



# San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

February 15 - 21, 2018

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# Azusa Beautiful Organization Cleans Over 100 Military Banners

By Jorge V. Rosales

**AZUSA** - On Saturday, February 3, 2018, approximately 30 volunteers gathered north of the Azusa City Hall in the quad area in the proximity of the large gazebo to clean up for the city over 100 military banners after their recent removal following the Veterans Day Ceremony

Azusa Beautiful Members Mayor Joe Rocha, Maricela Cuevas, and Yolanda Rodriguez Pena were leads for this task before putting the banners away prior to their next reinstallation for Memorial Day. There to assist Azusa Beautiful were Student Mayor of Glendora Adrian Torres who is a 5th grade student at Le Fetra Middle School in Glendora, students from Azusa and Gladstone High schools, Gladstone Street and Valleydale Elementary schools and Christbridge Academy, as well as community members and parents of service personnel.

The hanging of banners along Azusa Avenue is a program that was started shortly after war started in Iraq, by the then Director of the Downtown Azusa Business Association (DABA), Peggy Martinez and then Councilman Joe Rocha. The City at that time was unable to fund the program



Photos By Maricela Cuevas

**Members of the Azusa Beautiful Organization including Maricela Cuevas, President; Yolanda Pena, Treasurer; and Joe Rocha, Member are joined by approximately 30 volunteers from various AUSD schools to clean and wash the over 100 military banners that hang along Downtown Azusa Avenue between 5th and 9th Streets.** due to budgetary constraints and as such authorized DABA to hang the banners honoring Azusa soldiers along Azusa Avenue between 5th and 9th Streets at street light posts.

The preparations of banners up until January 2016 were possible due to donations by businesses, families, or individuals at a cost of approximately \$100 per banner

and were hung by volunteers from the Azusa Veterans Memorial Committee (AVMC) under the supervision of Martinez and the direction of the AVMC's Chairman, Mayor Joe Rocha.

The City did not have a formal policy for the placement of banners

on streetlight poles located throughout the City up until January 2016. The adopted policy permits banners on streetlight poles that promote cultural, educational, civic, and patriotic or veterans' issues and events which contribute to the community's

quality of life. The policy established three (3) distinct districts for banners: the Downtown District, the Civic Hall Campus District; and Transit Square District. Each District follows a specific theme or has a set schedule for when certain banners are to be displayed. Banners may be hung in any District for a period not to exceed sixty days. In no event shall the time period exceed ninety days.

Military banners are hung in the downtown district twice per year, from May 1 to July 31 for Memorial Day and 4th of July and October 1- mid-November for Veterans Day. The City is now responsible for all banner installations and removals. The City is also responsible for storing all banners removed and for accepting applications for new banners.

Azusa Beautiful's mission is to promote, encourage and foster civic pride by creating a clean, green, safe and vibrant Azusa. Comprised of a group of volunteers, our efforts include planting trees, graffiti removal and now even military banner cleanup.

## Nearly 30 Local Furry Friends Find Loving Homes Through America's Christian Credit Union Pet Adoption



ACCU President/CEO Mendell L. Thompson with the 14th adoption of the day at Saturday's event.

**GLENDORA** - America's Christian Credit Union (ACCU) proudly hosted its fourth annual pet adoption day, "Pause For Paws", this past Saturday at the Glendora headquarters.

The community gathered to support these furry friends through raffle proceeds,

grooming services and the provision of permanent homes. The day ended with 28 pets adopted into loving families and a total of \$489 raised through the pet-themed raffle. The money raised from the raffle will be donated back to the shelters and agencies repre-

sented at the event.

"This year's adoption event was highly anticipated. Our goal was to hit 14 adoptions, to reach a total of 60 pets adopted over the four-year span of this event," commented ACCU President/CEO Mendell L. Thompson. "To be able to exceed our goals and watch 28 adoptions happen makes me proud that so many great members of our community have offered forever families to these abandoned animals," continued Thompson.

ACCU would like to thank the following partners for coming alongside this event to encourage the community to deepen their commitment to building stronger families: Foster Army Animal Rescue, The Crazy Dog Ladies, Priceless Pets, Friends of Upland, Inland Valley Humane Society, Farmers Insurance, Bark 4 Life, Sydnee's Pet Grooming, Delaney's Dogs, Rescue Works, Best Buddies Pet Care, Dulcet Designs by Jenn, Hand in Paw, McKinley Children's Center, VCA Animal Hospital, West Coast Grooming, and Southland Properties.

## Proud Sponsors Of The Vietnam Wall, "The Wall That Heals"

**SANDIMAS**- The City of San Dimas, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, ADP, San Dimas Community Hospital and Glendora WalMart are all co-sponsoring "The Wall That Heals" when it comes to San Dimas, March 22-25, 2018. The "Wall," a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica & Mobile Education Center, will be located at Lone

Hill Middle School in San Dimas. It will be open 24 hours a day and is free to the public. San Dimas HEROES will be hosting the event.

Other contributing sponsors include Golden State Water Company, Inland Valley Humane Society, Custom Coolers of San Dimas, State Senator Anthony J

Portantino, and Holy Name of Mary Stars & Stripes.

You too can be a sponsor of "The Wall That Heals!" For further information, call San Dimas HEROES at 909 981 9500, visit them on Facebook, or their website at [SanDimasHEROES.org](http://SanDimasHEROES.org). Their email address is [SanDimasHEROES@aol.com](mailto:SanDimasHEROES@aol.com).



Students from several Azusa High and Elementary schools volunteered on Saturday morning, February 3, 2017 to help Azusa Beautiful in cleaning and washing all military banners honoring deployed Azusans before they are stored by the City of Azusa before their next hanging for Memorial Day.

## IHeartBooks Program Comes To Duarte USD

**DUARTE** - Bernadette Lopez has a calling. As one of the AmeriCorps Program Recipients, she has taken on the program "IHeartBooks". The goal of this program is to ensure all students reach their proficient level in reading. A recent study by the US Department of Education found that 82% of students from low income families fail to reach the proficient level. Bernadette is working to find tutors for K-2 kids.

- The volunteers will meet weekly with their student at their school,
- Offer individual and small group attention
- Help students improve their reading comprehension skills
- Give positive feedback and support.

Training will be provided for volunteers. Bernadette shared the program at a recent Duarte Kiwanis meeting. If you are interested in joining Duarte Kiwanis or being a speaker at a future event, contact Tina Carey at [tinac51@aol.com](mailto:tinac51@aol.com).



Duarte Kiwanis President, Diane Hernandez, Bernadette Lopez



# Monrovia Scouts Giving Back To Camp Trask



**Pack 66 Lion Den Leader Chinae Gerringer leading her Lions**

**MONROVIA** - The hills above Monrovia were alive the weekend of January 26th to 28th, 2018. Almost 100 Scouts and their families were working to renovate many areas of Trask Scout Reservation over a 3 day weekend. Monrovia Pack 66 and FINESSE INC., Custom Builders hosted a volunteer service project weekend. Diana Vierra, owner of FINESSE INC., who also has a son in Pack 66, James V., created a project plan with the help of her husband David Vierra in conjunction with Monrovia Pack 66 to breathe some life back into Camp Trask.

The project included cleaning, repairing screens and replacing curtains for 3 staff cabins. The 4th cabin had a complete makeover, electrical, installing of insulation, interior walls, removal of exterior walls to replace with new T1-11 siding, painting of exterior walls and installing of new trim for door and windows. The tent decks behind the staff cabins received a power wash and fresh coats of paint.

The bridge to the nature center received a make-over as well, new coat of ponderosa green paint and the floor boards were painted a nice shade of terracotta brown. The electrical conduit was anchored and several support beams along with the 40 hand rail was replaced due to wood rot and termites.

The nature center handicap walkway had many balusters replaced, and reinforced. The lag bolts were all tightened and shored up. The face of the nature center received a fresh coat of paint along with a deep cleaning. Cub Scouts painted and cleaned the display cases as well as painting the balusters.

The planning, organization, materials procurement, donation requests, and volunteer management went off without a hitch. This was due to all the amazing volunteers, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, families, Camp Masters and 1 Girl Scout. A total of 3 days, 723 volunteer hours, 100 scouts and their families and \$1500 in donations and supplies

made this possible.

A special Thanks to our families and Scout and without their help this could not have happened; Diana Vierra owner of FINESSE INC., Custom Builders, Monrovia Home Depot, Monrovia OSH, Monrovia Lowes, Ganal Lumber, Ranger Anthony Villalobos, The Vierra Family, Monrovia Pack 66, Monrovia Troop 66, El Monte Pack 551, El Monte Troop 551, Pasadena Troop 31, Monrovia Girl Scout Troop 2981 - Gabby



**Troop 66 Boy Scout Degas Peters painting the bridge**

Vierheilg, The Peters Family, The Sanchez Family, The Gomez Family, Camp Master Tyler Ceniseroz, Camp Master Crystal Bybee, Camp Master Raymond Alvarez, Camp Master & Trask Admin Andrea Arias, Camp Master Ed Martinez, Austin Arias-Troop 66, Degas Peters-Troop 66, The Traeger Family, The Franco Family, The Feng Family, The Vierheilg Family, The Kurutz Family, The Gapud Family, The Arias Family, The Guzman Family, The Galindo Family, The Uebele Family, The Cuevas Family, The Maldonado Family, The Mari Family, The Jaso Family, Monrovia resident Ed Millner, Brittany Coker, The Harwood Family, The Celek Family, The Mitchell Family, The Montoya Family, The Gerringer Family, The Erhardt Family, The Mitre Family, The D'Alvarez family and The Griffin Family.

