this has gotten out of hand and we have people coming from outside the city to talk about God knows what. We have already talked about Armando Herman who does not live in West Covina but comes to the meeting and talks about county government, state government, federal government and such things that has nothing to do with West Covina and during the process he uses the "F" word over and over again. He uses various other curse words as well and disrespects the City Council and staff and all the people that are present in the Council chambers. He has made it so people feel uncomfortable and unsafe to come to City Council meetings or even to watch it from home. Herman has been arrested for concealing and sneaking in a deadly weapon into the Los Angeles Council meeting. He was



**George Ogden**  
*That's just the way it is!*

arrested by the Industry Sheriff's Department for apparently an assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to commit great bodily harm. He will be going to court this month on that charge.

His buddy, Mark Greenstand, came before the Council with a large Bible. He attempted to read some type of Scripture from the Bible but couldn't find it. The City Council is not a religious ceremony and we don't need to be preached to as far as I'm concerned. We do have an opening prayer and I have no problem with that. However, Mr. Greenstand continued speaking gibberish and he too started using extremely foul language and had to be cut off from the broadcast. So, let's see if I have this right. He's holding the Bible and cursing his lungs out about who knows what. Now that's a class act.

It appears they brought somebody else with them this time. She called herself Spitfire Ramirez. While she got off on some tangent about her going to the Pasadena courthouse and getting into a fight with a court clerk at the courthouse. We don't give a damn about her problems in Pasadena or her personal problems or anything else. However, she went on to explain in her words a big black lady with tattoos all over and with a chip on her shoulder came to address her complaint. Ramirez told this

woman to only write down responses so other people couldn't hear her reply. This clerk would have no part of it and basically told her so. So, from this point on, this wonderful speaker that came to the City Council meeting in West Covina, continued on to complain about this woman using the N-word and the C-word. This woman is an obvious racist and was a class act.

These 3 people came to the City Council meeting and talked about nothing to do with the city. They came to curse and use foul language and disrespect everyone inside that building. They try to go by the pretense that this is "Freedom of Speech" and their right to speak anyway they want to. Well NOT so! Sorry folks, you are at the wrong platform, you are at a business meeting. This is not an open forum.

Other cities have challenged Herman and they have come out on top as the courts can't declare the "Freedom of Speech Protection" in a business meeting. He has had restraining order(s) issued against him. For the record, the City of Los Angeles filed a workplace violence restraining order against Herman under Civil Code §527.8, which provides, in part: "Any employer, whose employee has suffered unlawful violence or a credible threat of violence from any individual, that can reasonably be construed to be carried out or to have been carried out at the workplace, may seek a temporary restraining order...." This worked.

People attending or watching their Council meeting should not be subjected to this kind of vulgarity and racism from any speaker. Especially when they're not from that city or talking about any business of that city.

*"That's just the way it is!"*

## West Covina COVID-19 Testing

**WEST COVINA** - The City of West Covina is committed to do its part in helping fight the pandemic and keeping our community safe. Starting February 1, 2021 (7am - 7pm), Los County Department of Health Services will be providing no-cost COVID-19 testing at the Cameron Park Community Center.

To schedule a test at Cameron Park Community Center, visit [bit.ly/wcxfulgentCV19](https://bit.ly/wcxfulgentCV19). For reservations, including other testing sites, visit the County's website at <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>

For more information, please visit [www.westcovina.org/covid19](https://www.westcovina.org/covid19).

## Man Throwing Rocks At Vehicles Arrested

**IRWINDALE** - On the afternoon of January 30th, Irwindale Police officers responded to the 600 block of Live Oak Avenue regarding a male throwing rocks at passing vehicles. The suspect struck several cars, endangering the occupants.

Officers arrived and located a subject matching the description provided by the victims. As officers approached the subject, he ran from them, escaping into a nearby neighborhood. Additional officers and deputies from the Temple Sheriff's Station responded. The suspect was located after neighbors reported a prowler.

He was booked at the jail on felony charges, including resisting arrest and providing false identity information. He was later released on a promise to



The suspect, Brian Mendez, was arrested without incident. appear citation due to COVID-19 jail restrictions.

No one was injured in the

incident, however two vehicles were damaged.





# Former Baldwin Park Councilman Guilty of Receiving Bribes

By George Ogden

**BALDWIN PARK** - A former Baldwin Park councilman, Ricardo Pacheco (58), pled guilty to accepting bribes for favors while on the city council.

At one point during a sting operation, he accepted a bribe from a police officer who was working undercover for the FBI. The FBI operation was part of a public-corruption sting for voting in favor of a union contract two years ago.

Pacheco has more than 23 years serving on the council. He suddenly retired last June 2020. Many felt this was because that his "wrong doings" were being exposed. He had stated that his retirement had nothing to do with his criminal issues, however the U.S. Department of Justice disputes this. They say it was part of a plea bargain on some charges.