*Camp Trask holds a special place in our hearts and since 1960 this camp has provided memories that will last a life time for our Scouts and their children. ~By Scout Master Mark Peters*



**Pack 66 Tiger Den Leader David Gomez with Tiger son Aiden repairing the handicap ramp**

## How To Spend Your Money With Companies That Share Your Values

From small one-time purchases to monthly service fees, you may not think much about what happens to your money after spending it.

But beyond the typical considerations, such as price and product features, many savvy shoppers are starting to pick their brands and services based on new criteria like ethics. An ethical company treats both its employees and customers fairly and practices environmental sustainability. Luckily, there is some guidance out there for those consumers who want to spend their money with companies that share their values.

Your Wardrobe  
Patagonia's mission statement is to "build the best product, cause no unnecessary harm, use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis." A leader in social and environmental responsibility efforts in the fashion industry, the company is fair-trade certified for all its sewing production and is dedicated to transparency.



Photo Source: (C) Nito/Stock.adobe.com

Consider shopping here if you want to look good and feel good. Your Wireless Provider

One good resource to check out is "The World's Most Ethical Companies" list, released annually by the Ethisphere Institute. It offers a quantitative assessment of a company's performance in corporate governance, risk, sustainability compliance and ethics, and knowing a company or brand has scored high on this particular assessment can help set your mind at ease.

For the 10th year in a row, that list includes T-Mobile, which, among other initiatives, commit-

ted to move to 100 percent renewable energy by 2021, the only major wireless provider to do so. As one of only five honorees in the telecommunications industry to receive recognition from the Ethisphere Institute in 2018, they also landed on Best Place to Work lists for parents, diversity, the LGBTQ community and more. T-Mobile was also given a perfect score of 100 percent on the Corporate Equality Index by the Human Rights Campaign. For the full list of

2018 World's Most Ethical Companies, visit [worldsmoethicalcompanies.com](http://worldsmoethicalcompanies.com).

Your Glass of Wine  
Red or white? The next time you imbibe, consider going beyond the wine's flavor and potential pairings, seeking a bottle from a company that you know treats its employees well. Included in Glassdoor's 2018 Best Places to Work Employees' Choice list was E. & J. Gallo Winery, a family-owned company with a strong internal program to foster diversity and career development among underrepresented communities.

Whether you're shopping online, hitting the mall or choosing services that help you connect with friends, family and the world around you, consider doing a bit of research before making your next consumer decision to ensure you're comfortable with where your money is headed. (StatePoint)

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## Glendora and La Verne Police Departments Receive Award from Alcohol Beverage Control for Grant Work to Fight Alcohol-Related Crime

**GLENDORA** - The Glendora Police Department, in conjunction with the La Verne Police Department, was recognized yesterday by the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for their work to battle alcohol-related crime during the 2016/2017 grant year. The grant funds received were used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal solicitations of alcohol, and other criminal activities such as the sale and possession of illegal drugs.

"We are pleased that this partnership among the three agencies to reduce alcoholic beverage access to minors and educate licensed establishments within our community was successful," Glendora Chief Rosales said. "We look forward to continued progress in this

year's grant to achieve our joint objective of alcohol-related crime reduction," La Verne Chief Paz added.

During the 2016/2017 grant period the Glendora and La Verne Police Departments exceeded their original goal visiting 94 establishments within the cities and conducted a total of 22 operations. Overall the agencies exceeded the grant objectives by 166%, which included Saturation Patrols, Shoulder Tap Operations, Minor Decoy Operations, and Obviously Intoxicated Persons Operations.

In addition to enforcement operations, the agencies conducted training with ABC for employees of licensed establishments educating 50 servers

and owners on current alcohol laws. Officers involved in implementing the grant conducted roll call trainings to impart their knowledge onto the patrol officers who are in the communities daily.

The GAP Program was created in 1995 to strengthen partnerships between ABC and local law enforcement agencies. The program is designed to put bad operators out of business, keep alcohol away from minors, and bring penalties such as fines, suspensions, or revocations against businesses that violate the law.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

## Local Nonprofits Encouraged to Apply for El Monte Grants

**EL MONTE** - As part of efforts to enhance access to quality public services and support local organizations, the City of El Monte is offering grant opportunities to assist community nonprofits in funding programs for low- and moderate-income El Monte residents.

This opportunity is made possible through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a federally designated Entitlement Community, the City receives HUD funds, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), to support community development objectives including infrastructure and public services for vulnerable popu-

lations. Funding covers a one-year period beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. In particular, the City strongly encourages applications from service providers working on senior services, youth services, fair housing and legal aid, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing and/or homeless street outreach.

Applications are accepted through Monday, February 12, 2018, 5 p.m. Organizations must demonstrate 501(c)3 status. Those interested should carefully review the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), available through the City's Housing Division and on the City's website at

www.elmonteca.gov.

Last year, the City awarded over \$177,000 to two local organizations. The Housing Rights Center received \$25,000 to provide outreach, counseling and legal services for fair housing. Volunteers of America received over \$152,000 to provide services for homeless prevention, and the City of El Monte Parks and Recreation received funds to provide independence and care for the elderly and disabled adults, and development programs for at-risk youth.

For more information about how to apply, contact the Housing Division at (626) 580-2078, or visit www.elmonteca.gov.

## Friends Of The Duarte Library To Host Special Screening Of Documentary Beauty Bites Beast

**DUARTE** - The Friends of the Duarte Library would like to welcome the Duarte Community to a special free screening of the documentary film, Beauty Bites Beast on Wednesday, February 21 at the Duarte Senior Center, located at 1610 Huntington Drive Duarte, CA 91010. Co-sponsored by the City of Duarte, State Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Assembly member Blanca E. Rubio, LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and the Duarte

Chamber of Commerce, this special screening includes a reception with light refreshments starting at 5:30 pm followed by the film screening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Director Ellen Snortland will conduct a Q&A and book signing from 8:00 pm to 8:30 pm immediately after the film's conclusion.

Beauty Bites Beast written and directed by Ellen Snortland and co-produced by Ken Gruberman, touches on the important and timely topic of ending

violence towards women and girls. This film illustrates some of the world's dangers and risks and demonstrates for women tools to both defend and empower themselves. Beauty Bites Beast's mission is to "normalize" these tools as a human need and right for all women.

For more information regarding this event, please contact 626-260-0993 or visit www.accessduarte.com or beautybitesbeast.com

## West Covina Police Arrest Man with a Knife

**By George Ogden**  
**WEST COVINA** - West Covina police responded to the 3700 block of South Ferntower Avenue about 5:15 p.m. on Friday Feb. 9, to a call of an assault and battery and assault with a deadly weapon (knife).

When officers arrived, they met with the victim who told them that his neighbor punched him in the face and then pulled

out a knife and started attacking him by swinging it at him. He got to safety where he called the police.

When the officers went to contact the suspect, the 5'7", 145 lb. male, brandished a knife and refused to come out and basically barricaded himself in his home. For the safety of both the suspect and the officers, they backed off and

called for a SWAT response. They made contact with the "uncooperative" suspect who was later identified as Michael Castel, 31, who surrendered to officers about 8 p.m. He was booked on suspicion of battery, assault with a deadly weapon and resisting and/or obstructing police.

Bail was set at \$50,000 and court dates are pending.

## LASD Offers Their Stations Public Parking Lots as a Safe Place to Meet For On-line Purchases

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY** - As more people use online apps to engage in buying and selling items, the risk of scams, robberies, and violence increase. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is offering their communities the use of their station public parking lots as safe options to meet for these transactions.

Buying and selling items online has become very popular. Internet and smart phone apps allow you to take pictures and post items for sale in seconds. This convenience allows people to come to you and buy your items. This has caused purchasing to increase considerably. There are countless sites and apps where you can go to buy or sell items for significantly discounted prices. The majority of the people utilizing these apps are good, honest people, however, meeting a complete stranger and exchanging money for items could pose some inherent risks. So what can you do to increase your safety when meeting people to buy or sell items? Consider some of the suggestions below.

- Meet at a reasonable time of day, preferably during daylight.

- Do not meet alone or with children present. Have someone accompany you.

- Avoid meeting at your home. If you must, due to the size of an item, consider placing the item in the garage or on the porch/entry way.

- If you agree to meet at a neutral location consider a well-lit area with people around and possibly video surveillance cameras. A grocery store or your nearest law enforcement station parking lot are good options. Do not meet in an area that is unfamiliar or uncomfortable to you. If the other party is not willing to meet you in a place you feel safe, do not meet.

- When purchasing items, inspect them for accuracy and be sure you are getting what you want. It is okay to change your mind and not purchase the item(s). If a deal seems too good to be true, it usually is. There are a lot of stolen items sold online. Drug users oftentimes sell things at extremely discounted prices just

so they can get money for a fast high. Contact your local law enforcement if you think something is stolen.

- Be careful with your money. Do not open your wallet and pull money out in front of the seller. Consider having the exact amount agreed upon in a specific pocket.

- When purchasing online use credit cards or secure payment services instead of debit cards.

- When making online purchases in public, use your mobile phone network instead of WiFi.

The safety of community members is of paramount concern to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and although they know that the vast majority of users are trustworthy, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

If you feel you have been a victim of a scam or feel your personal safety is at risk contact your local law enforcement agency. If you do not know who your local law enforcement is click on: <http://egis3.lacounty.gov/ravs/>.



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## Court Orders Re-Write Prop 57 Regs

Association of Deputy District Attorneys (ADDA) came out immediately with a "We Told You So ... And Now So Has A Court" commentary when news broke Friday that a potential 10,000 sex-offenders could be released under a new court order. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) wrote regulations post-Prop 57 providing registered sex offenders would be excluded from early release under Prop. 57. Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Allen Sumner has ordered a re-write of those regulations.

Commentary by Michele Hanisee, President of ADDA, said, "We (ADDA) repeatedly warned prior to the election (November 2016) that the ambiguities of language in Prop 57 would allow sex offenders to be released early from prison. The proponents realized the public wouldn't support that, so led by Gov. Jerry Brown they responded by promising that CDCR would write regulations to make sure sex-offenders weren't released early ... and were excluded from the early release provisions of Prop 57."

ADDA, in so many words, said no one, not even a state department like the CCDR, can write regulations into a voter approved initiative. Any court cannot insert words into an already approved initiative presuming to know what the voters were thinking when they approved that initiative - Prop. 57.

Hanisee says, "...the initiative never defined what offenses qualified as "non-violent leaving a legal presumption that any crime not defined as "violent" would meet the qualification [as non-violent]. When CDCR passed regulations last month to implement the initiative, those regulations define a "non-violent" offender, as an inmate who is serving a sentence on both a violent and a non-violent felony. So the message to criminals is - if you are going to commit a violent crime, make sure to commit a non-violent crime at the same time so you can be eligible for early release!"



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

And, yes, the Association of Deputy District Attorneys did say loud and clear there were issues with Prop 57 before passage and as far back as July 2016 when I read their report, *Analysis of The Public Safety & Rehabilitation Act of 2016*. The report opened up with the following statement:

*The Governor [Brown] has proposed an initiative, The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016 ("the Act"). Its apparent intent is to alleviate prison overcrowding and avoid the possibility of a federal court order releasing prisoners. However, the language in the initiative is drafted in a manner that would incorporate into the California Constitution drastic changes to our sentencing laws, including eligibility for parole that disregards enhancements such as use of a deadly weapon, commission of a crime to benefit a criminal street gang, or prior prison terms; disregards consecutive sentences for the commission of multiple offenses; and, provides prison officials with broad authority to award increased conduct credits, including to murderers and rapists.*

In that report, the ADDA was very thorough in its review of Prop 57 before it went to the voters and sited all the fallacies and conflicts. They have every right at this point to issue the "I Told You So" commentary. Their report, trying to stop Prop 57 from being placed on the ballot, included the following:

• It makes no difference if you have committed one felony against one property or individual

or several felonies against several persons or properties. Under Prop 57 they both would do the same time in prison and eligible for the same award of credits for early release.

• Conflicts with Prop 8 - June 1992 - Victims Bill of Rights.

• Conflicts with Prop 9 - November 2008 - Marsy's Law.

• Abolishes Prop 21 - March 2000 - Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act approved by 62% of the voters.

• Prop 184 and AB 971 - 3 Strikes Law - provided enhancements in sentencing by doubling the time for those with serious and violent felonies and increases time served to 25 years. Prop 57, the ADDA report says, eliminates enhancements and could wipe out 3 Strikes Law.

• Prop 57 nullifies the 10-20 life law passed in 1997 to combat gun violence.

• Prop 35 - November 2012 - Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act approved by 81.3% of the voters increased penalties for human trafficking with enhancements of 5, 7, or 10 years for infliction of great bodily injury. And, that is gone now due to Prop 57.

The Governor was well aware of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys report and their request to postpone placing Prop 57 on the ballot because of the conflicts and erasure of key parts of the other voter approved initiatives. Hanisee wrote, "Nevertheless, during the campaign Brown and his allies continued to unconscionably perpetuate the lie that only non-violent offenders would get an early release under the initiative. Their tactic - and the \$14 million they spent pushing their charade - proved to be successful. California voters approved the initiative [Prop 57] by nearly a two-thirds margin in November [2016]."

**Michelle Hanisee is President of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys, the collective bargaining agent representing nearly 1,000 Deputy District Attorneys who work for the County of Los Angeles.**

## "TIME JOCKEY" - Post Wilson

By Joe Castillo

**Taking Care of the Family...** When Benjamin Wilson passed away in 1878, he left a \$2 million fortune for his family. Wilson was survived by his second wife, Margaret and two daughters, Nannie and Ruth. In addition, his daughter Sue from his first marriage had married James De Barth Shorb who became a business partner of Wilson's. When Wilson's estate was settled, Shorb was allowed to continue running the Wilson business but had to pay Wilson's widow and daughters a monthly amount to keep them financially secure while they lived together at Lake Vineyard.

Ruth married George S. Patton Sr. six years later and decided to eventually move to the Lake Vineyard estate to be close to the Wilson family. Patton was a lawyer by trade and while handling a case in a Los Angeles courthouse he fainted and collapsed. His doctor ordered him to spend a week at the Bartlett Springs Spa in the mountains and while he did his wife Ruth decided to return to the Lake Vineyard ranch in order to be closer to her mother

and sister. Ruth was five months pregnant at the time and waited for Patton to join her at Lake Vineyard. On November 11, 1885, Ruth gave birth to a baby boy, and her sister Nannie was right there helping with the delivery. The baby boy was born in the same bed which Benjamin Wilson had died eight years earlier and discussions were soon held on what name would be given to the baby. It was thought that the boy would be named after Benjamin Wilson, his grandfather, however Ruth preferred to name the baby after his father with the name George Smith Patton, Jr.

Through Patton's early years, his education consisted of home schooling from his mother and aunt but his most memorable education moments were provided by his father who read young George the classics. Patton Sr. read his son books such as Herodotus' History of the Persian Wars, Plutarch's Lives, Caesars' Commentaries, the autobiographies of Napoleon and Alexander the Great, and shared stories of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, all of which created an image of conquest and vic-

tory in the mind of young George.

Patton Sr. decided to spend more time with his family rather than in his law office and encouraged them to spend more time riding horses. But kids being kids were interested in playing games as well. George and his sister Nita once played a game of wearing each other's clothes and when their father returned that evening he was upset with his son's appearance but chose not to verbally confront George Jr. Instead he began talking about Robert E. Lee's great civil war battles and when George Jr. got all excited, his father said to not get so interested. He commented that if George Jr. was going to wear girl's clothes, he probably wouldn't be able to be in any military group like Lee's army. George Jr. got the message and he would never dress in girls clothes again...

*Joe Castillo is a freelance historical writer who has been covering Southern California history for 10 years and has written 3 books on the topic. He can be reached at joeacastillo@aol.com.*

## Baldwin Park Unified to Hold 7th Annual Youth Film Festival

**BALDWIN PARK** - Students from Baldwin Park and Sierra Vista high schools have submitted 30 entries for the Baldwin Park Unified School District's seventh annual Youth

Film Festival. Entries will be narrowed to a dozen short films and experimental projects, which will be screened from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16 at the Performing

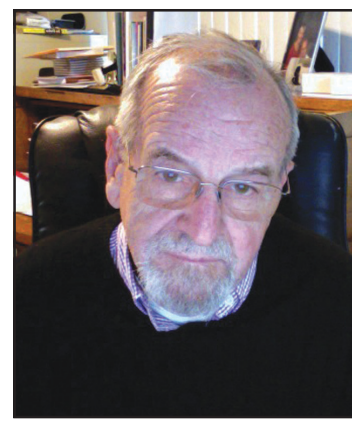
Arts Center, 4640 N. Maine Ave., Baldwin Park. Prizes will go to the top three short films, to a fan favorite film and to the top experimental project.

## Another Look At America's Heroes

Ever since I was a small child I have held in awe particular groups of people, men and women whose honor was consistently affirmed around my family's dinner table. I cannot recall my parents ever making a negative comment about anyone to whom we looked for leadership. For me it began with my teachers from Mrs. Lynch, in their first grade at Brookline grammar school, to Mrs. Hay, my senior English teacher and homeroom counselor at Lower Merion High School. They, and all the educators between them, are remembered in my hall of heroes.

The pastors at our main-line congregation were all held in esteem, from fire-breathing Brother Fowler to scholarly George Morris. Beyond that, we counted as more immediate heroes the lay officers in the congregation, and the denominational officials who would stay at our house when they visited Philadelphia. Held in reverence were returning missionaries, including Dr. Victor Rambo, whose medical career was spent in India saving the sight of thousands.

I do not recall much that was ever said in all my childhood years about our political leaders, except for FDR, who was America's President from my second birthday in 1932 until the end of the second World War. FDR was idolized by my parents, who believed he had saved our family from starvation through the pro-



Charles H. Bayer

grams of his New Deal. I remember gathering around our radio listening to his fireside chats. I don't recall anything he said, but he sounded like someone who could be trusted even when our house was pitch black as a defense against German bombers. From FDR on, every President of either party has been my President and deserved respect.