He has also worked as an assistant general manager of the West Valley Water District in Rialto. He faced a number of legal and criminal issues and he was fired from that job in 2019.

He took nearly \$40,000 from an undercover police officer for his vote for the Baldwin Park Police Association in 2018. Later, he received \$20,000 in an envelope from a police officer while at a coffee shop. He also received checks made out to his church and to political action committee that he had.

A search warrant in 2018 recovered large amounts of money, \$83,000 from his home with \$20,000 stashed all over his house. The Feds returned with another warrant in 2019 and found more money, over \$62,000 buried and hidden in the back yard of his home.

Again, under a plea bargain, he



Former Baldwin Park Councilman Ricardo Pacheco

turned over another \$300,000 from soliciting bribes. It is believed he is now cooperating with the FBI and is rolling over on other politicians. There is a belief that there is a lot more bribe money out there that has not been recovered or documented yet.

However, his illegal endeavors did not go unnoticed by many, especially one citizen who was quite upfront and upset about Pacheco. In fact, Albert F. Ehlers, was so upset, he had huge banners created and hung them on his building. The banners portrayed

City Councilman Ricardo Pacheco as a corrupt "jackass". The also called him a "liar," "bully," "fraud," "abuser" and "corrupt," and urge voters not to re-elect him.

At the time Pacheco had the city file sign violations again Ehlers and set fines. He contested the fines and stipulated that this was freedom of speech. However, the city moved forward with over \$12,000 in fines and they filed in court. Ehlers feels this is retribution to the fact that he exposed and opposed corruption by city officials.

# Maintaining a Sense of Normalcy While Routines Stay Disrupted



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

With the roll-out of the vaccine taking place slowly, it may be awhile longer before life returns completely to normal. However, if you have been working remotely, it may be a good idea to reincorporate some of the elements of your regular routine into your schedule now.

Not only will maintaining a sense of normalcy help you to feel more productive and more like yourself again, it could also help make the transition to the workplace smoother when it does occur. Here are a few ways to go about it:

- **Rise and shine:** Have you let your morning schedule slide into chaos during the pandemic? Now is the time to get back to your regular hours. Get to sleep each week night at your pre-pandemic bedtime and set your alarm for your regular wake hour. With no commute, you may find yourself with some extra time in the morning. Use it to get organized for the day, exercise or check items off your to-do list.

- **Get dressed:** Dress as though you are heading into the workplace. Wear pants that

don't have an elastic waistband, do your hair and wear accessories. Regain your sense of style and feel good about how you look.

- **Structure your day:** When working remotely, it's easy to feel like the workday has no clear beginning or end. For better work-life balance, try to structure your day as you once did, setting regular business hours. Be sure to include breaks so you don't experience burnout. And, if your weekdays once included time for socializing with colleagues, make time for it now. Set up a virtual coffee meeting, lunch or happy hour.

- **Use tech tools:** Stay accountable to your new schedule as well as your fashion goals with wearable tech, such as the Casio Edifice Watch. With full-

time Smartphone Link technology, this timepiece enables you to stay up-to-date and on time. When paired to a compatible smartphone via Bluetooth, you can access the correct time in your current location and for up to 300 cities worldwide, as well as your calendar, receiving notifications for tasks, meetings and events. Featuring five alarms, a stopwatch, countdown timer and a two-year battery life, this water-resistant timepiece can be a highly functional tool as you transition back to a regular schedule.

If working from home long-term has you feeling sluggish and unproductive, get back to your regular schedule. Maintaining a sense of normalcy can help get you out of the rut. (StatePoint)

# Citizen Of The Year

**IRWINDALE** - Calling all Irwindale Residents!

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond for the Irwindale Community? Now is the time to let them shine! Please complete the nomination form and return it no later than February 5, 2021.

Awards will be presented at the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Virtual Annual Installation Dinner Thursday, February 18, 2021.

For more information and a nomination form, email [Amanda@IrwindaleChamber.org](mailto:Amanda@IrwindaleChamber.org)



One of the signs of Pacheco on Albert F. Ehlers buildings.

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COVID-19 VACCINE  
**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH:**  
• The vaccine will give you COVID-19.

**FACTS:**  
• The current vaccines don't include the virus in any form - no live virus, no weakened virus, no dead virus. You cannot get the disease from the vaccine.  
• About half the people who participated in the trial reported mild side effects for a few days, including a sore arm.  
• These side effects are from the vaccine developing the antibodies and typically last for 1-2 days.

For more information, visit: [vaccinatelacounty.com](http://vaccinatelacounty.com)

COVID-19 VACCINE  
**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH:**  
• I don't need the vaccine if I already had COVID-19.

**FACTS:**  
• We don't know how long people will have immunity after getting COVID-19.  
• There are also a few well-documented cases of people getting COVID-19 twice.  
• Even if you had COVID-19 and recovered, you will benefit from the vaccine.

For more information, visit: [vaccinatelacounty.com](http://vaccinatelacounty.com)

COVID-19 VACCINE  
**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH:**  
• Safety was sacrificed for speed.