During my adult years I continued to honor the office of President, even if I disagreed with the policies of the particular office holder. While we have elected persons of greater or lesser capacity, those selected to lead the nation have been men of stature, regardless of party. Soon that list must include women. Start with Obama, a major American hero, and work backward listing even George W Bush and his father, and including Ronald Reagan. They all have a place in my hall of heroes.

In my years as a parent and pas-

tor, I have tried to instill in children a respect for our nation's presidents. One of our tasks is to look for, elect and support those of either party worthy of becoming the leaders of our already great nation. Political work is an essential part of guarantying that we have a steady s cadre of heroes.

But now I have a problem. I cannot include Donald Trump in my hall of heroes. I do not respect him as a man or as my nation's leader. He disgraces the office he occupies. What is there about him, his policies, his morals, his leadership, his vulgarity, his egotism, his racism or his lack of compassion that call for my respect? He has disgraced the office he holds and has shamed America. He is an embarrassment, and there is no way I can tell my grand and great grandchildren they are to honor him. The office of President is still to be respected, but he has disgraced it.

So I must rely on the spirit of hope that has guided America throughout the years of its history. That spirit is undergirded by a Constitution and a government that must remain of, by an for the people. History is not static, and we, the people, have the opportunity to turn from our tragic mistake to leaders of we can call heroes.

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

## Pico Rivera Councilman Insults Military Soldiers in Classroom. "Freedom of Speech"? No Way?

If you haven't heard of Pico Rivera's Councilman Gregory Salcido's bashing of the military and its soldiers in his high school classroom that he teaches, then you have not been on this planet for a while.

His comments about military personnel past and present were pretty degrading. Basically, he was stating our soldiers are not smart, can't get jobs and are just basically stupid and dumb. Many of our present military are Hispanic, so it seems that he is basically saying they are stupid and dumb. He was making these comments while teaching a class at the high school where he is employed. One of the students recorded these comments "during class" and put it on social media. It went viral. Veterans across the country were very upset as you could understand, as well as citizens in the area.

The outrage ended up at a school board meeting where there was standing room only. They called for Salcido's termination. What is interesting was the diversity of the people that were at the meeting. Not all of them were former military or present military. Many were just citizens from the community expressing their displeasure of Salcido and his comments to the students. This is not what they asked for, for a teacher making comments like this to his students. Presently, he is on "paid administrative" leave.

There also was a call to all veterans and supporters who rallied at the school to go to the City Hall. Attending were former military soldiers that are in the political arena and many of which are Purple Heart veterans.

Apparently, Salcido does not have a clue of what it takes to be a soldier in our military today. However, let's take a step back in time... Let's just go back to the



George Ogden  
That's just the way it is!

60's and 70's. Back then, maybe Salcido had a leg to stand on with such comments. Many times, you would hear a judge tell someone who was in trouble to either join the military or go to jail. They also had the draft back then. You did not have to have an education; you could be a high school dropout.

Over the years, that changed drastically. Only 30% of those who try to enlist for the military pass the tests and out of those, 50% make it. You need to have at least a high school education, if not, you need not apply. If you have some collage, that is a plus. I would venture to say that Salcido may not be able to pass these tests. If you have a criminal record, you need not apply. Today's military is very different than it used to be.

Salcido's comments in a classroom is NOT "Freedom of Speech" at all. If he is terminated, this is what he will use for his defense, however, he will lose the case. A classroom is a business office you could say. It is where he is hired to teach and educate, not to give personal opinions. People mistake Freedom of Speech applies anywhere and any place and at any time. If you feel that way, you are so wrong.

This will apply only in a public area... maybe on the sidewalk in front of the school. People mistake this at council meeting when they come up for oral com-

munications. No way... a council meeting is a business meeting and only things can be addressed would be items involving the city.

Here is a rule that you may want to follow... if you have a captive audience, then "Freedom of Speech" is not available. If you are standing on a corner and you are in a public place, you can tell people that our soldier suck. People can simply walk away. If you do it in a classroom, office, council meeting and you start your garbage, people can't just leave. If the students tried to leave the classroom, they could get in trouble. Same as in an office. If you are in a council meeting, you are not there to hear someone else's opinion on an unrelated city issues. I can go on and on. Did you know that if you do make comments like Salcido did, he could be sued? He could be sued on the student(s) behalf. It has been done. There was a case where a city was sued because they did not stop someone that was making political comments at the lectern at a city council meeting and they were not put into check or told that could not be done at a council forum. The individual himself was also sued. The issue was that the plaintiff did not come to a council meeting to hear political bashing and was subjected to this without warning. They couldn't arbitrarily leave as they would not be able to know when their name was called to speak. This was undo emotional stress to hear these negative comments and not be able to leave. Also, they felt their rights had been violated. What was interesting, the city paid a token amount to make it go away and in small claims, there was also a small award as well for emotional stress paid by the loudmouth who made the comments.

You need to watch what you say and when and where.

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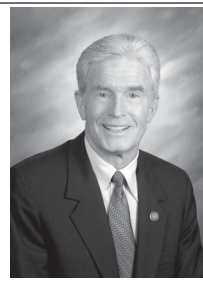
# The Correction Has Begun

Several Wall Street firms have been warning us about a coming correction and the "overbought" condition of this market for several weeks now. Last week, one of my Wall Street colleagues said, "When this market corrects is anyone's guess". With a cumulative 10% correction arriving on Thursday, we have officially entered a market correction. The market swing of 22,000 points during the past trading week is unprecedented. What happened? Why such violent market swings?

Interestingly, flawed portfolio insurance in risk-parity products now seems to be one major catalyst behind the sharp selloffs. Specifically, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday how trading was halted in a volatility themed ETF, namely the VelocityShare Daily Inverse VIX Short Term exchanged traded note (XIV), and now that ETF may be liquidated. There were approximately \$4 billion of these kinky ETF's. According to the WSJ, Wells Fargo reported to be willing to reimburse clients for losses in the product. It will be interesting if other brokerage firms will subsequently follow and at least somewhat reimburse losses in failed portfolio insurance products. Since these kinky ETFs tend to be tied to big companies in the S&P 500, there has been forced selling of options and futures contracts in the S&P 500 as these portfolio insurance products systematically failed.

Complicating matters further, more leveraged option products (designed to protect investors) continued to blow up in recent days, like the LJM Preservation and Growth fund (LJMIX). So, until all the option and futures portfolios designed to protect investors are liquidated, the S&P 500 could continue to flounder. On any subsequent "retests" of recent lows, we want to see trading volume dry up, which means the selling pressure has finally been exhausted. Unfortunately, this week reminds me of the sell-off in October 1987, when portfolio insurance, tied to option contracts, also failed. One Wall

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



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

Street colleague of mine said losses could exceed \$20 billion once all the unwinding is done.

While all eyes were on the stock market, the bond market made some big news, too. Yields on the 2-year Treasury notes continued to rise (to 2.15%) and the 10-year rate, at 2.9%, is approaching 3%, raising fears of multiple Fed interest rate hikes this year. I find it odd that Treasury bond yields are rising while the stock market corrected so sharply, since typically Treasury yields fall during a stock market sell-off. This is not a good sign. The market may drop some more before it recovers.

Bespoke Investment Group (BIG) put together some other interesting studies in their weekend Bespoke Report. Last week's sell-off put an end to the S&P 500's longest-ever streak without a 3% decline from a closing high. The latest streak ended at 448 calendar days on January 26, 2018, eclipsing the previous record of 370 days, ending December 13, 1995. There have been only eight times in market history in which the index went over 200 days without a 3%+ pullback. In six of those eight times, the market was significantly higher a month, a quarter, six months, and a year later.

Fundamentals are still very strong—that has not changed. The fundamentals argue for a strong recovery from last week's decline. Bespoke pointed out that corporate earnings guidance is at a record high +7.8 this quarter. This "guidance spread" measures the difference between the percentage of companies raising guidance minus lower guidance, "So while the strong earnings and

revenue beat rates for this season are backwards looking, forward-looking guidance is equally (if not more) impressive." Another reason why the market should recover is that the economy is gaining strength, not slowing.

So, let's look at the really good news. With 50% of S&P 500 companies having reported fourth-quarter results, a record 80% of companies are beating sales estimates. If 80% is the final number for the quarter, it will mark the highest percentage of S&P 500 companies reporting positive sales surprises since FactSet began tracking this metric in Q3 2008. In aggregate, companies are reporting sales 1.4% above estimates, which is also above the 5-year average (source: FactSet S&P 500 Earnings Season Update, February 2).

What does this data mean, and why does it matter? What we saw last week was a long overdue bull market correction that used an entirely justifiable rise in bond yields and the first evidence of wage inflation as a reason (or excuse) to lock in what were some very heady profits in equities and ETFs. I don't believe it was anything more than this mindset that took hold going into Friday (2-2-18).

The most positive news last week was that the Atlanta Fed has upped its forecast of first-quarter 2018 GDP to +5.4%. The Atlanta Fed is notorious for starting out optimistically and then trimming them as the quarter unfolds, but I can never remember when they started with such tremendous optimism. Even if the Atlanta Fed is overly optimistic again, actual GDP growth might still be the highest since 2009!

What we are being presented with in the days ahead is a buying opportunity that should seem generous in a couple weeks.

**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

*The stock market's dramatic drop last week really scared me! My retirement savings is in the 401k at work, and I have little to no control over it. Is there anything I can do?*

Typically there are financial professionals with the company holding your 401k. Give them a call and set up an appointment to discuss your concerns. Do not make any changes while you are emotional. Meanwhile, look at a 1-year chart of Dow, Nasdaq, S & P 500 (many phones have a built-in app) showing the stock market activities. Investors consider a drop in the stock market a buying opportunity. Most folks think about diversifying their portfolio. Consider diversifying some retirement savings into different places like a fixed-indexed universal life policy, or an annuity.

*When we retire, we will sell our first home and move into our second home. Have capital gains taxes changed, or are we okay?*

On your primary residence, the capital gains tax exemption did not change. It's still \$250,000 (single), or \$500,000 (married).

*My banker keeps calling me to schedule an appointment to discuss moving my money from a 7-year annuity that I bought there in 2015. Is that something I should consider? Oh, by the way, I'm in my late 60's and semi-retired.*

Take a close look at what you already have vs. what your banker is recommending. Most an-



**Julia Yoder**

nnuities carry a surrender fee, comparable to an early withdrawal penalty. Your annuity policy will clearly show this as something like: 1st Year 15%, 2nd Year 12%, 3rd Year 9%, 4th Year 7%, etc. If you received a bonus when you first put your money into that annuity, you might lose that, too. Do the math. Insurance companies' compliance departments have guidelines which clearly frown on replacing a recent annuity. Of course, there are exceptions. If you feel pressured, you might want to question your agent's ethics.

*We bought a home and now we're getting a lot of mail saying we should buy mortgage protection insurance. How's that different from life insurance?*

Mortgage protection insurance often times has a decreasing benefit to supposedly coincide with a decreasing mortgage balance. Some mortgage insurance is really an accident policy. I would recommend enough life insurance to give the beneficia-

ry(-ies) the option of paying off the mortgage if that is determined to be the best use of the funds. On the other hand, if you have a strong family history of critical illnesses (heart attack, cancer, etc.) then you might want to consider a Critical Illness insurance policy or an annuity which accelerates benefits for critical illness.

*Can I do a 1035 exchange from an annuity into a paid-up life insurance policy?*

The rule is that an annuity cannot be 1035 exchanged into a life insurance policy. Annuities can be 1035 exchanged into another annuity. A life insurance policy can be 1035 exchanged to another life insurance, or into an annuity. You might be pleased to learn how annuities nowadays have close similarities to life insurance, but with living benefits, too.

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

This is your opportunity to simplify your life by having one professional working personally with you to coordinate your finances, investments, real estate, mortgage, insurance, retirement, and estate plans. CA Insurance 0C83859/RE Broker 01238153/NMLS 248681/Nat'l. Ethics Assoc.

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## GHS Students Get a Bite of Reality

**GLENDORA** - Glendora High School students got a real Bite of Reality on Jan. 30 and 31, through an interactive simulation hosted by Foothill Credit Union. The simulation, aptly named Bite of Reality, allows students to adopt a persona complete with a job, spouse, children, and of course a monthly budget. Students then move through the simulation to purchase everyday needs while trying to stay within their allotted household income.

The program was developed by

the Richard Miles Johnson Foundation, in association with the California-Nevada Credit Union League. The program can easily be run on students' smart phones or tablets through a mobile app, which works well with high school students who are already pros at completing many tasks from their digital devices.

In order for the program to be successful, the credit union relies heavily on volunteers to help run the simulation. Volunteers work a table and try to sell their

table's goods to the students, such as entertainment options, housing, transportation, or groceries and dining out options.

One volunteer was Glendora's very own Past School Board President Cory Ellenson, who stated, "I have heard from countless voters and employers that their number one request of our school district is to teach our students life skills. The Bite of Reality program perfectly addresses that with a fun real-life, interactive simulation. We are grateful to Foothill Credit Union for providing this invaluable opportunity."

The simulation concludes by allowing the students to give feedback on their experience and share what they found most challenging. Many students finish with a greater appreciation for what their parents provide for them. Glendora High teacher Scott Turner said "It's a great taste of their future reality. My students were overwhelmed and not very knowledgeable. I wanted them to have more motivation to take my personal finance course." After the simulation, students have a better understanding the difference between wants and needs and how to fit them both into a budget.

Foothill strives to help members improve their Financial Well-being. The credit union offers several educational seminars and online learning tools for both members and non-members. Foothill has recognized the importance in education today's youth in financial matters in order to help them be better prepared for all of life's financial ups and downs.

## Regional Food Bank Distribution Program

**GLENDORA** - The La Fetra Center and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank invites SENIORS (Ages 60+) to participate in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Current Food Bank participants can receive a FREE food kit once per month which contains items such as canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, dry milk, cereals, and related products.

Participants must meet the following income guidelines to

be eligible: one person household income must not exceed \$1,211 per month and a two person household income must not exceed \$1,640 per month. You must provide income verification and a photo ID with birthdate at your first visit. The La Fetra Center distribution takes place on the **Fourth Tuesday of Every Month** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For additional information, please call the Center at (626) 914-8235.

## Do I Have To Use A Dealer To Keep My Warranty In Effect?

When a customer buys a new car, they are always concerned that if they keep coming to my shop for routine maintenance and repair it will void the warranty! I always tell them to relax because the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) the nation's consumer protection agency says NO! It is illegal for a dealership to even suggest that they might deny your warranty coverage because your routine maintenance and repair is done by an independent repair shop!

Oil changes, fluid exchanges, tire rotations, brake pads, belt and hose replacements and other services are considered "routine" maintenance and are essential to keep your car running well for years to come. A complete list of

these services can be found in your owner's manual.

Customers also are concerned that the use of aftermarket parts may void their warranty. This will not void your warranty and you can even use recycled parts and your warranty will still be good! The Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act states emphatically that it is illegal for a manufacturer or dealership to void your warranty because you chose to use an aftermarket or recycled part.

The only time a dealership or manufacturer can deny you coverage is if the following occurs:

- A part was improperly installed and caused damage
- If the aftermarket or recycled part was defective and caused other parts to be damaged

Keep in mind that if these two things should occur the dealership or manufacturer must demonstrate or prove that this did, in fact, cause damage.

We always encourage our customers to keep a record of all services/repairs but if you fail to do so, or have misplaced them, rest assured that we have those records should you ever need them.

We are always here for you!

Certified Auto Specialists wants to be your GO-TO place! Feel free to call 626-963-0814 with any questions and we will be glad to help, or visit our website at CertifiedAutoCa.com.

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## Mt. SAC Now Offers Nine Bachelor's Degree Programs

**WALNUT** - With the addition of three recently approved bachelor's degree programs, Mt. San Antonio College now offers a total of nine bachelor's degree programs designed to help Mt. SAC graduates get on the fast track to completing a four-year degree.

"Our partnerships with four-year colleges and universities allow students to pursue their educational goals by earning a bachelor's degree through Mt. SAC either on our campus or online," said Mt. SAC President Bill Scroggins.

Through an agreement with Southern Illinois University approved in October, Mt. SAC will begin to offer three public safe-

ty bachelor's degree programs with specialization in fire service management, emergency medical services management, and emergency management administration. These programs will begin enrolling students for the spring 2018 semester.

The bachelor's programs at Mt. SAC are offered through arrangement with the University of La Verne, Southern Illinois University, and Mount Saint Mary's University.

In addition to the three recently added programs, students can earn a bachelor's degree in business administration through the University of La Verne; bachelor's degrees in criminology and nursing through Mount Saint

Mary's University; and bachelor's degrees in aviation management, health care management, and radiologic sciences through Southern Illinois University.

The bachelor's programs offer students a seamless transition to a four-year degree and, in most cases, students never have to leave the Mt. SAC campus.

Mt. SAC, part of the California community college system, currently offers more than 200 associate's degree and certificate programs.

For information on any of the bachelor's degree programs, visit the Mt. SAC website at <http://www.mtsac.edu/academics-and-training/bachelors-programs.html>.

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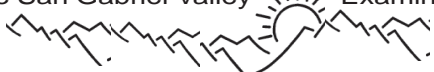
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# Around the Valley & Senior News

## AZUSA

### Volunteer Drivers Needed

Do you have some extra time to spare? Are you a good driver? The Azusa Senior Center has a great volunteer opportunity for you! The Azusa Senior Center is currently recruiting volunteer drivers to deliver lunches to our homebound seniors in the city of Azusa between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Lynda Prewitt for more information at (626) 812-5204, ext. 5303.

### TOPS Meeting

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) #950 Azusa has been serving the San Gabriel Valley since 1967 and has successfully supported and assisted men and women in their pursuit to lose weight. Through group support to start living the good life by eating healthy and doing exercise.

TOPS is a non-profit weight loss group which meets weekly every Thursday at 9:00AM to 11:00AM at Soldano Senior Village in their meeting room in Azusa. There is no obligation, all visitors are welcome.

For more information, call Norm Klemz, 626-967-8829

## ARCADIA

### Orchid Hobbyists

San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists invite you to our **February 15** Monthly Meeting at the L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, Ca., Palm Room. Judging at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Fred Clarke is our speaker, his program will be, Today's many and compact Cattleyas. See our web site [www.sgvo.org](http://www.sgvo.org) Refreshments. Welcome all!