**FACTS:**  
• Previous research about other coronaviruses gave science a head start.  
• Global cooperation and government funding put lots of powerful resources to work, together, around the clock.  
• Clinical trials, logistical planning, and other steps to ensure safety and efficacy happened at the same time instead of one after another.

For more information, visit: [vaccinatelacounty.com](http://vaccinatelacounty.com)



## Virtual GIN & JAZZ GALA Annual Board Installation and Awards Dinner

IRWINDALE - The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the 41st Annual Board Installation & Awards Dinner Virtually on February 18. Please join us as we recognize the incoming Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Officers and Board of Directors. We will also be celebrating the Joe DiShanni Business of the Year Award, Non-Profit of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Employee of the Year and Business Ambassador of the Year.

This roaring event is always a sell-out and promises to be a lovely evening.

Single Ticket: \$85 per person

Ticket includes Dinner Package: \$50 UberEats Cards, Choice of Beverage, and Cigar.

Curbside Pick-up Available at the Chamber starting on February 15, 2021 time is TBD.

Registration must be done on the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Website. Attendee information will be imported

THE IRWINDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

# GIN & JAZZ GALA

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DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 10, 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL AMANDA AT AMANDA@IRWINDALECHAMBER.ORG

into REMO Conference platform by staff. Once information has been imported, you

will receive an email from REMO. This will be done a week before the event.

## Outdoor Dining Service Returns with New Mandatory Safety Measures

Effective 1/29/2021

### Restaurants, Breweries and Wineries

Outdoor dining allowable with physical distancing and new infection control protocols in place

- Employees that may come in contact with customers must wear both a face covering and a face shield at all times when interacting with customers and when in customer service areas.
- Outdoor dining table seating must be limited to **no more than 6 people per table**, all of whom must be from the same household.
- Outdoor tables must be repositioned or removed so that all **tables are at least 8 feet apart**.
- Televisions or other screens that broadcast programming must remain off.

covid19.lacounty.gov

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has modified the Los Angeles County Health Officer Order to closely align with the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy most restrictive purple tier. Outdoor dining at restaurants, wineries, and breweries may reopen today with additional safety measures in place to mitigate the increased risk since customers are permitted to spend time unmasked at these business-

es. Indoor dining is not permitted. All employees that can come in contact with customers must wear both a face covering and a face shield at all times. Persons from different households are not allowed to share a table. All establishments must post signage to this effect and verbally inform customers that everyone sharing a table must be from the same household. Tables must be positioned at least 8 feet apart and televisions or other screens must be turned off.

removes operating hour restrictions for non-essential businesses.

Businesses are required to implement the protocols prior to reopening to ensure they are in compliance with the Health Officer Order, and to avoid citations, fines, and possible closure. Violations can be reported anonymously at 888-700-9995 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays. To report violations online, visit [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov)

The Health Officer Order also

## 5 Hobbies to Keep Your Body and Mind Healthy and Happy

As the pandemic continues to restrict many of the places you are able or inclined to go, finding ways to stay active is important for keeping the body and mind healthy and happy. Here are some ideas for new hobbies to try.

• Learn a language: Bonjour! ¡Hola! With an array of online language classes and tutorials available at your fingertips, learning a new language is more accessible than ever. Start now

while you fantasize about a post-pandemic vacation overseas.

• Play an instrument: Learning to play an instrument is not only a great distraction for the current moment, it can provide you with years of joy as your skill develops. Consider starting your musical journey on a Casiotone keyboard. By connecting the keyboard to the free Chordana Play app, you can easily learn to play your favor-

ite songs from downloaded MIDI files. Once you've mastered the instrument, the portability of the keyboard will come in handy, whether you play solo or join a band.

• Become a home chef: From sushi to soufflé to dumplings, there are likely a range of dishes you have never attempted making at home. Tackle your culinary bucket list, one-by-one.

• Go hiking: There is no bet-

ter hobby for staying fit and communing with nature than hiking, which works every muscle of the body, boosts cardiovascular health and even improves mood and mental well-being. Track your hike using a wearable tech tool geared for outdoor enthusiasts, such as a watch from the Casio's Pro Trek line. Quad Sensor technology packs all the measurements you need into one compact hiking watch, in-

cluding a compass, altitude/barometer and temperature measurements, along with an accelerometer that tracks step count. Calorie calculations use both step count and altitude information to take upgrades and downgrades into consideration, and data is recorded by the Pro Trek connected app.

• Volunteer: At a time when many people are struggling, consider volunteering your time to serve those in need. There

are plenty of safe, socially distant volunteer opportunities, from delivering meals to the homebound, to video conferencing with socially isolated seniors to helping boost adult literacy via remote tutoring.

Amid the ongoing pandemic, staying busy and positive may take creativity. However, discovering new hobbies and pursuits you love can nurture the body, mind and soul. (StatePoint)

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