### Take Heart to Health

February is Heart Health month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. There are over 1 million men and women who die each year of heart disease. Arcadia Senior Services in partnership with Methodist Hospital is having a free special health presentation on Tuesday, **February 27** at 1:30pm. Cardiologist, Dr. Grace Huang will speak on "Heart Disease and Stress". Stress exposes your body to unhealthy elevated levels of stress hormones like adrenaline and cortisol. Studies also link stress to changes in the way blood clots, which increases the risk of heart attacks. The heart health lecture will take place at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia. Registration is currently underway and can be made by calling Arcadia Senior Services 626.574.5130.

### Instructors Needed

Do you have a talent you want to share or have a love for teaching? The City of Arcadia is always looking for quality, dedicated instructors to offer a variety of programs to residents and surrounding communities. The best contract instructor candidates are individuals who combine a sincere interest in community service with a desire to supplement their existing income. Go to [www.ArcadiaCA.gov/recreation](http://www.ArcadiaCA.gov/recreation) for the Prospective Instructor Application or call the Recreation Office for more information.

### Arcadia Senior Card Club Looking For New Members

The Arcadia Senior Card Club is accepting new members. Arcadia residency is not required. Play contract bridge or pinochle. The group meets at the Assistance League Community House, 100 So. Santa Anita Avenue every Monday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Lunch is provided for a nominal fee or bring your own lunch.

The group is open to men and

women 50 or older. The annual dues are \$5.00. For more information call 626-281-6771.

## BALDWIN PARK

### Annual Lunar New Year Celebration

The City of Baldwin Park in partnership with Baldwin Park Unified School District Older Adult Program, will be hosting our Annual Lunar New Year Celebration. Please join us as we celebrate the Year of the Dog on Friday, **February 16th** from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Celebration will take place at the Performing Arts Center located at 4640 N. Maine Avenue, Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

Location to register for all events and workshops is at Julia McNeill Senior Center, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd., Baldwin Park. Call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323 for more info.

### The Huntington's Annual Chinese New Year Celebration

Join the fun on Saturday, **February 17th** from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm as we welcome the Year of the Dog at The Huntington's Annual Chinese New Year Celebration in San Marino. Enjoy crowd-pleasing lion dancers, amazing performances from a mask-changing artist, plus choreographed martial arts demonstrations, Chinese music, food, and much more. Admission also includes access to the library, art collections, and botanical gardens. Take a stroll through the dozen garden areas including the Rose Garden and the Japanese Garden. Tickets are \$30 for Baldwin Park Residents and \$35 for Non-Residents. Limited Tickets! Meals not included. For more information, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323

### The Getty Museum in Los Angeles:

On Thursday, **February 22nd** from 9:30 am – 5:30 pm, we will be visiting The Getty Center in Los Angeles. The Getty Center is renowned for its permanent collection, which includes pre-20th century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts. With its fine art exhibitions, impressive architecture, lush gardens and spectacular city views, the Getty Center has something special to offer to both art lovers and casual visitors. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a picnic on the lawn adjacent to the Central Garden, or dine at the restaurant or café available inside. We will also stop by Downtown Santa Monica to shop and dine as well. Meals not included. Tickets are \$10 for Baldwin Park Residents and \$15 for Non-Residents. For more information, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323

### February Birthday Celebration

Join the Julia McNeill Senior Center monthly Birthday Celebration on the third Wednesday of the month (**Feb 21**) from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. Dance to the music of DJ Sonic Boom as active adults celebrate their birthday. Have some cake and lots of music, as well as door prizes for your celebration! \$1 door admission. Call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323 for more info.

### Income Tax

## Kiwaniannes To Hear History Speaker

**GLENDORA** - The Glendora Kiwaniannes will hear a historical presentations at their February meeting. On **February 21**, Robert Broski, will give a program on "A Look at President Abraham Lincoln." Broski has portrayed Lincoln in

## Appointments

Starting in February, AARP will be providing free tax assistance to the senior community 55 years of age or older. This service is available only on Thursday and appointment is necessary. To schedule an appointment, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323

### McNeill Fitness Program

A challenging but accessible workout regimen, which includes basic calisthenics, arm workouts, legs and torso, and a steady run/walk around Morgan Park. Nutritional guidance is also offered. Eating well and exercising will not only improve your overall health, but also improves your mood and energy levels. Group meets in senior center dining hall Monday through Thursday from 8:00am – 9:00am. This class is free to participate. For more information on the class or registering, please visit the Julia McNeill Senior Center or call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 323

## COVINA

### Community Garden Parcels

The City of Covina Parks & Recreation Department has a Community Garden located at Cougar Park. Parcels are now available. Grow your own vegetables alongside other gardeners who are passionate about gardening and growing healthy organic produce! Annual fee of \$50 for large or handicap accessible parcel, and \$44 for small parcel. Applications are available at [covina.gov](http://covina.gov). For more information, call (626) 384-5340.

### Covina's T.E.A.M.

The City of Covina Parks & Recreation Department is looking for Covina teens who would like to help out and volunteer in their community. Join Covina's T.E.A.M. (Teens Endeavor to Accomplish More) and participate in service projects and community events each month. Attend a meeting for more information. Meetings held on Tuesdays (February 13, March 6, and April 10) 6-7 p.m. at Cougar Park, 150 W. Puente Street. No preregistration required.

For more information, call (626) 384-5340.

### Basketball And T-Ball

The City of Covina Parks & Recreation Department is offering Winter Basketball for ages 18 months-11 years and T-ball for ages 3-6. These programs provide instruction and fun in a non-competitive atmosphere. For more information or to register, please call (626) 384-5340 or visit [covina.gov](http://covina.gov).

## DUARTE

### Hot Lunches at Senior Center

The Senior Center serves hot lunches Monday through Friday to individuals over 60 years, or the spouse of someone over age 60, and must check in by 11:45 a.m. for lunch. Reservations are requested by calling 357-3513, 24 hours in advance, and 48 hours, in advance, for a choice day. The suggested donation is \$3. The Duarte Senior Center is located at 1610 Huntington Drive.

### Alzheimer's Safe Return Registration

Safe return is a service of the

Alzheimer's Association to help identify, locate and return Alzheimer's victims who wander and become lost. The one time registration includes identification items, preventative information, membership in the Alzheimer's Association, and participation in a nationwide search system. Call the Duarte Senior Center at 357-3513 for an appointment.

### Volunteering Does Your Heart Good!

The Duarte Senior Center is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to give back to the community, please consider being a Senior Center volunteer. For more information call 357-3513.

## GLENDORA

### Not Exactly! The Price Is Right Game Show

Guests will enjoy a Mexican style dinner with fun games and entertainment even before the show begins! The Travelin' Game Show will be hosting "Not Exactly! The Price is Right at the La Fetra Center. You'll have a chance to come on down and play games similar to those on the classic game show we all know and love. Don't miss out on this opportunity for a fun night! To register, please sign up in person at the La Fetra Center. \$12 per person Saturday, **February 10** 5:00pm to 7:30pm. For more information please call (626)914-8235.

### Alzheimer's Peer Support Group

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's can be frustrating, challenging, and sometimes stressful. This peer support group is designed to share experiences, coping strategies, information, and ideas with each other, and to offer understanding and encouragement to one another. We meet the **2nd Thursday of each month** from 6:30-8:30 pm at Glenkirk Church, 1700 Palopinto Ave., Glendora, in Room #11. We caregivers look forward to lifting each other up as we journey through this season of life. For more info, visit [glenkirkchurch.org](http://glenkirkchurch.org) or call [glenkirkchurch.org](http://glenkirkchurch.org) office at (626) 914-4833.

### Glendora After Stroke Center

A non-fee program for stroke survivors and their families. This supportive program offers re-learning (reading, writing, speech), caregiver support, current events, card games, snacks, resocialization, exercise, music, speakers, day field trips, and stroke support. Lunch is available (\$3 senior lunch or \$2.75 deli sandwich). For more information, please call Sonia Schupbach at (626) 963-6186. The program is **Wednesdays** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by The After Stroke Center and the Glendora Community Services Department.

### Cars 4 the Community

Glendora Rotary has a new and exciting vehicle donation program, called Cars 4 the Community. We are asking for your old car, boat, motorcycle or RV, running or not, be donated and receive a 100% tax deduction for the proceeds.

This program helps our

schools, community, country and the world. Call 626-963-0814 for more information.

### Instructors Needed At The La Fetra Center

The City of Glendora's La Fetra Center is looking for new class instructors! We are seeking out instructors to teach the following: Cooking classes, Spanish lessons, and American Sign Language (ASL) classes. Share your talents with your peers! If you would like more information on teaching a class at the La Fetra Center please contact Jennelle Markel at (626)9148-8235, or please email [jmarkel@ci.glendora.ca.us](mailto:jmarkel@ci.glendora.ca.us).

## LA VERNE

### Get About

### Transportation

Get About provides transportation for seniors aged 60+ and disabled residents of Claremont, La Verne, Pomona, and San Dimas. The door-to-door service can be used for shopping, doctor's appointments, church, senior nutrition sites and many other locations within the four cities. The service operates seven days a week and membership is free.

To Register: (909) 621-9900  
To Schedule a ride: (909) 596-5964

For more information, contact Abby Nuyda at 909.621.9900, Extension 228.

## MONROVIA

### Senior Blood

### Pressure Screenings

The Department of Community Services invites active adults and seniors, 50 years and older, to attend a monthly blood pressure screening. The free program is hosted by Methodist Hospital. The program is designed to detect high blood pressure. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

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

### Caring Crafters

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

### Senior Stretch & Exercise Class

Stretching is essential for our bodies. The Department of Community Services invites seniors to join our weekly senior stretching and exercise class. The class includes stretching techniques geared toward seniors over 50, though the class is great for anyone in need of a good routine. Movement increases range of motion, relaxation, and de-

creases risk of injury. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Bring a towel and bottled water. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

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

## SAN DIMAS

### San Dimas Toastmasters Club

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

## WEST COVINA

### TOPS Meeting

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) meets **every Thursday** at 6 pm at the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St in the classroom building. The weight loss group seeks members who wish to lose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Meetings last until about 7:30 and the first meeting is free. Visitors are always welcome. Come for support with your weight loss journey. You can do it! For more information, contact Erika Hernandez 626-384-0502 or email: [ehernandez57@aol.com](mailto:ehernandez57@aol.com)

### Go West Shuttle Service

The Go West Shuttle service consists of three alignments (Red, Blue, and Green) that serve destinations throughout the city including Plaza West Covina, Eastland Shopping Center, Heights Shopping Center, West Covina Civic Center, West Covina Senior Center, Cameron Community Center, and many more.

- For questions on the location of shuttle stops, assistance in locating the stop closest to you, and route schedules please call (800) 425-5777.

- The fixed-route service operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- The fare is only \$1.00 each way.

- No Service on Thanksgiving, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, President's Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

### Senior Lunch

The West Covina Senior Center has an award-winning lunch program that provides a **daily lunch service** for seniors, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. The lunch program is funded in part by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

There is a suggested lunch donation of \$2.00 for those 60 years and older. Persons younger than 60 years old pay \$4.00, and persons with disabilities younger than 60 years pay \$3.00. West Covina Senior Citizens Center is at 2501 East Cortez Street.

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# How the Average Citizen Can Help Bring About Friendlier Politics



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At a divisive moment in our nation's history, you may be wondering how average citizens can help bring about friendlier politics.

Experts suggest that it starts with finding common ground among those whose opinions differ from you. Ira Shapiro, a former ambassador who has held senior positions in the U.S. Senate, recently authored "Broken: Can the Senate Save Itself and the Country?" in order to explore the state of U.S. politics and its future.

Of the U.S. Senate, his area of expertise, he says, "America is deeply divided. But the men and women of the Senate should not mirror -- or worse, inflame -- the nation's divisions. Their job is to overcome them, finding common ground to take collective action in the national interest."

Citizens can apply this prin-

ple in a number of ways:

- Get involved. Attend city council meetings and town hall meetings. Join the PTA. But don't just show up -- make your voice heard. Make friends on all sides of the issue. Be a coalition builder. Discover where your beliefs overlap with others before debating about the issues on which you disagree.

- Get in touch. From petitions to postcards to calls and texts, there are numerous ways to get in touch with your elected officials at every level of government. Encourage your representatives to work constructively with their colleagues in an effort to de-polarize politics and ultimately be more effective at their jobs.

- Speak out. Organize or attend a rally. Raise money for a political cause that matters to you. Write a letter to the editor of

your local paper. Take advantage of the channels available to you.

"The best remedy of all, on both the national and local levels, is to support candidates who are problem solvers and consensus builders, not partisan warriors. Look for the candidates who put the country, or the community, first -- above party allegiance or personal aggrandizement," stresses Shapiro, who also serves as a trade law and global policy consultant. More thoughts from Shapiro are available on his consultancy's website at [www.shapiroglobal.com](http://www.shapiroglobal.com).

Shapiro believes that the Senate is in trouble, but it can be saved. Likewise, everyone, including average citizens, can be a champion for a climate of healthier politics, whether it's around the dinner table, on a social media thread or at a city council meeting. (StatePoint)

# Pastor Arrested on Sexual Assault of Young Girl in Covina, Bail Posted

By George Ogden

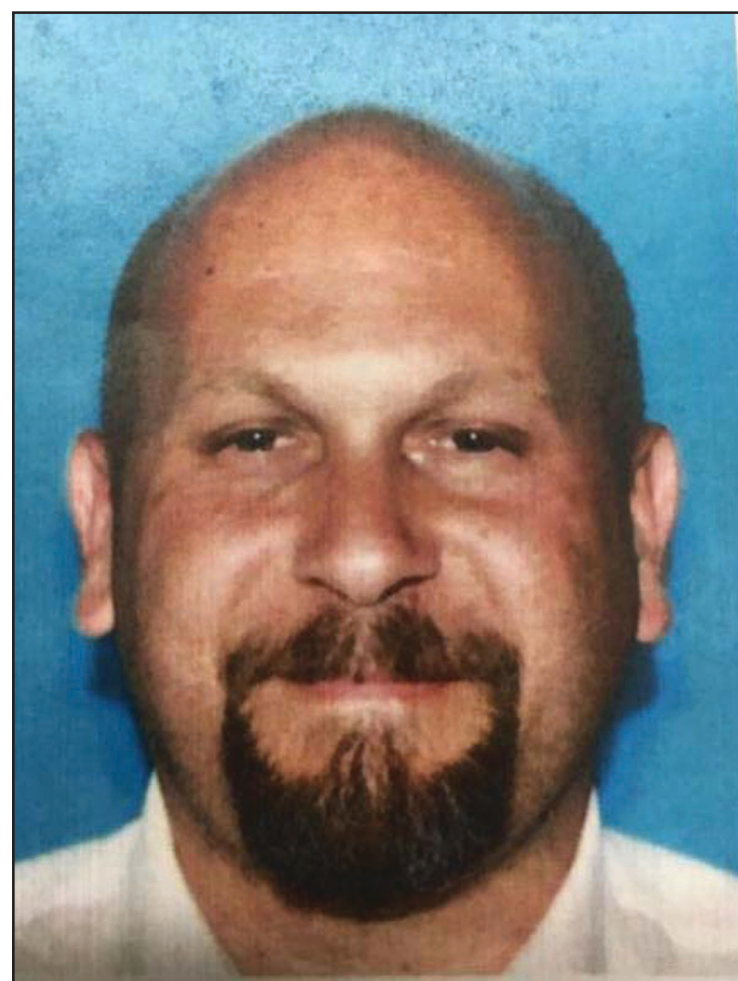
COVINA - Covina Police arrested a Glendale pastor that detectives have been looking for since Wednesday in connection with the sexual assault of a young girl at a Covina motel.

Douglas Rivera, 40, of Baldwin Park surrendered to Covina police on Sunday. He showed up at the station with his attorney.

Rivera was a suspect of Wednesday night's motel room break-in and sexual assault at the Vanlee Hotel & Suites, 1211 E. Garvey St. Covina and the sexual assault of one of the two girls between 10 and 13 years old that was in the room. They were visiting the U.S. from China.

The break-in and assault took place Feb. 7th around 8 p.m. Video surveillance shows Rivera outside the hotel room and then going through the hotel to the girl's room. They opened the door to him thinking it was their chaperone.

It appears he parked his truck outside and according to reports sat their watching the girls through the window while masturbating for 30 minutes. He was also on video surveillance standing just outside the window pretending to be on his cell phone while watching the girls.



Douglas Rivera, 40, of Baldwin Park. (Photo courtesy Covina PD)

The police decided to release himself in. He eventually did just that.

His charges: suspicion of child molestation, indecent exposure and burglary. Other charges may be pending. His bail was set at \$280,000. Bail was posted Sunday afternoon and Rivera was released pending court appearances.

When officer and detectives went to his home, he was not there. Neighbors said that they saw him painting his truck a different color. The truck was found and towed. Police got a call that he intended to turn

# Christian Community Credit Union Awarding \$60,000 in Scholarships

Christian Community Credit Union's 2018 Scholarships for Success Program is awarding \$60,000 in scholarships. Awardees will receive multi-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year! The scholarship program is open to members of Christian Community Credit Union with a Checking Account (newly-opened or existing). The scholarship application deadline is **March 31, 2018** and scholarships will be awarded by mid-May.

Christian Community Credit Union offers Student Advantage Banking—a money saving

program exclusively for students age 16-24. The Credit Union also offers Student Choice—a private loan solution to help fill educational funding gaps. Contact the Credit Union for details.

To date, the Credit Union has given over \$814,000 in scholarships. "The Lord has blessed us with the opportunity to sow financial seeds in our students' academic growth," says David Estridge, Christian Community Credit Union Interim CEO. "In offering the Scholarships for Success pro-

gram, our hope is to ease some of the financial burden college expenses can cause so they can focus on their education."

Christian Community Credit Union has \$650 million in assets and over 30,000 members nationwide. For over 60 years, the Credit Union has served as a financial partner of Christian ministries, churches, and their members. For a scholarship application and/or Credit Union membership information, please call 800.347.CCCU (2228) or visit [myCCCUCU.com](http://myCCCUCU.com)/scholarship.

# El Monte Celebrates Holiday Inn Grand Opening



El Monte City Council and Holiday Inn staff join for ribbon cutting event.

EL MONTE - An impressive chandelier adorns the lobby of the Holiday Inn, bringing an enchanting ballroom feel to the newly constructed hotel. Over 130 guests joined the City of El Monte in the grand opening of the Holiday Inn February 8. The celebration featured speeches by project stakeholders, facility tours and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Holiday Inn is the first hotel to open in the City in the last five years. Council Members expressed their gratitude towards the City staff, project stakeholders and community for investing in El Monte.

"We are thrilled with the grand opening of the Holiday Inn," said El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero. "This hotel will provide much needed revenue to the City and serve as a catalyst for future economic growth."

With 93,200 square-feet of space, the Holiday Inn features 133 rooms that can accommodate nearly 400 guests. The hotel also features an outdoor swimming pool and a fitness center furnished with new equipment, which allows guests to enjoy a vacation experience while staying active.

After viewing the hotel

amenities, Holiday Inn staff took guests for a sneak peek of the hotel rooms.

"From the exterior to the interior, the El Monte Holiday Inn represents elegance and a comfortable hotel for people to stay when visiting our City. We look forward to seeing many community events here," said Council Member Jerry Velasco. "We thank the community, staff and hotel representatives for working to make this project possible."

As part of the tour, guests also viewed the conference room spaces and banquet rooms. The Holiday Inn conference rooms can accommodate up to 150 guests and the banquet rooms can seat up to 120 patrons.

In addition to viewing the four-story hotel, guests had an opportunity to view the hotel grounds, which features water-efficient plants. The hotel is also equipped with 16 electric vehicle-charging stations located in the parking lot.

"The Holiday Inn's hotel grounds, structure and water-friendly landscaping capture the City's vision for quality architecture," said Council Member Norma Macias. "We are working towards beautifying the City

and the Holiday Inn aligns with our efforts."

Guests who missed the tour can still experience the hotel without an overnight stay by dining in the Asian and Western cuisine restaurants.

Event participants left the celebration with a gift bag from the Holiday Inn.

"The Holiday Inn represents the City's ongoing efforts to expand business opportunities in our community," said Mayor Pro Tem Juventino "J" Gomez. "We will continue to work with the community, investors and business partners to bring more businesses that will help increase our revenue."

Located on Valley Boulevard between Baldwin Avenue and Temple City Boulevard, Holiday Inn is open and business is flowing. The City of El Monte will continue to expand business opportunities for the community.

"The City of El Monte is experiencing exciting growth, with national brands coming to our City," said Council Member Victoria Martinez. "From Norms to our Holiday Inn, these are important economic factors that will not only benefit El Monte but the San Gabriel Valley region."

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# My Vision Is Blurry, But Eyeglasses Don't Help



If everything looks foggy, even when it's sunny out, you may have cataracts. See an ophthalmologist to find out.

Some eye conditions cannot be corrected with eyeglasses—but they can be helped. If you have a cataract, a condition in which the lens in your eye has become cloudy and vision becomes blurry—as if you're looking through a foggy windshield—you need to see an ophthalmologist.

As physicians who specialize in medical and surgical eye care, ophthalmologists treat all diseases and conditions that affect the eye. You will first need a comprehensive dilated eye exam. The ophthalmologist will dilate your pupil to see the back of your eye to make the cataract diagnosis.

Here are some vision changes you might notice if you have a cataract:

- Difficulty seeing clearly or sharply
- Seeing two images instead of one
- Being extra sensitive to light, needing to shield eyes to prevent eye pain
- Trouble seeing well at night or needing increased light to read
- Seeing bright colors as faded.

EyeCare America May Be Able To Help

If you are concerned about the cost of the exam, the American Academy of Ophthalmology's EyeCare America program may be able to help. This national public service provides eye care through volunteer ophthalmologists for eligible seniors 65 and older, and those at increased risk for eye disease. To see if you or your loved ones are eligible, visit [www.aao.org/](http://www.aao.org/)

eyecareamerica.

I Have Cataracts, What's Next?

You and your ophthalmologist should discuss your cataract symptoms. Together, you can decide whether you are ready for cataract surgery.

Surgery is the only way to remove a cataract. During surgery, your ophthalmologist will remove your eye's cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial lens. If you decide to have cataract surgery, your doctor will discuss several options with you.

Check to see if you are eligible for EyeCare America by completing a simple online questionnaire. There are more than 5,500 volunteer ophthalmologists across the U.S. waiting to assist you.

Since 1985, EyeCare America has helped nearly 2 million people with sight-saving eye care and resources. More than 90 percent of the care provided is at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient. Grateful patient Connie, from Toledo, OH, said, "Thank you for the chance to get help. I went 20 years without checking my eyes." EyeCare America is co-sponsored by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, with additional support from Alcon.

"The American Academy of Ophthalmology's EyeCare America program is a national public service providing eye care through volunteer ophthalmologists for eligible Americans 65 and older, or otherwise at increased risk for eye disease. <http://bit.ly/2BP7mSk>" (NAPSI)

# Retired Deputy Sheriff Burton Brink Challenges 49th Assembly Incumbent

By Lois M. Shade  
Former Mayor of Glendora

GLENDORA - Burton Brink with 40 years of law enforcement background and experience has decided to take up the challenge and run against incumbent Democrat Ed Chau for the 49th Assembly District seat. The 49th Assembly District includes the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, El Monte, Montebello, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South El Monte, Temple City and pieces of Los Angeles County.

Meeting with the Republican Koffee Klatchers at their monthly meeting in Glendora, Brink said, "Just like others in the 49th Assembly District, and other communities throughout California, I'm sick and tired of the dishonest politicians, out of control spending, runaway regulations and crushing taxes. Our Sacramento government, under the current leadership, is overspending for its pet projects."

Assemblyman Ed Chau voted to support SB 1, the gas tax increase initially promoted to fix potholes, now diverted to paying off outstanding loans to the state general fund, additional public transportation projects, congestion relief and will fix potholes only if local government can meet an established formula and audit.

Brink told the group violent crime is up 5.2% across Los Angeles County, with a notable increase in property crimes. He explained the radical changes to the criminal justice system under Prop 47 and Prop 57 is responsible while acknowledging we, the voters, did it to ourselves by voting those propositions into law. But Brink is still critical of the liberal Democrat establishment and Ed Chau who supported those propositions with money and encouraging voters to support these two propositions. Brink said it is time to fix that broken system created by those two propositions.

Burton Brink responded to a question regarding the second amendment saying he does support the right of people to own and carry firearms but cautioned even though he is a former police officer, well-trained and proficient in firearms, he is still not allowed to enter a school site with a gun.

After the legislature passed AB 109, responsibility for housing non-serious/non-violent/non-sexual offenders became the responsibility of counties. With county jails full, early release of 45,000 criminals back onto our community streets was the end result.

AB 109 was followed by Prop 47 and Prop 57 resulting in more early releases back on to our streets placing a huge burden on local law enforcement and put-



Retired Deputy Sheriff Burton Brink with Glendora Mayor Gary Boyer and Glendora Councilman Michael Allawos at the Republican Koffee Klatchers monthly meeting February 10, 2018

ting the general public at severe risk. Brink told the group Prop 57 changed felonies to misdemeanors and defined certain offenses as non-violent including assault on a police officer with or without a weapon, hate crimes, human trafficking of a minor, rape by intoxication, arson on a forest, domestic violence and a list of others none of us would consider non-violent.

Prop 47 reclassified felonies such as drug possession, repeated shoplifting and gun theft as misdemeanors. Brink told the Koffee Klatchers a shoplifter can shoplift as many times as he/she wants as long as the value is less than \$950 and they receive nothing more than a citation - just a piece of paper. In fact, there have been reports from those actually witnessing shoplifters with calculators tallying up their "take" to ensure they don't go over the \$950 threshold.

Prop 47 reduced possession of drugs like methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and opiates from a felony to a misdemeanor with the legal system now unable to compel addicts to enter drug rehabilitation programs.

A coalition of cities, viewing

the 15.7% rise in violent crime statewide, decided they had had enough and it was time to Take Back Our Communities.

Glendora Mayor, Gary Boyer, said, Glendora, one of the leaders in getting that movement started, has been aggressively promoting reform using the initiative process and now that initiative is available for signature gathering. He provided a packet of information with an overview of where we are right now with crime and enforcement and a quick summary of the Violent Crime Definition, DNA Collection and Parole Initiative. The packet included a full copy of the initiative for everyone's review and form for signature gathering. He encouraged all at the meeting to read and share the information.

This initiative proposes to begin the repair process by reinstating DNA collection, a valuable tool in linking criminals to the crime; reinstating 15 offenses as violent; and, allowing consideration of prior criminal history in sentencing, referred to as enhancements, to add additional time to the sentence.

Burton Brink said, "The lies

from Sacramento about AB 109, Props 47 and 57 among many others have made us all victims! It is time to take our state back from the criminals and give it back to the people! As your State Assemblyman, you'll always know where I stand on taxes - you pay too many of them. Government needs to learn to do everything it needs to with what it is given. I oppose [a] new reach into our pocketbooks and will do everything in my power to stand against it."

Additionally, Brink commented, "Finally, I'll fight to enhance transparency, so you can, more easily, hold your state's government accountable and make it run more efficiently. Remember, when violent criminals are released early into your neighborhood, who are you going to call? A crime fighter or a politician?"

Update: A California judge last week ordered prison officials to rewrite Proposition 57, which could allow for the early release of roughly 10,000 sex offenders. The preliminary ruling would even affect sex offenders convicted of "pimping children," according to the Associated Press.

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